

## Fear Pervades Middle East - I made it Out of the Holy Land in One Piece!

From our Unification Church missionary in Jordan

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I made it out of the "Holy Lands" in one piece and in sound physical and spiritual health. That's a wild place! Even peaceful, cooperative, friendly to the West - Jordan. There is so much fear in this world, it defies our previous experiences in our home countries. We usually have pity on the poor peoples of impoverished nations -- starving, stricken by flood or famine, crushed by earthquake or storms. But in those arid and parched Arab lands, something paramount to pure fear of one's neighbor has pervaded the very core of their hearts and souls. I've never known of a people so at war within themselves.

I want to share Heavenly Father's tears as His anguish overwhelms His capacity to bear such fratricidal hatred and anger. Poor Father -- he's had to absorb all this painful bickering alone for so long and now as if it weren't enough to whale each other with the modern weaponry of tanks, SAMs, cannons and bombs, they are going to end the prophet's people once and for all with nuclear arms of their own. With children of such temperament, God is surely bracing for a fearful and hurtful time ahead in the Middle East.

Whether our mission (of responsibility) is in one country or another, we cannot hate Arabs, Russians, Jews or anyone. Our unity is deeper than that, but it is easy to get strong feelings of anger and impatience at witnessing "official" and "personal" fear of other Arab peoples and Arab nations. They simply don't... love... each... other. In Lebanon, it's Christian Arab against Moslem Arab; in Egypt it's Libyan Arab against Egyptian Arab; in Jordan and in Syria, it's Palestinian (Al Fatah) Arab against establishment Arab, etc.

How God has patiently and silently endured all of us for centuries. How can we ever fully comfort Him? Can we as His children ever give Him THAT much joy? Are there enough tears and blood and moments of repentance to heal such wounds as we have caused? Anyway, we have never thought or lived this way before and how much we must change still.