

Your NFC

OCTOBER 10, 2014

A WEEKLY
NEWSLETTER FOR
THE PEOPLE OF THE
NEWBERG
FRIENDS CHURCH
COMMUNITY

LIVING OUT LOVE —> LOCALLY...GLOBALLY

by Jessy Hampton

IT'S HARD TO KNOW where to begin with talking about this summer. I have spent the last year living in occupied East Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives, working with the Mennonite Central Committee. It probably comes as no surprise to hear that tensions here in Palestine and Israel are palpable; we're all accustomed to hearing about unrest in the Middle East. But this unrest boiled over at the beginning of July (or middle of June, or May, depending on which event you choose as a starting point), and we saw Israel engaged in yet another "Operation" against the people of Gaza. For 51 days, Operation Protective Edge raged on, taking the lives of more than 2,100 Palestinians (mostly civilians, almost 600 children) and about 70 Israelis (mostly soldiers, and one child).

It is profoundly different to watch a war unfold when you know the people and places—have friends and colleagues on the ground—than to observe from the "neutrality" of the outside. MCC works through partnership with local organizations, and we have several partners based in Gaza, whom I was fortunate enough to visit in May of this year. As the bombs began falling, civilians began dying, and my colleagues began working on getting food, materials, and other assistance to the people in Gaza.

We talked on the phone with our partners almost daily, hearing about the nights that got worse and worse, the lack of sleep, the absence of food and produce in the markets. "This is worse than Operation Pillar of Defense (2012) or Operation Cast Lead (2008-9) or the massacre in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in 1982," people exclaimed. "If this doesn't end in the next day or two, we won't know what to do."

If I am being honest, it felt like God had abandoned the people of Gaza. And if I am being completely honest, I'm not yet convinced God *didn't* abandon them. But throughout this time, my MCC colleagues and I received a profound witness of



Currently featured
on the art wall
in the social hall:
Creative Art by
Nicole Fawver



This photo was taken on my visit to Gaza in May. One of our partners has a rabbit-raising project (food security and income generation for the poorest families in the Gaza City area). The bunny may or may not have survived the war—40 percent of the families involved in the project lost all of their rabbits over the summer and have to start over.

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faith from our partners on the ground, most of whom are practicing Muslims. As the nights dragged on with incessant shelling, these amazing people worked by candlelight to put together emergency food rations for hungry families. As more than a quarter of the population of Gaza was displaced and their homes destroyed, the staff and volunteers at our partner organizations gave dozens of people shelter in their own homes. As several of us sat in the MCC office, asking out loud—“Where is God in Gaza?”—our partners continuously said, “It is worse than ever before, but God gives us the strength to keep going. It is through God that we can work to help those who need help.”

In America, we like to quote Matthew 25: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I

was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me” (vv. 35-36). But these beautiful, faithful, inspiring people (all Muslims) in Gaza were actually doing it.

It’s been a little more than a month since the ceasefire agreement took effect; the brutal violence of war has ended, but the systems of oppression and the slow violence of military occupation continue. I sometimes struggle to keep ahold of hope and must remember the witness of Palestinians and Israelis across this land who continue fighting for justice, even in the face of enormous, seemingly insurmountable obstacles. “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us” (Hebrews 12:1).

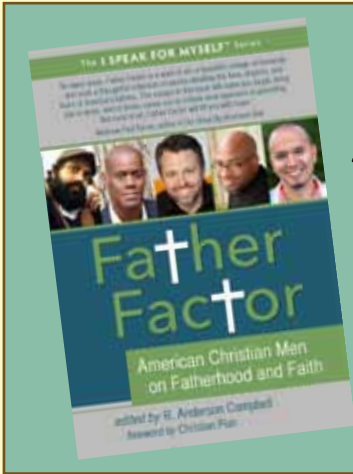


**Sailing with the Lees
Tuesday, October 14
6:30 p.m. • Public Library**

A family of four travels 10 months and 5,000 miles on a 50-year-old sailboat. Adventures abound. Come hear the Lee family share about their epic journey—the storms, the difficulties, the joys, and the discoveries.

Questions? Please contact the library at nplibrary@newbergoregon.gov or 503-538-7323 or **visit the library website!**

Update: The Vanlalhriatas, pictured in last week’s Your NFC, will not be speaking at Friendsview Vespers. Instead, hear them on Wednesday, October 15, 7 p.m., at Friendsview Prayer Meeting.



Jamie Johnson contributed a chapter in this soon-to-be-released book. Read an excerpt **HERE!**

NEED • SHEET

NEEDED:

- Route driver for produce deliveries to Portland from Saint Paul, 4 to 6 hours/day each Tuesday and Friday morning. Contact Mustard Seed Farms at 503-633-7333 or dnnbrown@stpaultel.com.

