

My Dear Sweet Ladies,

I have not needed to do an appliance report lately (to your joy). This is mainly because I have figured out the sequence of buttons to push on the washer by rote, and I don't much use the distant dishwasher (which apparently has a "dash onto the rocks" cycle). So I bring you out the back door to the – laundry drying report. I was a little nervous when we noticed the pigeons making a nest under the clay tile shingles above the back porch, but they weren't to be scared off and the stairway doesn't go over there so I couldn't reach them and I'm not sure I would touch them if I could. There were a number of isolated laundry rerun items until the pigeon babies grew up enough to start flying. Then a new flight pattern began that caused an entire load to need to be rewashed. Now that I have the flight pattern down and have moved the laundry lines, things are staying clean. There really is a fascinating entire other society at the tree and roof level. I can watch it from the second level of the house and it's noisiest and most active in the mornings. Mostly dove, pigeons and Mina birds, and house crows and sparrows. Sometimes a green parrot or two. The dignified hoopoes stick to the ground pretty much.

The heat is amazing. When we first came to Arabia it was hot, but in Abu Dhabi it is also very humid (being an island). Here in Fujairah, there have been 118.4 (F) dry degrees blowing all over the place. This is very good for laundry (if you get it back in quick before it gets dirty), but not as good for delicate tomato plants, or even the morning glory if they don't get quite enough water. This is beginning the season where nearly everything plantlike dies, and then even the birds forget to sing. This morning there were a couple of Mina birds on my window sill not fighting, talking or singing (like they usually do on the window sill). I am not sure but that they might be panting for need of water. When I was confined to bed while my back recovered, I had the children put bread crumbs on this window sill so I could watch the birds come to get them. I'm just anthropomorphic enough to think they had begun to like visiting with me and had come back today hoping I had water out for them. So I put out a small bowl of it. So far there are no takers.

We have deepened the well so we can get enough water all at once for watering, etc.. Water is quite expensive unless you belong here (local emirates get their water and electricity 2/3 cheaper than we do). After having the water tested for salinity (why entire palm tree farms die before they realize), we got a pump to run the water out for all outside uses. Now I think we are getting enough to bring inside soon.

The cricket season has ended for the long hot summer as it is too deadly to move too fast out there most days. Mark and the boys play it most weeks with some guys from India, Australia, Great Britain ,and South Africa. Must be sort of a commonwealth type game. It could somewhat be compared to baseball, but much odder. The boys have really enjoyed rowing and also bring a neighbor boy from Australia with them. It's not quite as hot out on the ocean.

I seem to be too preoccupied with necessary things to remember and do and pack, before leaving this year. I'm not sure why, and it's not like me to have anxiety attacks. I guess I'll feel better to just keep on going through my list and pack things as I think of them.

Since I'm not in the mood to deal with my own illogicalness just now, here is the Logic-Free-Zone report:

~ There is more road construction than ever in this town. They tend to cluster it all together so you can't really get through entire areas (without my four wheel drive, off road...)

~ It is not legal to drive with a dent on your car, neither can you renew your plates or license with one. It is not legal for any car repair place to repair a dent in your car without an accompanying police report. Even if you hit a rock or tree you must have a police report so you can get your dent fixed. (this one is not related to the previous one) :-)

Thank you for all your prayers and kind notes regarding my back, etc. It has not been giving me trouble and my general physical health is very much improved.

We will be at the airport the night of May 22 for a 12:10 am flight on the 23rd. It's a long flight with a stop in Amsterdam about midway (with the sometimes difficult with a large group coming from an Arab country-customs at the end).

We mostly plan to stay home as much as possible and work on the house and farm so you can find us there. Jonathan graduates from high school and Robyn graduates from college. Then we return here for the marathon year.

A very Happy Mother's Day to all of you Moms!
God Bless you all.

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







