

My Dear Sweet Ladies,

This past month was a month of incredible weather (for here that is). It seemed like 40 days and 40 nights of rain because the streets were so full and my laundry was in the dining room. But it really was only 5 days or so of deluge. The dirt roads around us reminded me of the streets of Venice (well what I picture it to be like anyway). And while I have on occasion, entertained a secret wish to be a gondolier, it's not as fun in real life when you have to wash your gondola...er...car afterward. So we stayed home as much as possible (since everywhere were deep puddles) until it was over. Then we sent a dove out first and went to get a few pictures. Naturally they don't expect this much rain, so nothing is able to deal with it. I *didn't* get the pictures of the pumping trucks, pumping out the water from the roundabouts. Partly because I had to remember a jacket since it was below 75 degrees F. :-/ .

It's rained a few more times, lightly, since then but generally things are returning to a semblance of normal now. Soon it will heat up gloriously. I've also noticed it's been extremely cold in Minnesota (our home state). I refrain from stating the obvious, but I'm beginning to lose my delusion of returning home to a tropical Southern Minnesota vacation spot.

I typically miss seeing dignitaries. Last year President Bush the elder was in Abu Dhabi. Mark and his Dad were able to attend and that was interesting for them. Meanwhile Queen Elizabeth was visiting the U.S. and I was here, wouldn't you know. I suppose I would never have ranked a visit with her anyway but a girl can dream. A couple weeks ago, the current President G. W. Bush was here. Not only did I miss seeing him, but I missed seeing the whole city of Dubai (population about 1.5 million) shut down for security reasons (the enclosed photos of Dubai were not taken by me). Huger 5 lane roads were closed, as were all schools and businesses.

As you already know, we are sorely missing Jon and Robyn. Jon will return to us in a couple of weeks but that seemed too long to wait this letter so I reiterate that old news. But anyone who sees Jon at the Bible School, can give him our greetings :-). Or more hilarious yet, give him a hug for us. Tell him I love him more than milk chocolate covered espresso beans.

January this year, like last year, was also spent catching up on schoolwork. We did fairly well continuing it even amidst fairly continual company since we got here, but naturally there were days we did other activities instead. We spent a bit of time studying David Brainerd and a quote from his journal rang clear:

"God has made me willing to do anything that I can consistently with truth, for the sake of peace, and that I might not be a stumbling block to others."

May it be so for me Lord Jesus.

So while we're missing our Church (the people, not as much the building, but still... :-)), and our relatives and friends and neighbors – we all have each other here, which is a huge deal. So we're holding together pretty well. Language study continues...with the typical social gaffes, but all in all we're working hard and making progress. Have I mentioned the letter names are almost the

same as Hebrew letters? I pointed that out one time to one of our language teachers from Psalm 119. She thought that was fascinating.

The logic-free zone report:

~I hate to use a thing twice (ok no I don't), but those McDonald's and Dunkin' Donuts signs all over town have spawned additional signs for Hardies (replete with photos). There are no *Hardies* restaurants here in Fujairah either.

~An ongoing challenge here is that generally store clerks request exact change when you make a purchase. If you don't have exact change, they are hesitant to give you change...which makes it very difficult to get change. So Mark and Ben went to the bank to get change. The bank folks said they didn't have any coins. I can't quite put my finger on what is wrong here.

~This is a debatable item due to the fact that I personally found it quite logical. Mark was noticing a shop called "The Bait Sweet Shop" (a candy store). Remembering my issue with fish bait loose in our fridge, he thought it quite funny enough to not buy anything from there. What makes it more logical than one might think, is that the word "bait", in Arabic is the word for "home" (it looks like this - بيت , but if all you see is squares then never mind). So it isn't really illogical to have a store called "Home sweets" ("sweets" is the common term for candy or desserts here as in the U.K.) And yet it's illogicalness stems more from the fact that they transliterated one word from Arabic, but not the rest.

...And I may have to keep the logic free zone report a bit short henceforth since I have now been here long enough that things are looking more and more logical to me. This is either a function of it truly not being as illogical as I first perceived...or that I am becoming less and less logical. Maybe it doesn't really matter.

Some items of interest. Pick 2 for brevity:

-There was a high wind storm a couple of nights ago. Trees were bent over almost parallel with the ground, and in the morning, leaves were shredded and or stripped off many of the branches. Sad. But I think they'll recover. At our home in MN, the trees and tall things tend to grow tilted slightly to the North, northeast because of the years of frequent high winds. Here it did that in one night.

-Supposedly a cable was cut in the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea, or perhaps it was the Arabian Sea (different articles said different things), cutting off internet service in much of the middle east including The United Arab Emirates. It affected the colleges where Mark works and a large business section of Dubai mostly. We still have internet, but probably the bandwidth is reduced (as evidenced by very poor skype calls for one thing).

-There have been a few minor earthquakes to hit our area in the past few days. We haven't felt much. Mostly door rattles in the night.

-The boys (except 5y/o Stephen) are on a rowing team that starts up again on Valentines day (well....don't tell Jon, he doesn't know we signed him up too), so that should be a good activity. I'll try to get pictures because I want to see how much they'll look like Galley Slaves on a greek slave ship.

That is all I can think of for this month. Have a truly wonderful Valentines Day all of you, and Happy Birthday Mom!

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





infinitive form: يَذْهَبُ
"to go" Yazahab

I (ana)	أنا يَذْهَبُ
You (m) (anta)	أنت يَذْهَبُ
You (f) (antee)	أنتِ يَذْهَبُ
He (heewa)	هو يَذْهَبُ
She (heega)	هي يَذْهَبُ
We (Nattaa)	نحن يَذْهَبُونَ
You (pl) (Antoom)	أنتم يَذْهَبُونَ
They (haan)	هم يَذْهَبُونَ









