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Jordan

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My dear friends and supporters,

Monday...

The day started with an upper school staff meeting. I arrived at 8am and met with my colleagues. Between us (four staff) we teach 6th, 7th, 9th and 10th grade students and we discuss the progress of the current teaching syllabus after three weeks into the second semester. We have begun to teach via projects incorporating the IB philosophy and we are planning for the next one which should begin next week. Other issues are discussed and I think for all of us we realise how important each individual student is and the kind of help each one needs.

Mondays for me is a light teaching day and after the staff meeting, the upper school English department teachers meet to discuss mainly the teaching program. I briefly visit the junior library to give the librarian a book order, which she will send to the publisher for pricing and availability.

The whole of the English department staff



Just to update you on the library situation – the junior library building and remodeling work is now complete, the furniture ordered and books are starting to arrive. The senior library now has an online system for the catalogue and issuing, and will be fully functional during this semester. All this is in preparation for the IB Inspection in April which is fast approaching. I then head for the diocesan office, which is in the same compound as the school, to find everyone at work. The weekend is discussed along with drinking the much-needed cup of coffee and then up to my office.

First thing is to check emails and mark those that need a response. I look also for news from home and I often think about the services that have taken place in my home church. I then wait for my Arabic tutor. I have just restarted Arabic lessons and this time it is with a private tutor. I completed a short course at the Kelsey School last summer and have been just using what I have learnt to date. Now it is becoming more structured and I am concentrating on writing as well as speaking. Arabic is a hard language to learn but if you have some basics, there is a basis to work from – but the challenge is to really use it day-to-day.

One of the things that I have to do for the diocese is write articles for the website. I check to see if there

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are any pictures the clergy have sent me or whether the Bishop's visits to Jordan have been properly documented. The Bishop's last visit was towards the end of February when he celebrated the annual event of a pilgrimage to Jordan and to officiate in the baptism of a young girl. It was a great occasion attended by over 700 people from the Anglican Communion in Jordan.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday...

Tuesday is a similar day but by Wednesday I have a full teaching day with a bit less on Thursday. Teaching for me is a new experience and this is only my second semester. The boys are getting used to a new method of learning English with the view to the school becoming an IB Institution. This has not been easy to introduce and there has been resistance, mainly due to tackling the unknown.

Friday...

Friday at last! My day off – but saying that, I usually go to the Arabic service at 11am at the Church of the Redeemer. I go with a friend and together we use this opportunity to listen to and practice some Arabic. We then find somewhere for a cup of coffee and a chat. As Friday is the Day of Prayer, Jabal Amman is very quiet and there are few people around.

Saturday...

And then there is Saturday, which is a school day. I have a split weekend with the days off being Friday and Sunday. Two lessons and a staff meeting are on the timetable for me so in between I work in the diocesan office, usually tackling my Arabic homework.

Sunday...

As for Sunday, I have been asked to help with the music in the Arabic service. Rather a challenge for me as Arabic music is written right to left, just as they write. This is in the process of happening and I am writing out music so I don't panic on the day! This is probably the biggest challenge of my time here and I am well aware of this opportunity and its pitfalls.

Points for prayer

- Pray for the work of the School, that it will continue to make progress in the introduction of different ways of doing things. For the boys – that they will want to learn particularly the English program which will assist them in becoming useful members of Jordanian society.



Top: My classroom

Bottom: Revd Fadi with young people from the Church of the Redeemer

- Pray for the preparation of my home visit towards the end of May. There is a lot to be done before then and also the planning for the trip. I need to use the time at home wisely making time for a break as well as the church visits.
- Pray for Bishop Suheil. He faces many challenges in leading the Diocese and needs wisdom in decision making.
- For wisdom in helping with the music at the Church of the Redeemer.

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