

9th August 2010

Dear Friends

Fast moving scene here! Let me give you a quick update one week on.

Firstly let me say how good is God's timing in that Victor Jack who chairs our trustees is here; it's great to have his calm reassurance, but also great for you all that you can be sure that I'm not being maverick!

Last week we had the continuation of building the wall, despite the injunction. It is now ready to pour concrete.

Cat and mouse as we also had armed Israeli police and soldiers regularly in the garden which made the workers stop and run.

A representative of the Waqf twice came to call to complain about the police and told me they did not know of the injunction...."so why do your men stop working and run every time they come?" was answered by 'oh, they are not insured to work'. 'We do not come under Israeli authority – we take orders from Jordan'.

I have asked to meet the top of the Waqf to negotiate a satisfactory compromise, but like so many things out here unless someone gets 100% his own way.....

Today Victor and I go to the Mayor's office for a high level meeting with the top staff of the Municipality.

And Ramadam starts on Wednesday, when Islamic fervour reaches its annual peak.

Other than the ant's trail of armed police some days in the garden, we are very peaceful here and do not feel any strain...thank you for under-girding us so wonderfully. We are of course 'bit players' as our wall issue is really the consequence of the greater Islam:Israel stand off.

Our own David arrived yesterday to work her and starts guiding this morning. I may also take him to the Mayor's office to write notes for me.

Thank you so much for your care and concern. Psalm 27 came to mind last week when I led staff Devotions.

Onwards and Upwards

Richard Meryon