

May 1, 2019

Dear Friends,

I recently read an article written by an American woman who spent 26 years serving the Lord in Eastern Europe titled "Would I do it all over again? Absolutely". In the article she wrote of the many blessings she experienced during her years in Eastern Europe and also some of the losses. That caused me to spend some time thinking of the many blessings I have received while in Egypt.

When I felt the call to serve the Lord outside the United States and was learning about different opportunities, I was thinking of 2 years. I couldn't imagine living outside the US longer than that would be good. I had no idea what a blessing living here would be. It was the unknown. I knew the United States and life there but nothing outside of that. Flying into the unknown I was expecting losses. While raising support the first time I remember meeting a man who said, "You know you need to be open to staying longer". I smiled and nodded but inside I thought "That's what you think, I know I'm going for 2 years." Ephesians 3:20 says He is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think. That is true, the Lord had much more in store for me than I could ever have imagined. I hope you can say the same thing about your life.



1991 new staff trainees that have gone to several countries



At the Red Sea with friends

Some of the blessings I have experienced living in Egypt are:

Having friends from all over the world - from Sudan to Lebanon to Nigeria, Korea, the Philippines, England.....

New staff training - helping to train young people that have gone to serve in different parts of North African and the Middle East (NAME) as full-time staff.

Seeing the Lord change many lives and hearing first hand news of what the Lord is doing around the area.

Being here during the Arab spring which included the revolution in Egypt.

Being in NAME when countries and individuals have been forced to ask what Islam really is. The result of that is a greater openness to the gospel in the past few years, more people coming to know Jesus and spiritual movements of multiplying disciples in North Africa.

New staff in countries where it seemed impossible a few years ago.

Having all of my financial needs met by supporters.

Traveling around the world and visiting places like Petra, the Red Sea, Monet's garden.....

A niece living in Cairo 5 years.

Wonderful friends that are family.



Easter service with my church

Working with Aziz, our new area team leader, since he joined staff 22 years ago.

Being part of Heliopolis Community Church, the international interdenominational church I attend that has Christians from many nations and denominations worshipping together.

When I had been in Egypt 25 years several people asked if I would make the same decision again to come to Egypt or if it has been worth it staying in Egypt. It was easy to answer yes, I'd go it again. And today, after 37 years in Egypt I would say the same thing. It is a privilege to be here and be part of the amazing work that God is doing. Yes, it has stretched me and grown my faith but truly worth it.

Jeremiah says, "For I know the plans that I have for you declares the Lord, plans for goodness and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope." I have experienced the truth of that in my life over and over.

God is good.

I thank the Lord for you and your support and prayers all of these years.

God bless you,

Barb



Barb Brown

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