



Newsletter of Jeff, Diane, Daniel & Alyssa ~ living and working in the Persian Gulf & Central Asia.

Cyclone Yemyin ~

Since our last BrowNews came out, we have been participating in disaster relief after the cyclone and flooding in parts of Central Asia. On the news, we hear about flooding in the Midwest in the US, where about 20,000 people lost their homes – and in the flooding we are working with, two million people lost their homes or livelihoods – and then in Bangladesh this month, twenty million are homeless due to floods. It's all relative, isn't it – unless you are in Bangladesh.



You can read more about our flood relief work at <http://brownews.org/CycloneYemyin.html>, so we won't give the details here. But there are a couple interesting aspects to this work we will share here.

We raise money for the relief work and handle the logistics. Our partners who live in the affected areas do the hard work, the hands-on distribution of the relief supplies, because they are from that culture and know the ropes. Last week one of our partner groups was distributing food rations in an area that hadn't received aid since the late-June floods, when they were hassled by some local Muslim clerics and were prevented from carrying out their work. So they went to a tribal chief in the next "county" with a reputation as a big man in the whole province, to tell him the situation. The chief sympathized and sent heavily armed men to escort the distribution team and get the job done. This is the way things work in this culture.

A recent load of relief supplies was more than enough for the planned distribution, so, knowing of another area in need, the distribution team loaded up camels to take the remaining supplies to a village only reachable on foot.

The governments and the other international relief agencies usually don't get to such hard-to-reach places – hard to reach either physically or culturally (e.g. the confrontational clerics).



Schoooooool's Back In Session ~

Notice the same musical cadence as the song School's Out For Summer – but School's Back In Session wouldn't have been nearly as big a hit. Well, it is back. Alyssa goes to her new student orientation August 30th. This will be the 9th time she has been a new student at a new school, after a record THREE YEARS in the same school. She is looking forward, not to summer ending, but to going to this all-girls school this year. She has already started volleyball practice with the school team.

Daniel starts back Sunday, August 2nd for his record THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR in the same school. He and Jeff have been playing basketball with a bunch of long-beard Muslim guys Friday mornings (which they might continue even after school starts), so he should be ready when the basketball season starts at his school.

The Long Arm of the Law ~

The following is an actual account – we didn't make this up – from a local newspaper where we live:

The public prosecution is still questioning a 20-year-old national who was reportedly shot at after a civilian police patrol caught him kissing his fiancée inside his car in April. Police referred the man and his 21-year-old female compatriot, who later became his wife, to the public prosecution on May 2 for kissing in public. The suspects were granted bail until the public prosecution refers them to court or discharges them. When the couple was spotted, the man reportedly started reversing his car. An unidentified number of law enforcement officers reportedly opened fire on the suspect's car, and the man stopped his vehicle instantly. Sources said the couple confessed to their charge. The criminal laboratory confirmed that several bullets had hit the left rear side and the rear tires of the car.

Can you believe it? So, if any of you married couples want to visit us, maybe you should stagger your visits at different times than each other, so that you won't accidentally slip up, break the law, and get shot at! Yikes!



Kissing cats is fine, as Alyssa demonstrates.

Jeff & Diane at Home ~



Google Earth our Home ~

Did you try this? (See the May-June BrowNews.)
We're still waving!

New Covenant Community Church
6000 S. 84th
Lincoln NE 68516

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 968

News from Jeff & Diane

*If you know somebody without internet access
who would like to receive BROWNEWS by mail,
send their mailing address to Danny Keelan at:
dannyk@inetnebr.com*

*If you received this through the mail,
but you have internet access and can save us
time and postage by viewing BROWNEWS Online,
send your e-mail address to Danny at:
dannyk@inetnebr.com*

*If you would like information about our
Prayer Community, contact Danny:
dannyk@inetnebr.com*

Come visit our redesigned website:
www.BrowNews.org! We still have
a few things left to put up on it, but
it's looking great! Thanks Danny!

Contact Information:
Phone numbers: (home) 971-6-5722153
Jeff: 971-50-8725466
Diane: 971-50-8725472
Daniel: 971-50-3024964
Alyssa: 971-50-3024963
E-mail: caracasbrown@bigfoot.com