



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: jimharrison7@gmail.com

LEARN MORE AT
www.rca.org/harrison

Dear Friends,

December 2011

As 2011 comes to an end, we have seen a lot of change here in Bahrain, as in many other places throughout the Middle East. After revolutions rocked Tunisia and Egypt, we also experienced some major political unrest here last spring. This culminated in the arrival of the Saudi Army to restore order, followed by three months of marshal law! While the tension has definitely subsided, a growing polarity is readily discernible between the Shi'a Muslim community, which makes up about 70% of the local Bahraini population, and the Sunni Muslim minority, which enjoys the strong backing of the King and Royal family.



Jim with teachers at the seminar.



Jim being honored by school leader.

Since our Lord Jesus is the Prince of Peace, as His ambassadors we are called to share His message of reconciliation and hope. A principal of one of our local schools here in Bahrain invited Jim to lead a seminar and conduct a training workshop on the theme of 'Educators Teaching Values to Students.' Many of these teachers, Christian and Muslim alike, shared openly about their growing concern for the future wellbeing of their students in the midst of such political and social upheaval. We discussed what shared values

they desire to instill in the lives of their students, and the best way to accomplish this. Using the biblical picture of 'sowing and reaping,' Jim encouraged these dedicated educators to sow positive values into the hearts and minds of their students, who are negatively affected by all the fear, prejudice, frustration, and talk of revenge that swirls all around them in their neighborhoods.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support for us. Although we are living in challenging days, we are certainly grateful to be here in Bahrain for such a time as this.

Please join us in praying for the following:

Pray that the people of Bahrain will experience a true and lasting peace, and that this nation would begin to heal from the wounds of this past year's unrest. Lord, we give thanks for opportunities to share in Bahraini schools. Give all of these teachers, including our daughter, Elizabeth, who teaches kindergarten, wisdom and strength as they teach, that they would be positive role models for their students.

Lord, enable the English Language Congregation (ELC) and the whole National Evangelical Church (NEC) to be a beacon of hope and light shining brightly in Bahrain during these challenging times.

Lord, grant Jim wisdom and grace in working with all the ELC staff and our new Church Board. Pray especially for Latisha, our new Church Ministry Coordinator, and Namasiku, our new Treasurer, as they learn how to best serve our congregation.

Pray for Beth and Hannah as they lead the Praise Dance team, a growing ministry in the ELC, that the Holy Spirit would continue to give them creativity and that this ministry would strengthen our witness.

Lord, anoint Jim with your Holy Spirit and power, that he would faithfully and boldly preach and teach the truth of God's Word so that the body of Christ may be built up in Bahrain.

Pray for Beth as she directs our home schooling efforts, for Joshua and Jessica as they finish their final year at Moody and prepare for their mission internship next summer, for Patricia as she also studies at Moody, and for Ilmar in Estonia.



ELC Praise Dance Team in action

Please pray for the health and safety of our family, and especially for our 14-year old son, Stephen, who is scheduled for orthopedic surgery in late December to remove a screw used for mending his broken elbow joint from last spring.

Thanks for partnering with us in this ministry, and for caring enough to pray.

Jesus is always our hope and our peace,

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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