To place a one-time free ad— • e-mail: sherry@newbergfriends.org • mail: NFC, P.O. Box 487, attn. Sherry
• bring a written ad to the NFC office at 600 E. 3rd Street
deadline: October 22 • no phone-in ads; please resubmit repeated ads

The Need Sheet can now be found online at newbergfriends.org/resources/need-sheet/

Your **NFC** THIS WEEK

READ AHEAD FOR OCTOBER 12

Matthew 6:1-4

linked to biblestudytools.com

SUNDAY

Sunday school for children and adults — for times and classroom information, find “Educational Opportunities” at each entrance, each “Info Center,” at the welcome center, or ask a greeter to help you.

9am • worship gathering

- small group to explore Nathan Foster’s book | Barclay C | contact Steve Fawver

10–10:45am • Community Time | in the social hall (or on the lawn)

- blood pressure checks | Room 234

10:15–10:45am | library staffed

10:45am | worship gathering

3pm | high school volleyball open gym | FC gym

5pm | Bible Quiz practice | Youth House

Monday, October 13

Intercessory prayer | 9am | Barclay C

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Tuesday, October 14

Memorial service for Ellen Warner | 2pm | NFC sanctuary

Wednesday, October 15

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Grief Group | 6:30pm | Room 234

Small group to explore Nathan Foster’s book | 6:45pm | Barclay A/B | second of ten sessions | contact Steve Fawver

WBFpm | 7pm | Barclay C

Thursday, October 16

Women’s Bible Fellowship | 8:45am | social hall

K-2 Fun Night | 6-7:30pm | FC gym | dinner, games, and stories for children K through 2nd grade | \$2 per child, \$4 family max

Friday, October 17

Strong For Life | 10:30am | Barclay B

Saturday, October 18

Men’s prayer meeting | 8am | Friendsview Creekside, 2nd floor, TV room

Sunday, October 19

Read ahead: Matthew 6:5-8

Equipo meeting | 3pm | North Valley Friends | for everyone planning to help with the upcoming spring break mission to Mexico

Plan Ahead

October 20 | 3M (Monthly Marriage Maintenance) | 6:30pm | social hall

October 23 | 3:4-5 Fun Night | 6-8pm | dinner, games, and a mission presentation for children in 3rd-5th grade. \$2 per child, \$4 family max

October 25 | NFC All-Church Serve Day | 9am-noon | Join with others in the camaraderie of serving your church community! Everyone welcome. We’ll close our work together with a simple chili meal.

October 26 | Dessert with Debby Thomas | 7pm | social hall |

Newberg Friends Church
a GROWING community
LISTENING to Christ
CHANGING in the Spirit
LIVING OUT love

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NFC’s Calendar on the Web!

Dessert with Debby Thomas



**Sunday, October 26
7-8:15 p.m.
Social Hall**

Hear from Debby Thomas as she makes a quick stop in Oregon before returning to Rwanda. Debby will share the current work of the EFM/ Discipling for Development team in Rwanda and how she and David are planning to transition out of Rwanda in 2015. Cookies and coffee will be served.

NURSERY CARE = LOVE, LEARNING, AND LAUGHTER



Come join us!

We have a fantastic team already in place, but a few more adult volunteers are needed to join us in the nursery.

At NFC our goal is to have two adults (age 18 and older) in all of our children's ministry classes. We still need a couple of adults to serve during the 10:45am service.

Our little ones love to play, listen to stories, and spend time snuggling! It's a pretty good way to worship together.

What: Nursery care, room 231

When: 10:35am-noon, 2nd service

Contact: Michelle Akins

503-539-5041 (cell)

503-538-8381 (office)

michelle@newbergfriends.org

Training provided for all nursery volunteers.



FUN NIGHTS



K-2 Fun Night, October 16, 6-7:30pm (for children in kindergarten through 2nd grade)

3:4-5 Fun Night, October 23, 6-8pm (for children in 3rd through 5th grade)

Pre-K Fun Night has already happened. Watch for it again in a few months!

Every couple of months Newberg Friends Church offers evenings full of pizza, games, laughter, stories, learning, and love for children ranging in age from 3 years to 5th grade. Each event has a biblical theme, time for group discussion, and play. 3:4-5 Fun Night includes a missions element. Invite your friends and neighbors. Fun Nights are only \$2 per child with a \$4 family max, and first-time visitors are free. Volunteers and RSVPs are helpful for programming purposes. Please let **Michelle Akins** know how you and/or your child plan to participate. Our goal at every Fun Night is to enjoy one another and learn more about following God.