

The Lowedown

A monthly newsletter from the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe

January 2009

Explosion in the Middle East!

Once again, the Middle East is in the news. Rockets are being launched and bombs are **exploding**, killing innocent people and making the possibility of any real and lasting peace seem more and more remote. In the midst of all the bombings and bad news that we are getting, I thought you might be encouraged to know how God is working in the lives of students in the Middle East to make Himself known among the nations.

Sam Li is a former UC Davis student who spent last year on our first team in Desert Rivers. While she was there, she became friends with a girl named Anna.

It turns out, God had been preparing Anna's heart for years to hear the message of Christianity. For example, a few years ago, Anna had a boyfriend who was a believer in Jesus. Anna's boyfriend gave her a Bible and she began to read it.

Sam recently sent us an e-mail to update us on Anna. She writes:

"To catch you up, in case you've forgotten, Anna is an archaeology major at one of the universities where my STINT team worked last year. She is also a professional, competitive ballroom dancer who travels all around Europe learning and competing. She and I became good friends last year, and we got together in her limited spare time

to read/discuss the Bible, have sleepovers, attend our church, and just hang out and have fun. (She took me salsa dancing one time—she is something to watch!)

*Earlier this year, she took the plunge and decided to commit her life to Christ. This came after years of searching, reading, questioning, and praying. Deciding to follow Jesus in Middle Eastern culture is no small decision! Believers in Desert Rivers can and do face persecution/excommunication from their families, friends, and communities! But "**Anna has gone Jesus-mental**," in the words of my former British teammates.*

*Recently, I chatted online with my good friend Cindy [also a UCD alum], who is continuing to minister to college students in Desert Rivers this year. She gave me an update on Anna, who has been growing (no—**EXPLODING**) in her faith since spring. She's been reading the Bible, meeting regularly to discuss things with our pastor, and sharing her faith on campus.*

Anna reminds me of Paul in Galatians 1.16, when he states that the reason God saved him was to preach the Gospel. Anna has received the gospel, and she's been treating it like a relay baton—sprinting to pass it on, even though she just recently received it



Anna with Cindy, our former student who is in the Middle East.

Praise and Prayer Requests

- Praise God—we have found a church in our community that we think will be a great place for our family to connect and minister.
- Pray—for us to get connected relationally to others at church and in our community.
- Pray—for our kids. We signed them up for Little League but the league seems much more competitive than Davis. Pray our kids would have fun and learn a lot.
- Pray for us as we lead—there is so much to do and the resources are so limited. Pray for us to have wisdom and for God to show us creative solutions to the problems we're faced with.

herself!"

Anna is even considering her future plans. Now, Grad school doesn't seem to have the same allure that it once did. Instead, Anna is considering the possibility of ministry as a vocation.

Praise God for what He's doing in the life of Anna and other students in the Desert Rivers region. Please continue to pray for Anna and her walk with God—that she would continue to grow in her faith and pursue Jesus.

Thank you for your partnership, which has allowed us to reach out to students like Sam and Cindy who in turn have helped to reach students like Anna to Christ.