

The Christ for Humanity Newsletter

THECFHCHRONICLES

P.O. Box 580127 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74158 Local: 918.836.2424 Toll Free: 1.800.411.0132

October-November 2005 Volume 13 No. 5

CHRIST FOR HUMANITY 2005 MISSION TO NORTH AFRICA

“When I came to Christ from Islam, I was homeless and had to flee the country for a long time. But, I thank God because He promoted me this way!” Quote from Brother J – a Muslim Background Believer (MBB) in North Africa

CFH Global Missions has been privileged to work in North Africa for the last two summers. The above quote is one of many CFH team members heard as we worked with the underground church to reach Muslims for Christ. Continually, our hearts were moved and radically challenged to consider what it means to give your life for the cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

What a tremendous blessing it has been for CFH to partner with Dr. HK and his crew of local Christians in North Africa! Though the work there can be stressful and demanding, often producing little fruit, CFH teams have been blessed to witness first hand God’s hand moving in the Muslim world.

During the 2005 trip, our twenty-six member team scattered across a large North African city, doing medical clinics, visiting orphanages, and establishing relationships. The Lord gave this year’s team the opportunity to offer cooking classes, creating a safe environment to nourish bonds with Muslim women. A primary mission trip goal, teaching 10 Christian Sudanese tribal leaders basic first aid to gain favor for Christ within their communities, was hugely successful and a trip highlight. All ministry activities produced friendships, many of which continued throughout our three week mission and beyond.

Dr. HK has developed an in-depth mission team training seminar – “Bridging the Gap with Muslims.” From this course our team gained knowledge and perspective to practically minister to Muslims. MBB’s, those who have converted from Islam to Christianity, led the seminar and fervently demonstrated how God used other Christians to challenge them with the Gospel. They also shared the price they have paid in their culture to become a Christian, displaying scars on their bodies – not to make us fear sharing the faith but to prove that the grace of the Lord is always sufficient.

Our team heard many stories and experienced exciting things during the 2005 trip to North Africa; however, one testimony really challenged us all:

ONE MUSLIM BACKGROUND BELIEVER’S TESTIMONY...

How the team anticipated hearing about the conversion of a very influential man from Islam to Christianity! When Dr. Happy (pseudonym to protect his identity) finally arrived at our gathering place, it was just past 11:30 p.m. Imagine our surprise when this great tower of wealth and influence appeared as a simple man clothed in humility and joy. Every time Dr. Happy spoke, his eyes swelled with tears and his mouth filled with joyful laughing.

Dr. Happy’s journey toward Christ began on the job with a major league soccer team he owned. To insure a successful season, he hired a famous, professional soccer player. To his surprise his new recruit was a Christian; however, this revelation didn’t affect Dr. Happy’s hiring decision. After all, just how

Christian could his new player be? His record proved him to be great athlete, and skill on the field was all that really mattered.

As the season progressed, Dr. Happy's new star player performed very well – so well that he began to receive a lot of media attention. Every time the press would ask about the secret of his success on the soccer field, the Christian replied, "A personal relationship with Jesus Christ." This remark frustrated Dr. Happy. As a Muslim, not only did he hate hearing his player speak of Christ, but he also hated his star player's lifestyle – he wouldn't drink or party with the rest of the team, and he always had a good attitude. Finally, Dr. Happy made a decision: "I decided to really make life hard on him and began to persecute him to make him regret being a Christian."

As the season progressed, Dr. Happy's health started to deteriorate. He was admitted to the hospital with major health issues. One day a nurse told him he had a visitor. In walked the Christian soccer player he'd been tormenting. "This young man began to love on me and share Christ with me, even after I persecuted him!"

Dr. Happy came to Christ through the witness of this young soccer player. But his story doesn't end there. When he returned home and told his Muslim wife about his decision to follow Christ, she left him, taking all of his children with her. She then turned his name into the secret police and had him arrested for making an illegal conversion from Islam to Christianity.

"One night the Secret police came to my door. They told me I had to go with them. It was in the middle of the night so I was still in my pajamas. They blind folded me and took me to a dark room. My hands and feet were tied together, and I was beaten 10 times a day because I converted from Islam to Christianity. But no matter what they did to me, they could not take Jesus Christ from my life."

"I lost everything -- all family, all wealth, all status. They took everything from me. But these materials do not attract me anymore. I do not feel I lost anything or even paid a price when I look at what Jesus lost for me. I have not seen my children in eight years, but I cannot love them more than Jesus. My one reason to live is for Jesus. "

Dr. Happy continues to live in North Africa under the pressure of the government. He has chosen to remain, even at the cost of his life because he believes his own people need to hear the same message of Truth that set him free.

