



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

PG. 2

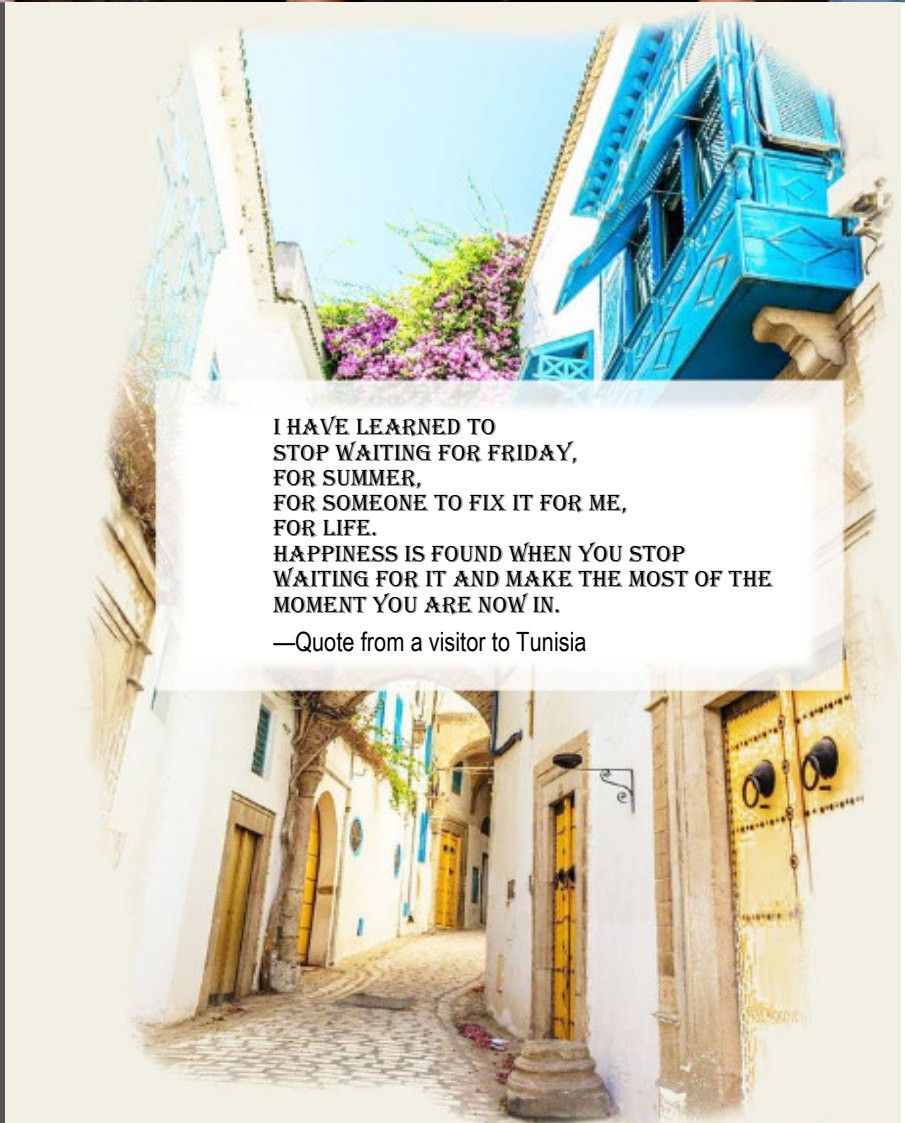
Opening a new ministry center and community project in Tunisia, and Creative Hands expands outward in Greece.

PG. 3

The Chicago O’Hare gang: Gail Stathis and one crazy journey for ministry in the USA.

PG. 4

Come along on a “Vacation with a Purpose” in Tunisia, Morocco or Egypt.



I HAVE LEARNED TO STOP WAITING FOR FRIDAY, FOR SUMMER, FOR SOMEONE TO FIX IT FOR ME, FOR LIFE. HAPPINESS IS FOUND WHEN YOU STOP WAITING FOR IT AND MAKE THE MOST OF THE MOMENT YOU ARE NOW IN.

—Quote from a visitor to Tunisia



Making the Invisible Visible:

Jesus said, “if you have seen me, you have seen the Father”. Our mission is to reveal Jesus incarnationally and in word and lifestyle.

