

My Dear Sweet ladies,

"Come Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us Thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conquering Seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head.
Adam's likeness now efface;
Stamp Thine image in it's place;
Second Adam from above,
Reinstate us in Thy love.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!"

It is hard to believe that it's December already. Time has flown by in a sort of cosmic trick with one wave after another of company. We were honored with lots of family and some friends from the U.S. and then a few families we got to know quite well from Abu Dhabi, where we lived last year. The weather is Minnesota summer-like now, and the windows are open (some with screens, others without, so the flies join us), but like a lot of things, Christmas thoughts and feelings mustn't be dependant upon snow and the ascribing of god-like qualities to another entity...

Our oldest 3 children are all here along with us so that deep part of my heart that reaches out over the ocean to them, is at peace regarding them, for now :-).

Another wave of illness with deep coughs threaten, but only one of them (Stephen) needed the big guns of unfamiliar antibiotic (that we get over the counter, research, and mix ourselves). So far, so good. The emirate of Fujairah is definitely more like the older Arabia (in appearance and outward behavior) than the more modern city of Abu Dhabi, and we are enjoying living on a dirt road in an obscure neighborhood even if we can't get milk at the local stores.

And one of the Banana Trees is blooming. Having no experience with banana trees, I had no idea when "the season" was for bananas. I'm thinking now that they start in December (here) :-). Not much gets past me. I'll let you know on the lemon or lime trees – both which and when. But those trees are really loaded with spikes :-/ .

An increasing number of pink taxi cabs have been seen in this town. Some remember when we first discovered the plan to train women drivers, to transport women only. I like this idea. I don't know where to catch one yet, or where to get the phone number (remember about the phone books...) but it's a nice idea and if the opportunity arises I'd use them.

Logic -Free Zone report:

-All the Shopping carts have four wheel turn. We call them frictionless carts and they are difficult enough to maneuver while empty but get them full and it's nearly impossible to navigate turns...(or straightaways). I need someone to pull the front and push the back so I don't tend to go to the store alone.

- As far as I know, they have had no need (or money) in this emirate, to dredge the ocean bottom for more land. They prefer to mine the mountains for that (selling the big rocks and gravel and leaving a

flat area). And yet...all the dirt roads around here have lots of shells buried just under the surface. I call them desert snails. Sometimes we find scallop shells in the road too.

- I had a biology teacher once, that used to tell us his wife went to the "Beauty Saloon" to drink beauty. I was reminded of that as I drove around noting all the "Hair Saloons" here.

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As with all smallish towns, everyone seems to know who you are and who the Father of the family is. I am reminded once again to behave myself :-). We have been warned to keep the children always with us, especially the small ones. We've also seen first hand what could potentially happen when I or Mark or a bigger brother is not with the girls. So while dirt and old forts are nice, the propensity toward lawlessness here, is not a happy thought. Please pray for us to be wise as serpents, harmless as doves.

Have a very Merry Christmas all of you!

Much love and fond affection,

~Pam.

"From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I." Psalm 61:2

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