



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

## Kids' Sports Korner ~

Well, the sports seasons are over for this school year. The Sports Banquet for Daniel's school comes up in May. Alyssa already had hers. She came forward with her team for volleyball, soccer, basketball, and track & field (800 meters, high jump, discuss). We really thought she would get the most valuable player award for the soccer team because, even though it was her first year in school soccer, she scored every goal that her team scored the entire season! They won two games and lost two. Alyssa scored in three of the games. Her teammates didn't score at all. But, alas, the MVP went to a girl who was an on-and-off-the-field leader for the team. We're proud of Alyssa all the same.

Daniel and his Junior Varsity basketball team did very well in the end-of-season tournament (6 schools, 4 countries). They won it! They won 3 of the 5 games in the round-robin the first two days; then the final day they won their semi-final game by a nerve-racking (for us parents) 33-29 score, and the final with an easy 43-29 victory. Daniel played the most minutes on his team during the tourney. The second day was especially good for Daniel, scoring 14 points and 10 points in their two wins that day.

You can't see Daniel's face, but he is the one up in the air. You can see about half the ball. It went in.



## Village Medical Clinics ~

We recently rehabbed a small medical clinic in a remote village and provided the medicines for the village to hold a series of medicine distributions. They have a pharmacy technician in their tribe, and he traveled there to conduct the distributions. They report: "It was very good programme for the area patients." They treated 592 patients in 7 distributions the last 6 months.



These are the two photos they provided of the medical clinic. The photo above is titled "Dangerous Snakes in Area, Vaccines Required in Case of Bite". The photo below is titled "Complete Wiring in Hospital". It's not really a hospital; it's a room with cupboard, some chairs, and a carpet on the floor. What they were proud to show us was the wiring. The village just got electricity last year, and now they can run light bulbs and fans!



## A Real American Breakfast ~

We hosted one of the Project Managers of our Flood Relief work in our home in March. It was the first time he had been to a place as modern as the UAE. One morning, Jeff told him he would have a truly American breakfast experience; that this is what more Americans eat for breakfast these days than any other food. We set a cereal bowl in front of him, and filled it with cold cereal (muesli). As Jeff filled his own bowl, our friend reached into his bowl, grabbed some of the cereal, and said, "You eat it like this?" No! He put it back in his bowl. We told him that you pour milk over it first and use a spoon. (His people don't use spoons & forks.) He had no idea about this food. He said he liked it, but we think he was just being polite. Then later he put salsa on Diane's lasagna! Not spicy enough.

He told us the story of when his older brother left their very rural village as a teenager and moved to a city of about 15 million people back in the 1980s. He says that this brother came back to their village with incredible tales of life in the city. He told his family that in the city there were even chicken shops where people go to buy chickens to cook! Well, this was just too outlandish to believe and they laughed at him. They knew better – every family in the world raises their own chickens to eat. There can't be chicken shops – nobody would buy chickens from them because they already raise their own! Well, this whole extended family now lives in this same big city and laughs at *themselves* for being so uninformed about life outside the village.

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## Toilet Customs (no photo available for this story) ~

You know you have a good cross-cultural friend when you can discuss the toilet practices in each other's culture. Where we *live*, both toilet paper and water are most often provided in toilets. But where we *work*, they use spray hoses hooked up next to the toilet to clean their bums (and no towels to dry with, either), or pans of water in poorer places. Jeff's curiosity recently got the best of him and he asked, how in the world do you people use these water hoses without getting your clothes and legs all wet? His friend said that they do indeed get wet, and then he had a question of his own for Jeff. How do you get clean only using paper and not water? (Ummm... Trying to put this delicately here...) When Jeff clarified the question, it came out that this guy thought that we only swiped the area with the paper one time no matter how messy it was, and whatever didn't come off we just left on our bodies! The things that we all assume about other peoples' ways!

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***News from Jeff & Diane***

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

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