We are striving toward that goal in Tunisia by opening a new ministry training center in the capital, and a new creative coffee and artists center in another city. The training center will be utilized for church (the house church that was planted here some years ago has outgrown the ability to stay in homes!), as well as a variety of training programs including trauma healing, women-at-risk programs and job/skill development opportunities for the growing congregations. The schedule is already full, and the center is well in use, even as we put the finishing touches on equipping and resourcing everything needed for the charity.

We are exceedingly anticipating the launch of the Project CReA Coffee and Cultural center. Project CReA Nabeul-Tunisia is a joint venture of YAH Foundation Tunisia, IPHC WMM and EME Ministries. This project uses cultural activities and events as a platform to connect and engage the church with unbelievers. Often, and especially in sensitive areas, believers are afraid or reluctant to share their faith or invite unbelievers to church. Likewise, few non-Christians are interested in going to church. So we seek to occupy the space between the church and the unchurched and offer activities such as art exhibits/classes, music, language classes, etc., in a cozy and inviting atmosphere.. This approach is incarnational, relational, culturally relevant and very effective. The Coffee and Culture Center will become a hub for art, music, sharing life and the freedom that comes through faith in Jesus Christ, there in Nabeul. (Nabeul is a major artistic center in Tunisia.)

The goal for both of these new initiatives is to become centers of hope and restoration for people, places of healing through art, life training and faithfulness in ministry. The community that we will build will really transform the cities and share the Ultimate Reason of our hope.

Society and family exclusion are not uncommon when people become believers in this region. How should we approach and help this reality? Do you, or do you know of others, with the ability to help invest in, coach or support those who need to find a new way forward in life with jobs and skills? Ask us about our Business As Mission and Business For Mission Opportunities

One such opportunity is to invest in one of these areas of partnership with our EME partner, Cecilia Sakatira, in her new adventure in business. As the founder of the Creative Hands social enterprise, which teaches refugee and other women in need to weave on the loom — an ancient and dying art — Cecilia has been able to touch the lives not only of those she trains, but the people in the community around her that have learned of and come to embrace her activities.

Cecilia will now be launching a retail shop in the heart of her city, Lavrio, to expand the ability of the project to give meaningful sustenance to those at work, and to connect more fully with this developing city and its people. (info@ememin.org)



There's a plan. In life, it is assumed that a plan needs to be in place to get things done. So, we make plans. Winter had set in and on my calendar was a plan for me to speak in Pennsylvania at a Conference. I was anticipating meeting new people; in a place I had not been before and sharing what was in my heart. But travel plans started to unravel from the very beginning of the journey from Athens, Greece. And, if this wasn't troubling enough, on a prior trip the travel plan had also disintegrated, causing me to spend 2 nights in hotels as planes took off but had to return to their departure points.

Again. It was happening. After several delays I finally arrived at Chicago, Illinois. I could make connection to my destination. But the plane didn't go, and then didn't go; it just did not depart. Word came after several hours that due to weather the flight was cancelled for the day. Suddenly, God reminded me of His presence in me and that others needed to know that presence. The smile grew on my face as simply I began to encourage everyone openly. God was taking care of us. Perhaps we were avoiding something very serious. It seemed to lighten the mood in the waiting area and each one to my surprise began to share that with one another. As we left for hotels or to find seats for sleeping in the waiting area for the night, a general sense of peace surrounded this little group in Chicago airport Terminal 2. It was working out for the best. There was not immediate understanding that this was the Lord's timetable; just thoughts of another trip with delays.

I held onto plans for departure the next day, notifying my waiting ministry hosts I would be arriving the next day. And the morning couldn't come too soon as the hotel I was sent to was in a dodgy area. Rest eluded me as people passed the door to my room, often scraping on it, breathing outside of it and just standing there. The morning time to return to the airport did not seem to come soon enough.

Certainly, the plane would take off and I would reach the destination planned on my calendar this time. While waiting at the departure gate all seemed to be fine. We boarded and the plane took off. Just a few minutes later we circled back and landed. Skies were too foggy. Back in the waiting area we were told departure would be as soon as the skies were clearer.

