



April 2023

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter from Oman!

We have had an interesting first quarter here at Al Amana Centre. First, we hired our second full-time Omani employee. Mohammed Al Shueili has been working part-time off and on for us for over nine years. He is thrilled to join the team full-time. When we were negotiating salary with him he said, "Someone else could offer me twice what you are paying me and I wouldn't take it as this work gives me meaning." Mohammed is a devout Muslim who wants to be part of what we are doing as Christians here in Oman. His family and friends were initially suspicious of him working with Christians, but he is becoming an ambassador of our work among Omanis. Last week he helped invite three Omani scholars to the Centre to learn about our work and we were able to share our history and mission here. They were grateful to know there are Christians in Oman doing what we are doing. They posted about this visit on social media and now many more Omanis are aware of our work and acceptance here by both the government and scholars.

Second, the Minister of Religious Affairs (RA) brought the Minister of Health to our Centre this past fall for a visit. After that visit, the Minister of RA committed to bringing other members of the Sultan's cabinet to our Centre. Last week, he brought the Minister of Higher Education and she was impressed with the Centre and our work. Soon we plan on visits from the Ministers of Tourism, Social Development, Education, and Foreign Affairs. These types of visits are a first for the Centre in its modern history. It is very exciting to become more visible in Omani society and to have the message and our work promoted to a wider Omani audience.



Omani Scholars and Ministers of Religious Affairs and Higher Education visit the Centre.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.



Mohammed leads the New Brunswick Group.

Third, we hosted a group of students, professors, and alumni from New Brunswick Theological Seminary. They were accompanied by their President, Rev. Dr. Micah McCreary. New Brunswick alumni were the first missionaries to the Arabian Gulf from the RCA. Dr. McCreary said that in honor of the history, he would work to have Al Amana Centre be a recipient of missional giving from New Brunswick's endowment in the future.

The greatest need that the Centre has at the moment is funding what we are calling the "Missional Gap." We are discovering groups of people, largely from Africa, the Middle East, and Asia who want to come to Oman and learn how people of faith can build peace together, but cannot afford the travel and program costs. A lot of funding and attention has been focused the last year on Ukraine and funding for other areas of need has dried up. We have the vision to raise funds to provide more programs for people in need who can't afford to make it on their own to Oman. To this end, the Board of Al Amana Centre has contracted with a process development consultant to help us learn how to do this. If you would like to learn more about how you or your church can help us bridge the "gap" and fund more mission in the region, please let me know.

Also, in the last few months, we have been engaging Evangelical Christians in the Middle East and Gulf region. We have been invited to join the World Evangelical Alliance Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Peace and Reconciliation Network. This is a group of local evangelical Christians who are working for peace in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. We also attended and led a workshop at Movement Day Middle East in Dubai. Our workshop was on the reasons and theology behind why and how we volunteer in our local communities in the Middle East. Movement Day is a gathering of evangelical Christians who want to make a difference in their cities and communities. Not only are we trying to bridge the gaps between Muslims and Christians, but we are also finding ourselves being drawn into working across the Christian theological spectrum and building bridges between evangelical and mainline churches.

Thank you for your support as we strive to be salt and light for the Kingdom of God in our context. If you would like for us to Zoom into a worship service, Bible study, or another group to share about our work, please contact me at jmeyers@alamanacentre.org.

On a personal note: Please pray for Justin as the Centre continues to grow in public presence in Oman. Pray that he may have wisdom and guidance. Pray for Stephanie as she added to her role at Al Amana Centre by also taking on a half-time role at the Protestant Church in Oman—during a time a great transition—to help give logistical support to their ministry. Pray for Gavin as he discerns where to go to college this summer and starts to apply ahead of his senior year. Pray for Collin as he has been chosen to represent his school's inaugural robotics team at the World Robotics Competition in the U.S. in a few weeks. (First time traveling across the ocean without a parent!)

Again, thank you for your support.

Peace,

Justin, Stephanie, Gavin, and Collin