

A Teacher in the Arab world

Jeff, an alumni from the University of Maryland IVCF, first went to Kuwait as an educator tentmaker. In addition to conversing with local friends about Jesus Christ, he was able to help start a little Christian bookstore, in this country where not many books about the Lord could be carried in by individuals.

When the invasion of Kuwait forced his departure from that country, God provided him a new job in another country--Syria. So he supported himself with his teaching in the way that Paul had supported himself in the same city, by literally making and repairing animal skin tents! How exciting it must have been for Jeff to go into the old section of Damascus and walk on Straight Street, the very place where Paul walked and where he recovered his sight after his conversion.

Jeff wrote: "A Palestinian Muslim came to visit. We studied Luke 15 together and he seemed touched by the story of the Prodigal Son. . . Last week I read Isaiah 53 with a Syrian friend. He was bothered that the Bible had so many writers. He said the Koran 'came down directly from God through Mohammed.' I explained the inspiration of Scripture to him. He seemed impressed when I showed him how many Old Testament prophecies were later fulfilled. I am thankful for the precious times of Bible study with my Muslim friends."

In addition to witnessing to students and neighbors, Jeff helped start a Christian publishing venture.

He now serves Jesus Christ in a third country. Tentmakers can acquire too high a profile through their witness, and a change to another country--usually one with a similar culture and the same language-gives them a new start.

What happens to the seekers and new converts they have been working with? Other team members continue discipling them. This is one of several advantages of team ministry, whether your team is formed before you leave your home country, or whether you join a team already serving in your target country.