

## Oct 2009

# Visitors



The major event of this month was a visit from my 3 good friends; Allison, Jess and Ori.

It has been so good to see them and have a proper non-skype catch up!

We spent the first few days exploring the capital: tourist sites, the bizarre, a few feluccas (sailboats) etc. Then I stayed in the capital and my crazy friends took the overnight train to another city which is over 700km away, just for a day! The morning they got back we went on a trip to a small town on the Red Sea region. This was a great time of relaxing and just hanging out.

Allison had to go home a few days later, but the other 2 stayed for another week. We did everyday kind of things, like visit the orphanage, visit the local church I go to, meet my English students, see my old work (Refuge), picnic in the capital's one and only park, hang out with my friends etc.

It's been really great being able to share my life here with some good friends from back home.

## English teaching update

I've just finished up teaching another English course, and yet again I had a fantastic bunch of students! This group also want to start meeting up every week or fortnight to practice their English, which I think is a fantastic idea! This will be a good opportunity for getting to know them better outside of class times.

I'm starting with a new group of students tonight. It's the last term I'll be able to teach for, before my time here is up, so fingers crossed it's a nice group of people!



## The month of birthdays!

Here a birthday celebration often means taking a felucca (sailboat). This month I've been on 4 feluccas! One of my friends, Esther had so many people on her birthday felucca that they had to tie two together! In Arabic we say "kool senna wa inta tayyib" instead of Happy Birthday. It literally means "may every year for you be good".

For my birthday I had a felucca and invited the boys from the orphanage and my English students. It was great to spend time with these friends outside of our usual contexts. My Aussie friends spoiled me by bringing thousands of presents from people back home, so a BIG thank you to everyone who sent me things :)

It was also Ori's birthday while we were away. We spent the day relaxing by the Red Sea, then went out to dinner at a restaurant on the water. ALL the waiters sung him Happy Birthday, in English and Arabic!

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## ROCK Update

Here's the story so far... ROCK Med (which I am under) partnered with a local NGO for our main clinic project. The idea was to coordinate with them, but eventually hand the project over to them. Unfortunately this organisation has broken the contract a few times and have proven untrustworthy. As a result the project is now on shaky ground. We are still waiting on a few things to be decided, and the final verdict. It has been a pretty discouraging experience for the whole ROCK Med team, as we have all put a lot of work into developing training modules and curriculum writing.



If the project does fall through chances are I may not have any work to do with ROCK. I will keep you updated on what happens, though several alternatives for filling my time have already presented themselves.

Although things haven't gone to plan I have still learnt a lot from this experience. Please pray for the team as decisions are made.

## Meet B.



B. is the son of one of the supervisors at the orphanage. He is 3 years old, and incredibly cute! One of our local friends is teaching him English, so every week when's its time for us to leave the orphanage he says to us "see you later alligator". Even though he's only 3 he is also amazing at the local drum.

B's father is an amazing person, and has such a good influence on all the boys. He has played a crucial role in a lot of the boys becoming Christians. He and his family live at the orphanage. They are living off very little money, and have just had their second child. B's parents are looking for financial support for B, as they rely on support to stay volunteering at the orphanage. If you think you could help, or would like more information, just let me know.