

Dear Friends,

I just wanted to thank you for all of your prayers during my time here! Even the knowledge that many people are praying for me is so comforting. **Praise God, he has blessed the last two months to the utmost!**

On New Year's Day we did a scavenger hunt (in some local Roman ruins) with the church family which was lovely as we haven't been able to meet together in person, during my time here. It was a really fun event complete with a



Mana'eesh (Lebanese sandwiches) picnic afterwards. One of the highlights of being here has

been meeting with the Youth Group on Zoom every Saturday evening, despite it being online I feel as though I've got to know them really well and it's been such a privilege and encouragement seeing the way that each of them are growing in their faith. **Please pray for the churches here that they would be a beacon of hope in this time of economic decline.**



While covid regulations allowed, I was invited downstairs to join our neighbours, and what turned out to be half of the ladies in the village, for breakfast. We sat in a circle on the floor with all of the food laid out in the middle. There was such buzz with people passing around the tea, making sandwiches from large flatbreads and leaning over to chat to their neighbours whilst the children played. Then, as quickly as it appeared, the food was cleared away and the music started. All of the women took it in turns to

dance whilst the others clapped along- totally mesmerising and way harder than it looks (which I discovered, much to everyone's amusement).

Mid- January, as a result of the lax regulations over Christmas, the country had to go into a complete and strict lockdown. We were only able to leave the house to go for walks around the village. During this time, I felt really homesick, however it meant that reading the Bible became a real highlight in my day as well as playing endless Ticket to Ride with Mark! And we did manage to complete almost all of the items on our lockdown bucket list including Come Dine with Me, bread baking and a Spa Night. **Please thank God for his sustenance and the opportunity to spend more time in his word.**

Since the lockdown has gradually eased, I've had some really exciting opportunities to read the Quran and the Bible with one of the assistants at the education centre. Having spent so much time together, we're great friends and I genuinely love hearing about the faith which is so foundational to her identity. She's really open to talking about Jesus and who he is and we're often joined by her Mum and sisters in our discussions. **Please pray that we would continue meeting together and that God would equip me to ask the right questions and help her to understand.**

About three weeks ago Vicky and I visited a lady and her new-born baby who was diagnosed with a heart condition and was prescribed four separate medications. It was tragic seeing her in such distress. Before leaving, Vicky prayed with her and we made sure she had enough milk and nappies to see her through for a couple of weeks. We've been praying for her and her little boy ever since.

This evening Vicky received a voice message from her saying that she's been to the doctor and he no longer has the heart condition but has been healed- **praise God!**

Thank you for your ongoing support! Here are some photos from the last two months:





Painting has become a real favourite with the kids!



The olive groves are looking beautiful at this time of year.



A scene from our photo scavenger hunt with the church on New Years Day.



Visiting some of the kids from Sunday school to run a session in their home.





Mark's enormous Victoria Sponge cake!



The spa night went down well with Mark!



„and a bit more painting!



We think we may have totally ruined our neighbours guard dog, Twix, by making a point of fussing him every time we walk past!