The passengers were interacting with one another. It was our second day together and hope was in the air. And up into the air we finally went. But, as we neared what we thought to be our destination it was announced we were not at our destination, but rather landing at Dulles airport as the weather was still too bad to land where we were going. On the ground the general discussion became about how to get to where we were all headed while the gate attendants and pilot assured us that we would depart sometime that day. And after several hours we were back in the air again, but our ultimate destination was again denied, and Chicago O'Hare Terminal 2 once again was our landing site. No one became angry, but there was much on-going discussion of how to get to where we all wanted to go. And, I kept hearing in my spirit to smile and encourage. The gate staff told us there was a mechanical problem and when fixed we would depart.

Actually, this statement made the way for the hotel rooms to once again be provided, as it made the delay not attributable to weather. Heading to my hotel I was ready for a good nights sleep as my hosts assured me to press on to attend the conference. They believed God wanted me there. Lying down for some rest, suddenly I felt something crawl under the covers. Throwing them back, I found a roach crawling on me, and he had company. Needless to say, that night as there was not another room available, so I slept sitting upright in a leather chair with my coat as my cover.

The next morning at the airport, I continued to receive thoughts from our father to be very encouraging. The ground staff had no idea when we would depart but assured us the flight would take off. It became comical to everyone even amidst discussions of how to get to our destination. Take off. We did, but once again, it was announced we would land at Dulles. But, the delay was not too long and back in the air we went to Chicago. And the voice in my heart continued. Just be friendly. Be encouraging. Let them know that I am with you. Share the knowledge that "I have it all in my care." So many stories. Be attentive to His voice.

Chicago. How long we would be there again was not known. I had been given food vouchers, too many for just me, so I offered to share. Walking with a few fellow passengers to get something to drink, I could sense some discouragement. Passing a cleaning lady I greeted her with a "Merry Christmas". The lady replied back the same. Then she said it was the merriest of her life, and as we stood there she began to share. It was apparent my fellow companions wanted her to be quiet. They wanted to get something to eat. She suddenly began to talk about how the doctor told her she had breast cancer, and it was the kind that relatives have. The doctor told her that both breasts would have to be removed and her daughters needed to get there as soon as possible to be tested for the same cancer. The story continued. The cleaner talked of how she prayed. The tests were performed. No cancer was found in her, nor her daughters. It was the merriest Christmas because, she said, "God showed up." In Chicago O'Hare Terminal 2, God was praised.

We hugged her and I shared the praises of God as we moved toward some cheese sticks. Sitting down to order, my attention was drawn to a young couple. I just said hello and again "Merry Christmas." They replied that they did not celebrate those things. "We grew up in church but it was so boring, with rules and regulations." God opened another door to speak of his goodness. Sitting there, I told them I am a Christian and I don't have those rules. I know the Big Guy, and He is my friend. We hang out all the time. They asked if I really believed it. And all of a sudden their story of life in church blurted out. As we talked they spoke of wanting to know Him personally. Then suddenly apologized for living together. In Chicago O'Hare Airport, Terminal 2, they apologized for living together and prayed to really know Him.

Our frame of reference is from an earthly point of view. We live here, and too often forget we are on assignment. The assignment to tell of eternity with God. I was so humbled on this trip. He allowed me to share Him. It began with a simple word in my heart just to be me.

Back together, I told everyone - we are not going up in the air to die. Everyone started laughing. Yeah, a better point of view. Think about how God is taking care. This was the first mention of God in that group. Jumpy in my spirit, I felt that He wanted a lot of mention of His name in the Chicago airport and Dulles. So many stories. Be attentive to His voice.

I just happened to be in Chicago O'Hare Airport Terminal 2? No, He wanted me there and I would be at this conference at the right moment. He had it. Waiting to board once again, I started walking around and praying in the waiting area. Others started asking me to pray for them. People were praying all around. The waiting area was saturated with prayer. One woman was speaking with her priest on the phone. He could hear me praying and he told the woman who had called him for encouragement to listen, that the prayer was the truth.

