

Dear Friend,

Just a few days before the massive unrest began in Egypt, Rich walked down the streets of Cairo with our dear friend Luther, the National Director of our Egyptian ministry. They witnessed the first protesters and talked about what might be happening. Luther told Rich, “Nothing will ever change here. These people will soon go away.” But within a few days of Rich’s return to the US, everything in Egypt had changed. There were protestors everywhere, and there was a communication blackout. We couldn’t reach Luther by email or phone. Our hearts were aching. Were our friends okay?



Egyptian flag



Rich with Luther Awad, National Director of Egypt, and two staff women on his recent trip to Egypt.

The first weekend was an emotional one for us. As we began processing what was happening, we initially felt shock. The dates of Rich’s trip had changed, but he was supposed to be there at that time. We had a helpful conversation about what we would have done if he had been there, and we were unable to communicate. It was a good reality check. We are missionaries specializing in a region that is often unpredictable.

The next emotion was grief. Of all the incredible countries that Rich has ministered in, Egypt is truly his second home. He lived there for a year in his early twenties and has ministered there on more trips than we can count. He loves the people. He loves the culture. He loves the language. He loves their openness to the Gospel. The realization that things could change so quickly was sobering. Rich said things like, “What if things change so drastically that I am never able to go back again? What more could I have done to help them? Did we do enough? What can we do right now?”

Relief came within a few days. We received word via email that our staff were all safe. Everyone was lying low, and the office had not been looted. Rich wept when he heard Luther’s voice for the first time.

The stories that have surfaced are moving. People from all socio-economic and religious groups are engaging in a shared vision. They are serving each other in ways that were not normal before this. Rich heard from Luther that their



family took some of their own furniture to a police station that was burned during the riots. They helped get the station back together and gave the officers copies of the Jesus Film. This is no small gesture as Luther is frequently called into the police to be questioned about his ministry activities in a country that does not allow Christians to share their faith.

Rich left February 4th for Turkey. He is spending the week working with the leadership team from Iraq that he's been coaching this year. He is delighted to be serving our North African and Middle Eastern staff this week, but there is a noticeable vacancy at the table where the Egyptians usually sit.

Many of you have asked what our perspective is. We really don't have any sense as to what is going to happen, but we are so hopeful about what God is doing during this time. Campus Crusade set up a website to keep us connected with our Egyptian ministry. Please visit www.ccci.org if you are interested in reading updates.

Most of all, please pray for Luther and Jula as they lead our Egyptian staff through this turbulent time. They are not much older than we are and have two fine sons. What a responsibility they have! This is a precious season of openness right now, and there are unprecedented opportunities to have spiritual conversations and serve in tangible ways. You can follow Luther on Twitter at [lutherinegypt](https://twitter.com/lutherinegypt)

Thank you for standing with them and with us in prayer. We cherish them. We cherish you.

With Gratitude from Your Missionaries,

Kourtney and Rich



Rich and Luther serving together in Korea



Rich and Luther leading a meeting together via Skype

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