

ANIS SHORROSH NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2006

Spirit-filled Supporters:

Grace and peace in the name of peace, Jesus our Savior and Lord.

If you do not feel that this title “spirit-filled” fits you perfectly, let us pray together earnestly that the Holy spirit will indeed fill your life and mine to the glory of God and the good of everybody who meets us.

When the Lord granted me the honor of preaching to the SBC evangelists in Greensboro, NC, on June 9th, the message was unusual. It was actually an assignment by the North American Mission Board Evangelism Department. The title was “When the Spirit Comes.” My emphasis was how faithfully we have obeyed the Great Commission throughout our history. Yet the sad thing is that we have not obeyed the Great Omission. My reference was to the command of Jesus to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes down. Because these days, instead of waiting until the Holy Spirit comes down and then go, we emphasize waiting to get a college and seminary degree, then go. The fact is, no degrees can ever be a substitute for waiting for the Holy Spirit to come down.

As I promised you in the June newsletter, here I am to relate some of the Lord’s extraordinary blessings. The London opportunities were a total of twelve plus a truly far-reaching one-hour T.V. program. Bro. and Mrs. Akhtar Samuel, as usual, arranged the schedule. They were my gracious hosts and supporters. A very outstanding physician, Dr. Peter David, and his wife Shameem, insisted on my spending at least one night in their palacious home.

The attendance at the meetings was wonderful and the response was uplifting. Of course, the most important thing was the presence of the Lord and the Holy Spirit’s work in the lives of people. I appreciate your prayers very much because without them I could not have preached four times in three different locations in London Sunday the 27th.

The three days in the Kingdom of Jordan were fast and furious. The lively visit with the teachers and missionaries at the outstanding school in Amman was memorable. My cousin was gracious to have me stay in their spacious home. The food was scrumptious. The live-in maid washed our clothes every day. I say “ours” because I brought a photographer from London. Imagine, he had heard me preach in his native Pakistan when he was six years old. His name is Honey, 36 years old, lives in London and uses his video expertise to provide for his family. The opportunity to counsel them and pray with them was a blessed privilege.

At 4:30 in the morning the next day we went to the celebrated city of Petra. The eight hours roundtrip was exciting and delightful in that we were able to photograph some of the monuments of the “red-rose city” and witness to the Muslim driver very effectively. We hope to have the DVD ready within a few weeks. You may order it before its production, which will help us cover the cost. It will be one-hour long and include part of the two preaching opportunities, scenes from the ruins of ancient Philadelphia and the visit to the Baptist School. You will be very impressed to know that I had the privilege of preaching at Zerka, which is the hometown of infamous Al-Zarkaway.

Because our United States government reestablished diplomatic relations with Libya, we sent a FAX to their embassy in London. It was actually a request to interview Strongman Ghaddefi. The embassy officials promised a response but after five days it never materialized. It will interest you to know that this man who is the president of Libya had held up in his hand, during a satellite T.V. interview, a copy of The True Furqan. He said, “America has invaded even our religion with this new book.” When you log into the website you will find two pages about what the media in the Middle East says about The True Furqan and our government’s response.

The six days at home with Nell, friends and family helped me catch up. That period culminated with a lovely birthday party for Nell on June 8th. Immediately after that, our newly adopted Brazilian student, Thiago, drove me to Atlanta, GA. The next day drove on to Greensboro, NC for annual Evangelist’s Retreat and the SBC Convention. Additionally, the Lord gave us a glorious morning opportunity at FBC, Maggie Valley where I shared my testimony in the Sunday School hour and preached on “The End-Time Prophecies” at the 11 A.M. service. There were 350 people at that service and they responded wonderfully.

The evening service was in Barberville B.C. in Waynesville, NC, which brought back memories of 41 years ago when I met Bro. Jameson in Jerusalem. The friendship which was established then resulted in our buying property in the Smokies, preaching in these lovely mountains to the godly people of Western North Carolina. We finally had to sell the property when the boys were in college. I must relate to you that the song which was sung especially because I was there, “John Saw the City that Could not be Hid,” transported me to glory! The Hoppers made the song famous and it is called “New Jerusalem.”

Upon returning from the convention in NC, the Lord allowed me to experience a beautiful four-day revival in Hamilton, MS. My host drove me to Memphis one morning to pray in person for their one-year old miracle granddaughter at the Children’s Hospital. One highlight was visiting with the beloved Cockrell’s in Columbus, MS, whom I had not seen in a long time and Sam Stevens in Amory, MS.

My darling wife drove up Wednesday night and together we drove together to Oneida, KY, near Lexington, spending the night on their beautiful campus of Oneida Baptist Institute. After breakfast we loaded our granddaughter’s belongings and enjoyed the 12-

hour drive home in the rented SUV. Rejoice with us over the fact that she was chosen by the faculty and staff as “The most improved student” during her first year there.

Talking about grandchildren, we are thrilled to mention to you that Salam and Sherry’s son, Michael, graduated from Gulf Shores High School with 4.0 average. His mother’s home-schooling him through the eighth grade paid off. He is a wonderful athlete and an outstanding Christian young man. We also praise God for providing with excellent scholarships to Samford University.

Two wonderful revivals were my experience in the Meridian, MS, area, Center Point and Northeastern Baptist Churches were gracious and generous as well.

When all of a sudden, the two Indo-Pakistani meetings in New York were cancelled, I sought the Lord for solutions. First He opened the door to go back to Daleville, AL, where we had a very memorable three days in May. I felt that since we concluded the revival a day early, this would be a good make-up opportunity with the church family. The Holy Spirit blessed enormously. Can you imagine that while eating lunch that Sunday, a pastor friend of ours for many years was there too? Ralph Jernigan, who had returned twelve years earlier, is pasturing in the same area and had wanted me to minister to his people. The divine appointment was obvious inasmuch as I still had the following Sunday open. Nell and little Christian, Victoria’s son, went with me and what a truly rewarding weekend it was.

Thiago, who had been with me in Greensboro at Daleville, was able to drive with me to Greensboro again. The three days at the friendly Arabic Baptist Church were inspiring, filled with food, fun and fellowship. It is one of the few Arabic congregations in America which has its own property and brand new sanctuary. When I realized that the large number of young people did not know Arabic that well, being second-generation immigrants, I convinced them to join the services and preached in two languages at the same time.

Now I am at the gorgeous Billy Graham Training Center in Black Mountain, NC. The Arab Pastors and Layman’s Conference began Monday the 24th of July and will conclude tomorrow, the 27th. However, it was my joy to preach Sunday night at the gracious Grandview Baptist Church in NC. Ila and Melborn Knights were our super hosts with a royal dinner and a most elegant breakfast. Ila, herself, has produced a number of Christian songs and is an accomplished pianist, whom we met at Maggie Valley seventeen years ago.

Tonight, Wednesday the 26th, I am taking with me Thiago, Eslam Massey and a converted Muslim from Sudan, to Maggie Valley. Pastor Ricky Mason and several of his church members want to go on the Bible Land Cruise in October. We have just finished the brochure. Because of the current situation in the Middle East, I am trying to remind people that Israel usually fights either one week or one month, because the job is done in that little time. Therefore, we believe things will be normal by then. But if not, we can

always postpone the trip. Sunday it will be my pleasure to preach in the Washington, D.C. area, before spending a few days at home.

In His Majesty's service,

Anis Shorrosh, D.Min, D.Phil