



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

Music of Spring ~



Alyssa is in the higher level music class in her school, which is an International Baccalaureate (IB) school. She has to submit a certain number of minutes of performance recordings in her chosen instrument (voice), to the IB judges in Europe. For her last performance, Jeff accompanied her on the song Daniel, by Elton John.

Happy 53rd! ~

Typically, the 53rd birthday is celebrated with a ride in a vehicle that can travel on two surfaces. Jeff turned 53 on June 1st, so we went with some friends on the Wonder Bus. It drives from a mall in Dubai, through the streets to the Dubai Creek. When it gets to a ramp that goes down into the creek, it doesn't slow down or stop, it just drives into the water and becomes a boat. After a tour up and down the creek through central Dubai, it drives back out of the water onto a street and heads back to the mall.

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Meanwhile, Back in America

Daniel successfully finished his first year at the University of Nebraska. This June he is in California at Aunt Rebecca's lavender farm business, working the harvest and the festival and such. Diane and Alyssa will go to Iowa for the month of August to visit Diane's father, Grandpa Fisher (pictured with Daniel). Daniel will also do some traveling out east to see friends, before returning to Nebraska for his sophomore year. He'll squeeze a little bicycle riding across Iowa in there too.

Meanwhile, Back in the Middle East ~

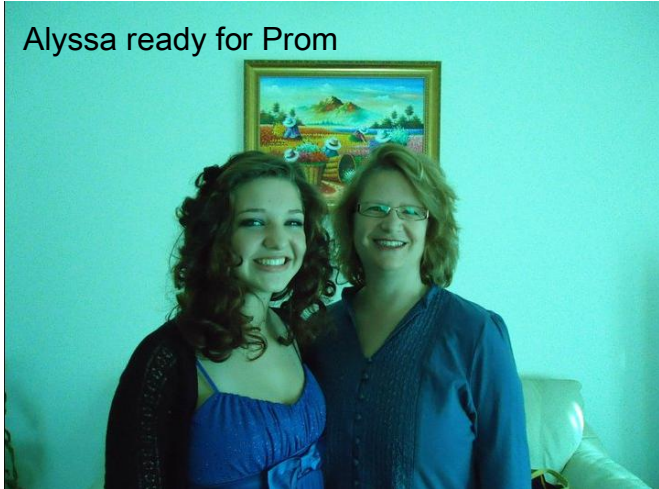
Diane is beginning to meet with the women of an Afghan family to teach them English. She just said goodbye to an Iranian friend, who is moving on to another country. Diane also meets with her friends from India and the Philippines whenever she can, and was recently elected the president of the Parent Teacher Organization at Alyssa's school, where she also substitute teaches in the lower grades.

Alyssa went to Prom with a group of friends in a limousine. All but one of her girlfriends have left the country for the summer. She is using the summer to make progress on her studies. IB students take 7 courses that each last two years: 11th and 12th grades. Her higher levels are history, music, and English; standard level environmental science, math, and Spanish, along with a Theory of Knowledge class.



Jeff meets with Muslim friends from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, and the Philippines, some after they get off work (seven days a week) between 9pm and 11pm – then it's dinner time – and some during lunch hours.

Last month a new family moved in next door, Arabs from Iran. They have two daughters, one of whom is 11 days younger than Alyssa and goes to an English-speaking school. We are excited about their arrival, because they are the first neighbors who have responded positively to our overtures of friendship and neighborliness in the two years we have lived in this neighborhood. We have been in each other's houses several times already.



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News from Jeff & Diane

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