



# Daoud Kuttab Christmas Family Letter 2019



*But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the City of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.”*

Woo another year and lots of happy stories.



This year began with the birth of our fourth grandchild Karam, son of Tania and Samuel Dalou. Baby Karam joins his brother Saleem in Ramallah/Kufr Aqab to be a major attraction for us to visit and see them. Tania and Samuel purchased a nice apartment in Kufr Aqab and we joined them in buying a small studio apartment in the same building. This helps all of us

have a legal presence in Jerusalem to support our residency.

Samuel remains in the family business, working tirelessly, while Tania had some work-related changes this past year, and the opportunity to visit the Philippines in November, to train 14 females on data collection and M&E in Iligan City, South of the Philippines.

On the topic of residency, we lost the case to stay in our rented house in Amman and moved temporarily with Im Suheil (Salam's mother). We hope that our dream home in Deir Ghbar which has been rented will be available for us as of next April to move into.



Tamara and Alaa have also had a busy year. We visited them in Chicago twice in 2019. Salam stayed longer during the first visit. Dalia is growing and her condition has stabilized somewhat. Alaa finalized his Master's degree in Biblical Archeology at Wheaton College and Tamara continues as Assistant Director of the KinderCare nursery. She has recently been accepted for an online Masters in counseling at Liberty

University. Alaa's search for employment appears to have landed him some good prospects, he is expecting to hear good job news in the new year possibly in California. At least the weather will be warmer there for Dalia who is getting stronger despite the regular IVIG hospital sessions to deal with immunity weakness which she takes every three weeks.



Bishara's work in Bishos Restaurant has improved. The restaurant is doing better which means that Bishara might be able to visit Palestine and Jordan sometime in the Spring of 2020. He seems set on looking for love and to find a partner. Perhaps this will be his year.

Salam has been busy this year with her voluntary work with senior citizens. In September the senior citizens' Club began a weekly event on the third floor of the Amman Baptist Church. Salam's role as director has meant she has been extremely busy setting up a proper structure and preparing healthy food, interesting programs and the annual Christmas event which was attended this year by around 100 people.

Daoud's work has also been fruitful. He has continued travel and was recently elected as deputy chair of the International Press Institute. He was also elected to the Jordan Evangelical Council where he is helping Jordanian and Palestinian evangelicals gain

recognition. Combining the press and evangelical work didn't bode well when Daoud tried to attend a workshop in Egypt about transparency in Evangelical churches. He was detained at the Cairo airport and forced to return to Amman after being held for about ten hours.

Daoud, Salam and Dina spent a week in the fall on the east coast visiting Daoud's mother Frosina Kuttab. Daoud had a talk in DC. Dina was interviewing for a summer



internship in DC at the same time, and we were thrilled when she not only got the internship but was told by the interviewer that she "blew them away". Dina is now a Junior at Princeton and has been taking on responsibility as the head of the Honor Committee and as a Resident Advisor for freshmen in the dorms. She has really enjoyed those activities, and is looking forward to continuing to explore her varied academic interests and career options next year.

Dina is spending Christmas in Amman, as is Tania and family.

We look forward to 2020 with anticipation to whatever the Lord has in plan for us.

## **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all**

Daoud, Salam, Tamara, Alaa, Bishara, Tania, Samuel, Dina, and young Yasmeen, Saleem, Dalia & Karam together repeat the words of the angels:

*"Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth peace and good will to men".*