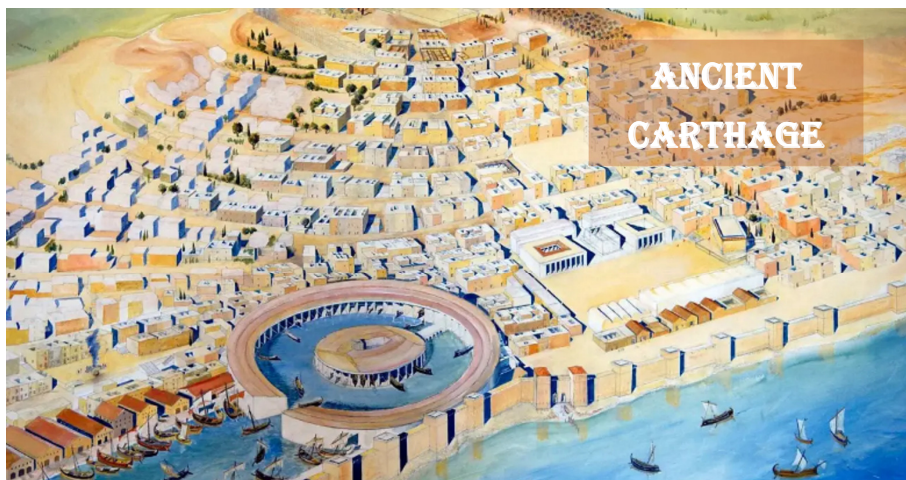
Boarding again after Get on the plane after several times that day, I said to the Lord, "Please God I need now to get there." Looking out the window we could see our destination right below us. Then it disappeared as fog covered the ground. Up in the air, the pilot said, "well folks, it's foggy and I don't think we will be able to land." From my seat I start telling God, I have told all these people about you and you need to protect your reputation. I was being straightforward with God. For several days now I had been telling my fellow passengers God was taking care of us, but now I told God we needed him to show up. As I prayed loud enough for all to here, suddenly, clouds opened up, we could see the destination. And then the pilot pulled back up. He announced once again He didn't think we would be able to land. Pray I did. And loudly. God you have this. I was sure God was going to make a way for us to land. The clouds moved just enough to see the airport, enough for the plane to land.

Hugging, smiles and thanksgiving was all over the arrival area. The ground staff stood back and watched us. Some asked if we could have a Chicago O'Hare Terminal 2 airport reunion. We must quit forgetting the goodness of God, rather share it everywhere. In every situation. God has it all in control even when it doesn't seem so.

We must quit forgetting the goodness of God, rather share it everywhere. In every situation. In the end, God has it all in control even when it doesn't seem so.

“Vacations with a Purpose”. EME is focused on taking teams of worship-oriented and prayer-oriented people into the incredibly historical, culturally-rich, and most interesting places of the region; joining the touristic aspects of the trip to opportunities with the Church in the region, including meeting the “living stones” of these nations while surveying the ancient stones of history and the beautiful destinations of modern tourism. Join us!

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GOING PLACES WITH EME

If you are reading this newsletter it is because you are 1) interested in the writers and directors of EME, 2) you want to know more about the areas this ministry serves, or 3) you like to read generally; and perhaps another would be 4) you want to GO DEEPER. Your soul longs to expand in knowledge of spiritual truths.

May we share some thoughts to help you GO DEEPER:

The resource in your soul of having walked among the ancient roots of our faith. One of those amazing spots is to be found in Carthage, in modern day Tunisia. Come join us on a Vacation with a Purpose as we travel the country, visit incredible sights, worship together and pray with the “living stones” of the land,

Join the stories of famous Christian figures including Perpetua, Felicitas, and their Companions (martyred c. 203), and early Church fathers such as Tertullian (c. 155–240), Cyprian (c. 200–258). Visit where the 5th Century Council of Carthage canonized the books of our Bible.

What better ways to spiritually build ourselves up together in Christ and in Fellowship than to journey these historical paths and enjoy the history of our faith, even as we bring the Word and Worship of the Lord into the land.

We are also currently planning such “Vacations with a Purpose” to **Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt in 2025**. Would you, your church, organization or ministry be interested in going along? Or, let us help design a trip with you for your own group! We are looking to impact these nations with people who love God, love to travel, love the Mission, and look forward to the adventure.

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