

Wow! Joe, it's been a wonderful, busy, wild year! We know God wants us here!

In our first year, we've seen the Lord provide just the right house for us, started a homeschool co-op that's doubled in the first year, seen the country go through a revolution against a corrupt dictator, learned and still learning the Arabic language, and best of all, become part of a local fellowship of believers that have blessed us to our very core!

The choice of our house and neighborhood was absolutely necessary during the revolution because our entire team and local friends needed a safe haven to spend the night during the worst of it. It is also a place big enough to host CPM seminars, team meetings and TLC (TunisLearningCenter...homeschool co-op) Family Nights.

The TLC is such a miracle of God, initially touching 3 young teachers on the shoulder and saying this is where I want you to go. Then God taught us dependence on His sovereign heart by only allowing one teacher to actually make it for most of the year. During the year a young father had a debilitating stroke out of the blue, and then raised him up in 2 1/2 months back to full-time service. Well, it's just been a year of miracle after miracle with the TLC. It's an amazing place to be a part of, something that God so obviously planned that He constantly shows us His pleasure by confirming His hand in it. Our TLC strategically provides a place for worker families to school their children and enabling them to stay longer here serving the Lord.

During the Revolution, we met our neighbors as the men and boys joined together in white T-shirts to protect our homes against those who wanted to do harm. It was great because our neighborhood is an upper-class area and most people just go to work and then home, without interacting too much with their neighbors. The revolution gave us an open door to initiate contacts as well as start some great friendships.

The fellowship of believers is really where our hearts have been encouraged. The Spirit of God is at work! Young people are the majority of our group, and the pastor is a man of God, devoted to the work of intercessory prayer. Dave goes down to meet with him every week and they provide mutual mentoring for each other. It seems like every week someone comes into the compound off the street, asking for prayer, asking questions, wanting a Bible, seeking wisdom, and being born again! We've been to two baptisms and been a part of several church services where many local believers publicly confirm their faith in Jesus Christ. It's an exciting time in (Manara)!

Our hearts are much at peace being here! After 12 years of working with hard and stony ground in the hearts of Somali people, we are drinking in the sweetness of seeing Jesus Christ change Muslim men and women to hunger after Him and see Him with all their hearts. Thank you for making it possible for us to live here and to be a part of the mighty wind of His spirit moving through this country. It is the time of change! People are asking questions and seeking the truth ever since the fall of the dictator and his secret police. Pray that the Spirit would sweep unabated throughout this country, across the cities by the sea and down into the desert towns. Jesus is appearing to many in dreams, and hearts are ready to believe the Truth of Jesus Christ. Our part of discipling and mentoring those that are part of the fellowship has been such a rich blessing for us.

So thank you so very much! Your praying and giving funds is directly providing a place for people to step out of the darkness and into the Light. We just so appreciate being part of your gift to the Lord!