

Hello, St. Luke's Friends!

We are Elmarie and Scott Parker, and we are Presbyterian "Mission Co-Workers" (we share the love of Jesus by going to different parts of the world to help people in need, and we work as partners with the churches that are doing ministry here).

We live in the Middle East and we work in the countries of Lebanon, Iraq and Syria (Go get a map and see how fast you can find them!). Our apartment is in the city of Beirut and we have lived there for seven years with our two cats, Kazi and Ringa.

We love living in the Middle East, because lots of things are different and lots of things are the same. Most people speak Arabic, but many also speak French and English. Everybody loves ice cream, but the ice cream here is called "Booza" and is really sticky and has flavors like Mango and Pistachio. People here love French fries and even put them in their hamburgers and sandwiches.


Families are really important in the Middle East, just like they are where you live. In Lebanon, we know a lot of families who are refugees from Iraq and Syria. Being a "refugee" is when the country you live in is not very safe or easy to get food, so the family will leave to find a country where they might have a better future. Life can be difficult for refugee families. It takes time to feel at home in a new country, and you still miss the place you used to live.

To help these families, we started a program called "Strong Kids / Strong Emotions." We use "play" (puppets, arts & crafts, music, stories) to help refugee kids feel safe enough to talk about their feelings. Being honest, even about hard things, helps their hearts to heal.

We hope to visit St. Luke's someday and meet all of you in person. Until then, we are excited about getting to know you through letters and maybe even some other cool ways to communicate. We are very glad for your prayers and we will pray for all of you as well. It is great to be partners in Christ's work together.

In Christ's Joy,

Scott and Elmarie Parker



Please pray for...

Associates for Ecumenical Partnerships
Rev. Elmarie Parker and Rev. Scott Parker
and the people of Iraq, Syria and Lebanon

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