Other quotes from our persecuted brothers and sisters in North Africa

Brother A – *"My family said they would rather I be immoral than to be a Christian."*

Brother B – *"The Glory of the Kingdom will cost you everything. This glory could cost your life!"*

Brother A – *"I lost my mom and family. They rejected me because of my belief in Jesus Christ."*

First Steps Testimonial

Praise the Lord!

I thank God for His saving grace and for His Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross so that men and women everywhere who believe on him might have salvation. I am very grateful for the saints of God who spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I thank God for Christ for Humanity and for all of the ministry staff.

I have a mental illness (I am believing God for deliverance), and I am a recovering alcoholic. About five years ago, I was headed for Hell and wanted nothing to do with Christianity. I was living at the Tulsa Downtown YMCA. There I met Jeb Stuart, a member of Christ for Humanity's staff who came by every Wednesday to hold a Bible study and hand out sacks of food. For the first 6 months, I attended the Bible study only for the food, and I usually came drunk. Then the Lord began to speak to my heart. I started to learn of His will and of His Son Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for my sins. At one of the YMCA meetings, I accepted Christ as my Savior.

I am truly grateful to Jeb and since 1993 for Dirk, Camille, and all the staff at Christ for Humanity. I am also very thankful for the Monday night *1st Steps* program and all the volunteer opportunities offered at CFH. The combination of the two really provides a good Christ-centered structure for believers. How blessed I am, too, for Bob and Connie Hudspeth, who have faithfully shared the love of Christ as *1st Steps* mentors and have provided transportation to the Monday night meetings for the past two years.

Well, even though I still have a mental illness and have slipped a few times by drinking, the Lord has really brought me a long way. I would like to encourage anyone who might be struggling with an addiction or has a mental illness to put the Lord first and not let pride stand in the way of asking God or other Christians for advice and help. And please remember, if a slip or relapse does occur, don't let the Devil get the victory by staying down. We all fall sometimes, but it is how you respond to a fall that determines your recovery process.

The Lord promises us that He will not allow us to be tempted above that we are able but with the temptation will make a way for escape. [I Corinthians 10:13] Temptation still comes to me today, but I depend on the Lord for a way out.

Peace be with you all,

Tracy Marr

The CFH Mail Bag

August 10, 2005

Dear Ones at Christ for Humanity,

I just wanted to take a minute to express our deep appreciation for your help to our family. We are trying to live by our Creator's design as taught in I Timothy 5 and Isaiah 58, where He guides us to care for our family members, albeit, the responsibility came suddenly and our income doesn't accommodate the responsibility. By tapping into resources provided by Christ for Humanity, we are increasing our ability to make a significant difference in our family system: (1) by expressing our love in action to help bring stability to our loved ones; (2) by using our loved one's need as a "catalyst for change" in regard to uniting our family to act responsibly.

More specifically, when I was referred to Christ for Humanity, Camille gave me immediate attention. She listened with her heart, spoke confidently concerning who they could help, and yet humbly interacted with us concerning mutual giving. That added so much to our sense of dignity as we faced situations that often times threaten to overwhelm with shame. Camille gave instant financial help, and then referred us to the clothing ministers.

The clothing ministry is by far the nicest one I have experienced. It was more like a boutique than a clothing pantry. We had an appointment and a personal attendant whose presence offered dignity, hope, and comfort. They were ever so generous. Even though they have guidelines by which to function, they judged our case's uniqueness and attempted to meet the need rather than be sticklers for rules. We left

feeling empowered and loved.

May God bless your work!

Most sincerely,

(Name withheld for sake of privacy)

Mail bag #2

August 19, 2005

Dear folks at CFH,

Thank you so much for all the blue jeans you gave us. With school starting, we never have had enough jeans for the people. This has been a first – to be able to fill this specific need at this time of year.

Thank you for the time, energy, and thought it took from all of you. We absolutely could not help all of the people who come here if it were not for wonderful folks like you.

The Staff and Clients of the
Allen Davis Baptist Ministry Center

Isaiah 58: 7-10

“And if you give yourself to the hungry, And satisfy the desire of the afflicted, Then your gloom will become like midday.” [Is. 58:10]

Do You Have Time?

I knelt to pray but not for long,
I had too much to do.
I had to hurry – get to work,
For bills would soon be due.
I knelt and said a hurried prayer,
Then jumped up off my knees;
My Christian duty was now done,
My soul could rest at ease . . .
All day long I had no time
To spread a word of cheer;
No time to speak of Christ to friends,
They'd laugh at me I'd fear.
No time, no time, too much to do,
That was my constant cry,
No time to give to souls in need,
But finally time to die.
I went and stood before the Lord;
I came with downcast eyes,
For in His hands God held a book –
It was The Book of Life.
God looked into His book and said,

“Your name I cannot find.
I once was going to write it down
But never found the time.”

Author Unknown

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