

Dear Bob, Matthew, Gary, Jennie, Pastor John, and others at Windermere,

Greetings from Amman, Jordan. Sherri and I were just noticing a recent gift from your congregation. Thank you so much for continuing to help make our life and ministry possible here in the Middle East. We appreciate your partnership!

You may remember from our last update that we evacuated from Lebanon to Jordan on Sept 24. We miss our Lebanese friends and partners in ministry, but we've been thankful to be nearby in Amman. Someone had offered their vacation home in the USA for us to evacuate to, and while that was attractive, we feel like we've both been able to keep taking lots of steady steps forward with Arabic. Being nearby also means I'm able to take part in online events at the seminary much more easily than in America, like being part of noon chapel today, critiquing a student sermon live, meeting with a students on Zoom tomorrow, and leading the faculty Bible study time this coming Tuesday. I actually could still meet with students from the USA on Zoom, but taking part in seminary meetings would be much more difficult from a different time zone. This seems like a good place to teach from a distance.

We like Jordan a lot. Jordanians are very welcoming. The majority of people around us are Palestinians whose families had to leave Israel a couple generations ago, and they're very warm and friendly. The setting is much more Muslim than where we live in Lebanon, but so far that has felt like a blessing. We get lots of opportunities to relate with people and hopefully build bridges of trust. We also are benefiting

a lot from our Arabic language school here, and Jordanians are much more patient talking in Arabic with foreigners than Lebanese tend to be, so that's really quite helpful.

Our part of Amman is also sort of a world center for learning Arabic, and we enjoy meeting many young adults here from Europe, North America, and beyond. They seem open to relationships. We had coffee today with a Swiss-German undergraduate and wonder how God may be leading us in terms of relational ministry with young adults here.

Despite the recent official ceasefire, we're still very concerned about Lebanon and its future. Lebanon is very unstable. With Israel having humbled Hezbollah, which had been (and I think still is) Lebanon's most important political party, and officially the only one that is armed, it seems like the chances of a civil war in Lebanon are much higher than before. It also seems like Israel may hit Lebanon even harder in the coming months if there are more rockets from Hezbollah coming in their direction, and the chances of that seem high. We appreciate prayer for the seminary amidst all of this. Thankfully, it's still fully operational.

We just signed a six-month contract on a furnished apartment here. We also appreciate wisdom and discernment about our future steps, staying longer in Jordan versus returning sooner to Lebanon. About 95% of our seminary courses happen online, and it's not a residential seminary, so we are free to live elsewhere in the region if it seems wisest to do so.

We had been very excited to have our sons visit for Christmas, and our younger son Chris plans to be here in about 10 days. Sadly, our older son has been sick with mono for about 5 weeks and is needing to take incompletes in all of his PhD courses at the Univ of Washington, so it looks like he may not be healthy enough to travel overseas. We appreciate prayer for his recovery, for our ability to be good and wise parents to them from a distance, and for both of them to know God's presence and direction in their lives.

We are really grateful for your partnership with us in the gospel. Please always feel free to be in touch. We pray for God's blessing to be upon you all and for the Holy Spirit to fill and guide your lives and ministries!