



Evans on Mission

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March 2009

GRACE IN GAZA

Missionary kids have unique experiences which shape their worldviews. This is an essay written by one of our IMB missionary kids who grew up in GAZA. I asked her if I could share it with you. As you read it, please pray for the children of missionaries, and for their parents, who live and serve the Lord in some of the most difficult places in the world. Please pray also for us as we strive to love and care for these missionary kids.

As we sat in the middle of the floor in our tattered hand-me-downs clothes and played together with ratty-haired Barbies, our joyful laughter nearly drowned out the screams emanating from the house next-door. Our parents did the best they could to keep us safe from the emotional strain of living in a war-zone. They didn't tell us that the screams we heard were made by our innocent neighbor whose limbs were being broken by members of the dominant violent political party. They didn't tell us that the graffiti on the wall outside read "we will kill an American man this week". We knew altogether too well that there were only 3 American men where we lived: my father, and his two best friends. My parents were scared. They had been contaminated by the fear that governed over Palestine. But they had not been contaminated by the anger. They lived for God, for us (their children) and for the Palestinians. My sisters and I could easily have been completely emotionally wrecked during our years in Palestine, by the presence of fear and death, by the sounds of bombs and guns, by the tear-gas in the streets, and by the terrible looks in the eyes of the Arab men. But our parents always made sure that we saw the other side of the otherwise disturbing picture. The Palestinian families were loving, generous, and incredibly hospitable, and these are the qualities upon which my parents helped us to dwell. My parents helped the Palestinians by spreading the gospel of love and peace, as well as working at the nursing school. Their lives taught me a lesson that no other form of instruction could have given me: to live my life as a servant to God and to humans.

When my family moved to North Africa, I went to a French school with many students whose parents didn't care about them. It was a terrible situation, with a large number of hateful teachers and bitter students, but nevertheless an admirably high level of education. After ninth grade, I left for a private American boarding school in Germany. I no longer had my parents' direct support to rely on. I finally had to decide to act out what my parents had taught me: to fully use the potential God has given me, to serve him, and to serve others. I have been acting this out by joining Drama Outreach and Small Groups, mentoring younger girls, and simply by spreading peace and love throughout my dormitory and school. I hope that as I grow up and move to America, I will on a much larger scale be able to love people. My parents have inspired me by helping me to see past the ugliness in the world, to the beauty that we can help to encourage. I will use my talent, cultural experiences, and knowledge, to touch the world. I want to do this so that the French teachers will no longer be hateful, and the students will no longer be bitter. Really, I want to do this so that the innocent children sitting on the floor playing Barbies will not have fear in their eyes, but laughter.



It has been a long and snowy winter. We have really missed Texas sunshine. The kids have made the most of snowball fights and hot chocolate, but we are definitely ready for spring. This spring break Lee will be leading a group of BFA students on a mission trip to work in a Russian orphanage. They will be gone for one week. Laurie's friend Robin will come from San Antonio to stay with Laurie and the kids during that week. Please keep the Russia team and our family in your prayers.

Emmalee had her first middle school play experience. She played Bonnie the bunny in "Snow White in the Black Forest." It was a very cute play, and she did a great job. We think this is the first of many productions down the road for her.



Lee and Laurie both went on the high school retreat in Nuremburg. Both led small groups of seniors for the weekend. The depth of sharing and insight of the teens was a testimony to God's working in their lives. They have many issues that arise as they contemplate leaving BFA and living in the U.S. We were glad to be able to invest in them during this time. God provided a wonderful family who came to stay in our house with our children during the weekend. They had a great time together.



"MY FAMILY WILL PROBABLY DIE TODAY." These were the words of one of our IMB students recently, whose parents serve in a very volatile country. One of the biggest concerns for our MKs is the safety of their parents while they are away at boarding school. We have been in much prayer for this family, we have been in contact with the parents, and Lee has had several intense conversations with this student. Talk about learning to really trust God with everything, this is where the going gets tough. Thanks be to God that He is "the tough" that gets going.

The annual outreach to the German community was a big success again this year. Hundreds of people worked to set up the BFA auditorium for the event and to make salads and decorations and to bring forth the performances. The theme was "Cry Freedom" and it focused on slavery vs. the freedom we have through Christ. A one hundred person gospel choir of both Germans and BFA staff and students was the main performance. It was impressive. We brought our friends, the Klettner, who have come to this event a total of three times. Please join us in praying that they will soon experience the freedom from bondage that only Jesus can give.

PRAISES

- Lee's Russia mission trip
- Candlelight dinner follow up
- Missionary kids trusting God
- Good wrap up of school year
- Lee's seminary course work this summer

PRAYERS

- Spring is coming
- Opportunities to invest in students
- Family doing well
- Lee enjoying chaplain role
- God is faithful!