



**September 2024**

Dear Friends,

**We are excited to extend an invitation to you to visit us in Bahrain!**

Whenever we are privileged to visit individuals and speak in churches that support us in the States, we ALWAYS extend an invitation to come to Bahrain to personally experience the incredible legacy and three-fold ministry of RCA Global Mission. In response, many of you have expressed a genuine interest in traveling to Bahrain—either as an individual or as part of a church mission team.

Well, with the assistance and leadership of the RCA Coordinator for Young Adult Ministry Grace Newhouse, we are planning just such an experience in March of 2025! The experience will involve exposure to the ministry of The American Mission Hospital, Al Raja School, and The National Evangelical Church English Language Congregation. Participants will have an opportunity to experience Arab culture and learn a bit more about history and religious practice in this part of the world. Dialogue and processing will be central to our daily routine as well as time around tables laden with local and international food and drink.

We can assure you that you will be deeply impacted by the gentleness of the Bahraini people, by Middle Eastern hospitality, by the beautiful diversity that enlivens the English Language Congregation of the NEC, and by the fervor for the gospel, which is so evident in our worship and service to and with others.

While the opportunity to come to Bahrain is available to all, our partnership with Grace and her work with young adults is intentional. Statistics make clear that young adults (20-30) are leaving the church in record numbers—not because they lack faith or religious curiosity, but because they feel uninspired or are disinterested in institutional loyalty. When young adults are exposed to what God is doing through the Global Church however, especially by way of the encouragement of a local congregation, it is far more likely for them to move from marginalization or disinterest to deeper engagement in service and leadership.

This is our broader hope for the experience we are planning: for young adults from your congregation to be inspired and challenged by the Global Church. We are confident that Grace will not only facilitate all things necessary to get the team to Bahrain and support each person while here, but more importantly Grace will continue with connection and support upon return to the States. She will encourage and pray with team members toward a more purposeful engagement and leadership in your local congregation.

*Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at [kgilmore@rca.org](mailto: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.*

The aforementioned focus does not mean that ONLY young adults can participate in this experience. Ideally, we would love to have others older and perhaps even younger to add wisdom/mentoring, experience, and diversity to the experience. We mention the target population primarily to guide you as a congregation (and to prepare you for transformed lives and the opportunity for mentoring once the team has returned).

Simply put, we love our supporting churches and praise God for individuals who support us financially and with prayer. We pray for you all regularly and would be honored to host you in the place we are blessed to call our home.

We have included [a link here](#) for you to learn more about the experience as well as a pathway for registration. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us or Grace with specific questions. We are eager to serve you and the process of navigating any presenting obstacles. Space is limited, so please don't delay in signing up.

With sincere appreciation for your partnership in the work of the gospel,

Blaine and Kathleen Newhouse

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