

Hope for the Nations

Mobilizing Multiplying Movements in Missions
The Ministry of Barbara Yandell

Barbara in Arabia!

This fall Barbara explored opportunities for workers in the Arabian Peninsula



My lifelong wanderlust for Arabia began with a Bing Crosby LP vinyl record narrating *Ali Babba and the Forty Thieves*. I wore it out. This fall, my yearning began to be fulfilled by spending two weeks in the Arabian Gulf. The occasion was a gathering of “workers” in the region, who came together to discuss trends, partnerships and networks. We shared insights, prayed, and encouraged collaboration in the Gulf.

In preparation for “Barbara’s Hajj,” friends outfitted me with a brand new, hip and groovy, iPhone 4G, ready for action. But three hours before departing for the Arabian Peninsula I dropped said hip and groovy iPhone in the toilet “after the fact.” Subsequent to this dunking two flights were delayed, rerouting me all over Europe in hopes of making the meeting in time. Lost luggage meant the same underwear for three days, with new sandals rubbing bloody blisters on my feet. God properly seasoned my adventure with humility.

So it is fitting to write year-end praises, prayers, cares, and needs from a place of weakness. Let it be said that God has blessed my labors in: teaching countless *Perspectives* and *Engaging Islam* seminars, participation in conferences, the best ever *Legacy Muslim Missions* conference in Dearborn, fruitful training and mobilizing of new Interserve workers going long-term into Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, and training pastors in Cuba in Muslim evangelism to reach the Pakistani medical students there in Jaguey Grande. You have faithfully supported me in all of this. Thank you!

The labors ahead are daunting: expanding leadership in the Student Volunteer Movement, teaching internationally as well as nationally, sending more workers to the hardest places (where martyrdom may occur), and writing my book. Dear friend, I humbly ask for your partnership—all the more as we see The Day approaching!

Arabia's Historical Christian Roots

Christianity has deep roots in the Arabia. Arabian bishops ministered 200-400 AD. A Bahraini Church official was at the council of Nicaea. Soon thereafter a 1,200 year darkness settled in as Islam wielded the sword and galvanized Arabia's fierce pride. But in the 1800's, Scotsman Ian Keith Falconer and Bishop French Valpry gave a preview of the waves of Christ's workers that were to reclaim this kingdom of Saud for the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the late 1800's, Samuel Zwemer—a young man from Hope College in Holland, Michigan—formed the Arabian Mission with two other seminary students and their Hebrew professor. This fiery band inaugurated an apostolic movement among Islamic nations.

Despite their faithful, lifelong work, only small numbers of Muslims came to faith. Their task was to plow, plant, and prepare the way for a future, great ingathering of Islamic peoples to the kingdom of our Christ.

In 1990, the Gulf War caused the world to wake up and pray for the Arabian Peninsula. The workers I visited this fall in the Arabian Peninsula believe that prayer is the cause of the current awakening to Christ. It was no surprise that the movie *The Passion of the Christ* has been the most viewed movie in recent history among Muslims.

In Bahrain, the site of Zwemer's work for the Arabian Mission included a Bible depot, hospital, school, chapel and mission house. My pilgrimage goal was to visit these, gaining interviews with the present day staff, photographing, praying and writing.

Colleague Adam Simnowitz has compiled a CD with all Arabian Mission field reports, as well as the multitudinous books and articles written by "The Apostle to Islam". I brought the field reports with me to read on site where they were lived out and written. This has been a sweet time in the Lord.



"Abusa'a, Father of the Clock" is a title given to Sam Zwemer by Bahrainis. When he built the American Mission Hospital, he included a clock tower which became a well-known point of navigation for travelers in the Gulf. Later, a cross was added in honor of Abusa'a.

Trends, Challenges and Opportunities in the Arabian Peninsula (excerpts from a report delivered by a worker in the AP)

Trends

- 50% of the Arab population is under 18. This has created a new youth culture, straining the educational system and a society with insufficient jobs for graduates.
- Will the oil and gas run out, as it is in the UAE?
- Water is a huge issue. As a result, the Arabian Peninsula has the world's largest numbers of desalination plants.
- Solar energy is potentially a huge source of development.

Challenges

The very modern Arabian Peninsula is polarized, with extremes of fundamentalism, tensions between urban and rural, young and old. Modernization must balance economic development, and placate the conservative majority while avoiding empowering the extremists. Tricky, huh?

Opportunities (Short or Long Term)

- Business visas are plentiful and salaries are very generous.
- Education, especially higher education. Many positions are paid.
- Sports and sports related business.
- Engineers, geologists, administrators and IT managers.
- Medical professions.

Let's talk if the Lord is stirring you to live out your faith in this marvelous area.

Bhutan?

Yes there are other unreached peoples in the world besides Muslims.

In a recent meeting with the folks at Interserve, I became aware of the first opening in Bhutan in modern times. Here's the scoop about this most extreme Buddhist nation.

According to a recent Wall Street Journal article, Bhutan—who had no television until the late 1990's—is now open for business and seeking investors. Because of its extremely rugged and isolated geography, Bhutan resisted modernity unlike its neighbors China and India. They measure progress not with GNP, but through GNH, or "Gross National Happiness." Businessmen spend a great part of each day competing in archery tournaments, wielding swords, and sporting multi-colored robes as business attire.

The government's plan for an "education city" creates openings for Christian workers. They have invested over \$1 billion to attract major universities from India and the United States. All this will necessitate an overhaul in the infrastructure and the redevelopment of a formerly agricultural economy to create jobs.

Want to set up a satellite campus in Bhutan? Talk about tenure! What about taking your sabbatical as a university professor in Bhutan?

STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT 2

One of the movements that emerged from the revival of Christian college campuses in 1996, of which Hope College was one of the founding entities, is "Student Volunteer Movement 2." The goal, like that of the SVM of 1886-WW2, is to facilitate 100,000 students going among the least-reached peoples of the world for two or more years. Hope for the Nations has been a leading principal. This summer, Ryan Shaw, director of SVM2 International, asked me to assume leadership of SVM2 in America. This involves networking, resourcing, and envisioning in four areas to shepherd and encourage a grass roots student missions movement in America among:

- Denominational mission leaders
- Campus ministry leaders
- Mission sending organizations
- Christian colleges and Bible training Institutes

Barbara Needs Wheels...

While she's in West Michigan in February and March, Barbara needs use of a car to get to her speaking engagements outside of Holland. If you can help, email her.

Barbara Tracker 2011

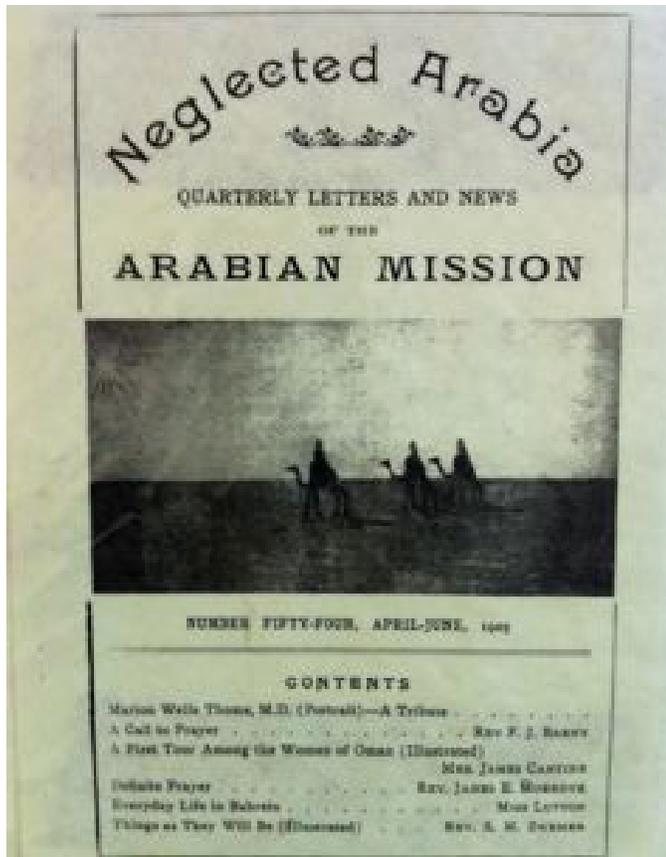
Where the Spirit is carrying me the next few months:

- Jan 8-11...Michigan
- Springlake Wesleyan Sunday Jan. 9
- Holland *Perspectives'* Kickoff Jan10
- *Hope for the Nations* Jan.11
- Jan 23-24....New Braunfels, TX *Perspectives*
- Jan 29...Texas Dayspring Church
- Jan 30-Feb. 2...New Hampshire and Rhode Island *Perspectives*
- Feb. 6-8...Zanesville and London, Ohio *Perspectives*
- Feb. 10-13 ...Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Feb. 21...Holland, MI *Perspectives*
- Feb 22 ...Kalamazoo MI *Perspectives*
- March 1...Grand Rapids *Perspectives*
- March 2-4...Detroit area *Perspectives*
- March 6-10...Wisconsin *Perspectives*
- March 13-16 ...Cleveland, OH-area *Perspectives*
- March 17... St. Joseph, MI *Perspectives*
- Late May-early June *Engaging Islam* training in Dearborn, MI...Legacy Conference will be in 2012



The Samuel Zwemer Memorial Golf Outing?

Every year in Bahrain, the royal family hosts a golf outing, dedicated to Samuel Zwemer, to benefit the American Hospital he founded there. Barbara challenges her supporters who golf to start a similar outing in West Michigan (Clearbrook?) where all the players wear robes and headdresses!



Zwemer's 1905 Support Request

This 1905 April-June Arabian Mission field report cover strikes a prophetic note. He said that the priority and necessity of the Church's calling to reach Muslim peoples with the Gospel was being neglected because of politics, political correctness, and wars. Notice the succinct manner in which Zwemer made the ministry and its financial needs known:

"As God is able to make all grace abound, and also the grace of liberality, we have no doubt that soon the entire sum will be forthcoming. And we earnestly hope and pray that none of these special gifts will in any way decrease or delay the usual offerings for the regular work of our mission and that of other fields. It should on the contrary, only stir up the spirit of benevolence for the cause, even as it will surely stir up the spirits of your missionaries to more earnest effort and faithful toil in the evangelization of Arabia."

Financial Needs

May the Lord stir up our spirits this season of savoring our Savior. Special financial needs of Hope for the Nations are:

- \$5,000 for *My Sword to My Successor* (working title of my book). I need your help to produce and publish this book telling the story of Muslims, missions, Samuel Zwemer, and the Hope College revival of 1996 that was part of igniting another Student Volunteer movement. With your support I can finish it by mid-summer.
- \$3,000 for additional travel expenses.
- I have been asked to return to the Arab Gulf to teach. Additionally, my new leadership responsibilities as national director of Student Volunteer Movement 2 will necessitate more travel.
- Your giving to the Lord through Hope for the Nations and up me has stirred up in me a spirit of faithful resolve and earnest effort for the completion of the task of the evangelization of peoples from every tribe and tongue and nation.

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thess. 1:11-12)

Yes, I do need your financial gifts and annual pledges! You can also donate online through www.thehopeforthenations.org.

Set up a recurring monthly donation through your debit card using PayPal on the website. Please join Barbara's "318 Global Mission Force" (learn more on the website).

