

Dear Friend,

What comes to your mind when you hear the word Gaza Strip? Terror, terrorists, poverty, siege, rebellion, open-air prison, hunger? Regardless of where you stand on the political situation I just want to share the humanitarian situation with you. I am very grateful to God every time I am able to enter Gaza despite the hardship of the trip and the risk. It takes about 10-12 hours (to be escorted with other people from Gaza from the Allenby Bridge to the Erez Crossing, even though the distance is only 97 miles from Amman, Jordan to the Gaza Strip.

As I enter Gaza the first thing which always shocks me, as I look at the eyes of the Gazan people, is that I see God in the faces of these people, we see God in each other, because all of us are created in God's image. But also I see desperation, poverty, and fathers struggling to provide food and the basic necessities for their families. My heart is broken, but at the same time I see opportunities to reach out with Christ's love to both Muslims and Christians. We had great opportunities to visit many Muslim families in Jabalia refugee camp and also many Christian families in Gaza city, to encourage, to counsel, to pray and help with food and other basic needs for the families.

I can't share the story of every family we visited or every event we took part in but let me tell you a little of what happened. I had the privilege to preach at Gaza Baptist Church and to dedicate Timothy, the son of the church pastor, assisted by Pastor Bill. We prayed for those who were sick in the hospital and those who were ill in their homes. It was also wonderful to see the Lord bring people to himself even in situations where that seems impossible in a place like Gaza. It was a blessing to witness how the church now has electricity 24/7 thanks to the newly fitted solar panels on the roof.

I want to share some pictures from Jabalia Refugee camp and the Christian camp where we visited several families. Jabalia is the largest of the Gaza Strip's eight refugee camps. It is located north of Gaza City, close to a village of the same name. After the Arab-Israeli war in 1948, 35,000 refugees settled in the camp, most having fled from villages in southern Palestine. Today 119,486 registered refugees live in the camp, which covers an area of only 1.4 square kilometres.

The man in this picture has been a good friend for many years and attends Gaza Baptist Church every Sunday. He has had his right leg amputated and is paralysed. By the grace of God we were able to help not only these families but many many more.



Praying for family in Jabalia Refugee Camp



In this family the father is mentally disabled



In this second family of 7 the father is physically disabled and not able to provide for his family.



I will be in Jordan until July 22th when I will update you about our work among the refugees in Jordan. I am very grateful for your prayers and your partnership in this ministry. I will keep you posted!

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