

No more Refuge

I have now officially finished my time with Refuge. The training we ran in the beginning of the month went really well. The health workers seemed to understand everything really well, and got lots of practice using the new education tools we developed (see the picture below).



The training was also a great time of team bonding, which was exciting to observe. We are having a farewell party tomorrow. This will be a nice chance to say a big thank you and goodbye to everyone.

Starting out my new job with ROCK is going well. I am still settling in to my new role and new routine, but I am excited about the work that I will be doing.

ROCK has recently moved into a new office. Its about a 10 minute taxi ride away, however I am also trying to brave the microbus! A microbus is a minibus that drives along a set route. It's only 75 piastas (less than 20cents!) to use. I will hopefully be able to walk there when I eventually learn my way around this new area!

I am going back to Arabic school next week. I am starting private Arabic lessons, as my old class times don't fit with my new work hours. I am also starting English teaching again next week. I am looking forward to meeting my new class, and getting to know them.



Hanging in H.

In last month's newsletter I talked about going to a local church in H. Since then I've been able to spend a lot more time with a group of people from this church, and am really enjoying getting to know them.

I went on a felucca (a sailboat) with them a few weeks ago. It was LOTS of fun! I also went to one of the girls house for 'lunch', which was a 7 hour affair! My housemate and I then had some people over to our house for lunch, where they bravely tried our "foreigner food" (we made them eat Vegemite!).

All in all, I have had lots of opportunities to spend time with these new friends this month.



Bible study

About a month ago the girls in the ROCK team started a weekly bible study, There are 4 of us in total (although we have 2 more girls joining our team later this month).

We are working through a study on the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob). We have individual studies to complete during the week, then we come together to discuss our thoughts, and to listen to a sermon on that weeks topic.

I had been struggling a bit with the lack of solid bible teaching at church, so its been great to be able to get stuck into God's word, and have good thought-provoking discussions about it.

Last week we looked at the line of Ishmael, and the connection that has with Islam. This was particularly interesting, looking at the roots that Islam has with the Old Testament. We were also able to compare the God of Islam to the God of the bible, and saw that our Yahweh is a relational God, a God who initiates and pursues relationships with us!



Trip to Europe

Three things:

- 1) I had a 2 week break between jobs
 - 2) August is the hottest month of the year
 - 3) Ramadan (more on this next month) started on the 21st.
- ... so we decided to escape to Europe!

Germany: We flew to Berlin with one of our German friends, then took a train to Munich to meet some other friends from here. Germany felt like the opposite of here—green, organised and clean!

Switzerland: We went hiking in a glacier, walked across a wobbly bridge over a canyon, and took a 12 minute train ride up 400m into the mountains!

France: We went to Paris to explore the sites; Eiffel tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, Arc de Triomphe etc. It was a crazy 3 days!!



Italy: Milan, Florence, Siena, Rome.

I had a fantastic time, and am now feeling re-energized to face coming back!



Meet E.

E. is one of the girls from H. I originally met her at the orphanage that we visit once a week, as she was also there visiting.

E. is really involved in her church, where she helps run the children and youth programs there. She is very passionate about her work with these kids, and gives her all to it.

E. is the reason I have started going along to the Church in H. She is so friendly, welcoming and hospitable.

I don't know her very well yet, but I am learning lots from her, and enjoying getting to know her.