



RCA Missionary Update

from the Harrisons

Jim Harrison serves as senior pastor of the English-language congregation of the National Evangelical Church in Bahrain (NEC). The congregation is made up of Christians from many different races, nationalities, and denominational backgrounds, the majority of whom speak English as a second language. Jim's duties include preaching, teaching Bible classes, mentoring and developing new leaders, administration, guest speaking, and visiting members of the congregation. He will also assist in the administration of the NEC, providing leadership to the other language-group congregations of the NEC through preaching, teaching, and meeting with the other pastors and leaders regularly to discuss their needs.

Bahrain facts:

- Population: 1,046,814
- Size: 741 square kilometers (3.5 times the size of Washington, D.C.)
- Major religions: 72 percent Shi'a Muslim, some with historic ties to Iran; 27 percent Sunni Muslim; 1 percent Christian, Hindu, Jewish



MINISTRY

Pastoral

LOCATION

Bahrain

PARTNER

National Evangelical Church in Bahrain

CONTACT

National Evangelical Church
P.O. Box 1
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
Email: jimharrison@pobox.com

Dear Family and Friends,

May 2010

We have exciting news to share! We finally have received the last of our visas and will be leaving for Bahrain on June 1. Our flights have been confirmed and some temporary housing arranged during the summer months when Dick and Maja Westra complete their ministry at the National Evangelical Church (NEC), before they return to the USA.

Thank you for praying faithfully for our visas to process. Jim and Beth, along with Hannah, Jonathan, Stephen, and Katie will be going to Bahrain. Elizabeth's visa was actually rejected, due to the fact that she recently celebrated her eighteenth birthday and can no longer be classified as a dependent! While this was initially very discouraging, we praise God for the way He both opens and closes doors. Elizabeth is presently in East Africa participating in a six month mission project with Dr. Janet Mac Arthur, a close friend of ours who serves with 'Good News for the Nations.' Our plan is to have Elizabeth join us later this year, after she is accepted to a school in Bahrain.



Elizabeth now in Africa

We are now busy packing suitcases, shipping clothes and household goods, and finalizing many details involved in this move.



The Joys of Moving

Please note our new address above, and join us in praying for the following:

- Father, we pray for a smooth transition of leadership in the months ahead for the English Language Congregation (ELC).



Jim and Beth with ELC Leaders

Enable Jim to build good relationships with the Board and with the other pastors that make up the National Evangelical Church (NEC).

- Lord Jesus, as Great Physician, continue to bring healing and full restoration to Dick's back, that he would be free of pain and be able to finish his ministry strongly. Please honor Dick and Maja for their many years of faithful and fruitful service to you and your church in Bahrain.



Jim with Dick Westra

- Lord, thank you for opening up a special mission opportunity for Elizabeth in Africa. Set your angels charge over Elizabeth, granting her safety and good health as she serves in Africa, and enable her to be a blessing to her mission team.
- Father, please watch over Joshua and Patricia and give them grace as they continue their university studies at

Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Provide them with summer jobs that will help to offset costs of their tuition and housing.

- Lord, we ask you to release your special grace to Jim and Beth and their family as they make final preparations to leave for Bahrain. Give them wisdom as they sort through goods and decide what to bring, what to ship, what to store, and what to give away.
- Lord, enable all luggage and goods to arrive in Bahrain intact and in a timely manner, and to process through customs without complications.
- Lord, we pray for the health, safety, and wellbeing of the Harrison family as they transition and begin to acclimate to life and ministry in the Middle East. Help them to be sensitive to the culture as they begin to build relationships and friendships with the people in their new setting.

Gratefully yours,

Jim and Beth

Jim and Beth

To access extensive information about the Harrisons, or to make a financial gift for this ministry, simply go to www.rca.org/harrison.

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