

My Dear Sweet Ladies

I really must get this started before the condition of our dirt road outside gets so much worse that it ends up in the "logic-free zone" section of this letter. Each time we leave the house lately, we have to return by a different route. I just got home via down a brick sidewalk and through a wide ditch. I wouldn't have even noticed that I needed milk for the next morning if I hadn't asked Kim to make me a Cappuccino though :-)

It isn't so much that they are just digging up the road, as it is that they have dug up every single road in our neighborhood – every possible inroad. They are currently dirt roads (not gravel, just dirt), but about 2 feet lower than before down the middle. We've been watching them dig down to pipes and cover them with cement (?), move large dirt piles around, dig some more. I think it's a pretty nice neighborhood for them to work in since there is water available nearby, and not much traffic (currently). ...which means there is no real incentive to finish anytime soon. Ah well, adds to the adventure. I hope we can get out in the morning.

It stormed a couple of weeks ago. And hailed. It's so rare here that the neighbors referred to it as "ice cubes falling". It was kind of fun to have a hail-ball fight outside. We managed to get the seedlings we started, brought inside in time. But the poor Magnolia tree leaves were shredded. It doesn't take much to shred bananas tree leaves and they just shoot out more quickly, but the Magnolia tree is sad. Many of my vines got blown down but they were easy enough to tie back up. Since most of the pretty bright pink leaves blew off the bougainvillea, I took the opportunity to trim it. I never have the heart to otherwise. It got quite a haircut.

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The "Zone" report:

If you'll recall past issues of this letter, poppy seeds are neither found here, nor are they legal. You don't see poppies planted, nor do they have poppyseed muffins, or poppyseed salad ;-). Mark did find a small plastic jar of Hemp Seeds however, in a store in Dubai and brought them home so I could see. They're called "Good 4U Smart Seeds" ingredient: shelled hemp seeds. I did try them and they don't taste half bad I guess, but they can't replace poppy seeds.

The label reads: "If you like our seeds why not try our tasty shoots :-0

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Most of the fun of going places in this smallish country about the size of Maine, are the things you see on the way. Due to the recent rain, many of the Wadi's are full so that makes interesting and beautiful little sea-green lakes that aren't usually there. A Wadi is a usually dry riverbed that fills up with water when it rains. Which isn't real often but when it's a lot of rain (for here) they fill up and go over roads. The water can come off the mountains fast so it isn't a place to be during a rain storm. Anyway, in a recent trip home from the airport in the early morning we stopped at a Wadi and found it was full of tadpoles. Fascinating.

The wild Arabian Oryx apparently became extinct to this region in the early '70's. It was reintroduced at some point but they are very rare to just see in the desert, behind the camel fence, along the highway as we did the other day. This is a mostly white

antelope with large straight horns. Very large. I didn't have my camera with me because I was too crabby when we left the house to go back in and get it. Thankfully the children weren't similarly *affected*. :-/ so I did get a picture.

The changing weather has made for some amazing clouds (enclosed photo). We also had a chance to see a group of Dolphins who seemed to be showing off for us. We were on an old fashioned dhow in the Northern part of Oman. Even the storm we lived through was remarkable. The snorkeling was much better there as well.

The Bible Study is going well. The boys work hard at memorizing their verses, and it is good for my own children as well. In all we try to do, or have opportunity to do no matter where we live, we must remind ourselves that our first responsibility is to our children. It seems satan would like to distract us from that no matter where we find ourselves.

Jon's friend from Abu Dhabi is visiting for the week during his spring break from school. His mother and siblings used to join us for morning worship each week when we lived there, and he tries to come long enough to be able to be with us for that. Many people besides just us have really come to appreciate the sermons sent from our church.

That's all folks. Happy Resurrection Day. Don't forget to keep your eyes and ears open along the way.

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. (Psa 61:2)

Beautiful harbingers of weather. Oman.



Battening the hatches



Calm after the storm



Dolphin infested waters





Fjords of Northern Oman



Fords of Oman



Arabian Oryx



Juice counter at a mall

