



GLOBAL MISSION

Frontline

STORIES AND NEWS FROM OUR TENTMAKERS | VOLUME 21 • NUMBER 3

Reaching
Hearts in the
Middle East
and North
Africa

The following stories were written by tentmakers working in the Middle East and North Africa region. We've withheld their identities to protect their ministries.



Come, Walk With Me

Working as a nurse is my joy! Come, walk with me along the corridors of my hospital into the rooms of my patients. Everywhere are windows of opportunities I want to show you.

We're standing at the door of the Cardiac Thoracic Telemetry Unit, where patients from one month old to 90 years young come. They might be here for one day or five. They might be poor, rich, educated, or illiterate. Most are

anxious and scared. Some are thankful. Some are rude. Each one is an opportunity from God.

I pray always to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that my care for each person is genuine. I've learned that anything I do and say is meaningful only if it's done within a safe relationship. I want them to know they can trust me, that I want the best for them. I may see them for only a few hours, maybe a few days. But in that short time, I pray for God to show me how to build that trust. When He has helped me do that, He can do even more:

- ▶ A battered wife confides in me. I listen and understand. When her loved one dies, she calls me. I share a song of hope by an Adventist singing group. I pray she will listen to it over and over! God knows she will need hope in the future.
- ▶ The baby is fussy, restless. I show Mom where she can find “Jesus Loves Me” on her phone. The baby quiets and falls asleep. I know of other little ones whose moms play “Jesus Loves Me” months after their stay in the hospital.
- ▶ A patient is anxious about surgery. He doesn’t speak English well. I find Luke 8 from my English-Arabic Bible and copy and send the Arabic verses to his phone. He likes the story of Jesus healing the woman who’d been bleeding for 12

years. He tells his friends that I am praying for him. He keeps in touch. He just sent me pictures of his young family.

- ▶ A mother is weeping as her baby is taken into surgery. I flip through my photos and show her a painting of Jesus in surgery with the doctors. She dries her tears. When she hears the baby’s surgery was successful, she exclaims, “Jesus was in there with them!”

I am willing to be used by the Lord, and He does it! He is the One who prepares the hearts. It’s amazing to see how open people are for whatever I have to share with them! I’m reminded over and over again that these are people just like me. They have needs just like I do. How I long for them to meet Jesus!

Better Doctors?

Nobody likes to be a patient in the hospital. But I believe that’s exactly where God wanted me, even while waiting to be discharged.

As I sat in my room, anxious to leave, I got a routine visit by a patient relations officer of the hospital. She had a long list of questions about how I felt the hospital staff dealt with their patients. After gathering my information, she asked what I thought could be improved.

I realized it was a great open-ended question and possibly an opportunity for me to share something for God.

I suggested it might help if they could introduce their patients to the eight best doc-

tors available. I couldn’t believe I was being so bold. With big eyes, she asked me who these eight doctors were.

With a smile, I told her about Dr. Nutrition, Dr. Exercise, Dr. Water, and so on until I’d covered all eight of the health principles! Finally, I introduced myself as a Seventh-day Adventist with a faith that held some beliefs in common with hers. I mentioned we don’t eat pork, drink alcohol, or gamble. And that we are waiting for the second coming of Jesus.

We talked for an hour about many things—her time in the United States, her graduate work in education, and the situation in her country. I asked whether I could pray with her, and she agreed.

That was the first prayer I had ever had with someone of her faith. I felt the Spirit working as I prayed, and when I was done,

she was so happy and thankful. I believe God put me there at that time so that I could meet her.

That was a year ago. Last month I had to be admitted to the hospital again! I prayed that God would send somebody I could share His Word with, but even after two days, no opportunity came. I felt sad.

I was waiting to be discharged when I heard a knock on the door. The same patient relations officer stood in the doorway! She exclaimed, "I've met you before!"

I knew God had answered my prayer. He had brought her back to me! Again we talked about many things, and once again, God opened doors for me to share with her.

I explained that only through Jesus Christ can we be saved—a gift He gives us, accepted through our trust in Him. Before she left, she asked me to pray for her. She was hoping to find an apartment close to the hospital. I prayed for that need and also that God would reveal Himself to her and her family.

That's a prayer that I know He is answering. I would love to be part of what He's doing in her life right now, but it's OK if my part is simply to pray for her. Please join me in praying for her and the millions of other people in this region who haven't had an opportunity to experience Jesus.

These stories, adapted with permission, are from the MENA Total Employment Tentmaking website.





GLOBAL MISSION

MENA Total Employment Tentmaking—Committed to Cross-Cultural Witness in the Workplace

Our church faces tremendous challenges in sharing Jesus in closed countries, countries that have shut their borders to organized churches and traditional missionaries. But a tentmaker can bypass these barriers! Total Employment is the Global Mission tentmaker program.

A tentmaker is an Adventist professional who chooses to follow the example of the apostle Paul. Paul supported his ministry with his tentmaking trade, and as he talked with his customers, he looked for opportunities to lend a listening ear, meet a need, and share the good news of the gospel.

Like Paul, tentmakers mingle with people in the secular workplace while engaging in intentional, personal outreach. They form long-lasting relationships that enable them to touch hearts for Christ in ways they never could if they were official church workers.

Your donations to Global Mission help encourage and equip tentmakers by providing them with much-needed coaching, training, and spiritual support.

Tentmakers are making a difference for Jesus, but they need your help. Please support their ministry with your prayers and donations.

Ways to Give

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Is God calling you to be a tentmaker?

Hundreds of Adventist professionals of all types are needed. To learn more, please visit TotalEmployment.org.

To see what's happening in mission in the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission, visit m360.tv/middleeast.



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