

As we wind down our life here, time presses. It seems one can be nostalgic for a thing even as you're in the middle of it. Last Friday's worship service saw 18 of us singing praises to God in our living room. If you are new to Friday being the day this happens, the weekend in the Middle East is Friday/Saturday with the Muslim holy day being Friday. So we also use Friday for this and set it aside to honor the Lord. We had visitors from Abu Dhabi staying with us, some of whom used to join us for worship there. The children's Bible study is winding down and we'll be finishing the New Testament. We were privileged to have 12 older children at the last one.

We are wanting to get to a few more of the neighbors yet, as well as a few of our "places" to say goodbye as it is unlikely we'll ever be back. Some of the places include – the beach, the college campuses (mainly the chickens and library) and the Dubai Mall with its amazing aquarium. We have a surprise (to the children) visit to the current tallest building in the world in a few days. I certainly never thought we'd be going but since it has worked out I am delighted with the prospect of taking pictures of the tall uniquely shaped skyscrapers of Dubai – from above them. I hope also to have a good view of the Palm Island. I'm secretly hoping the elevators work well both ways.

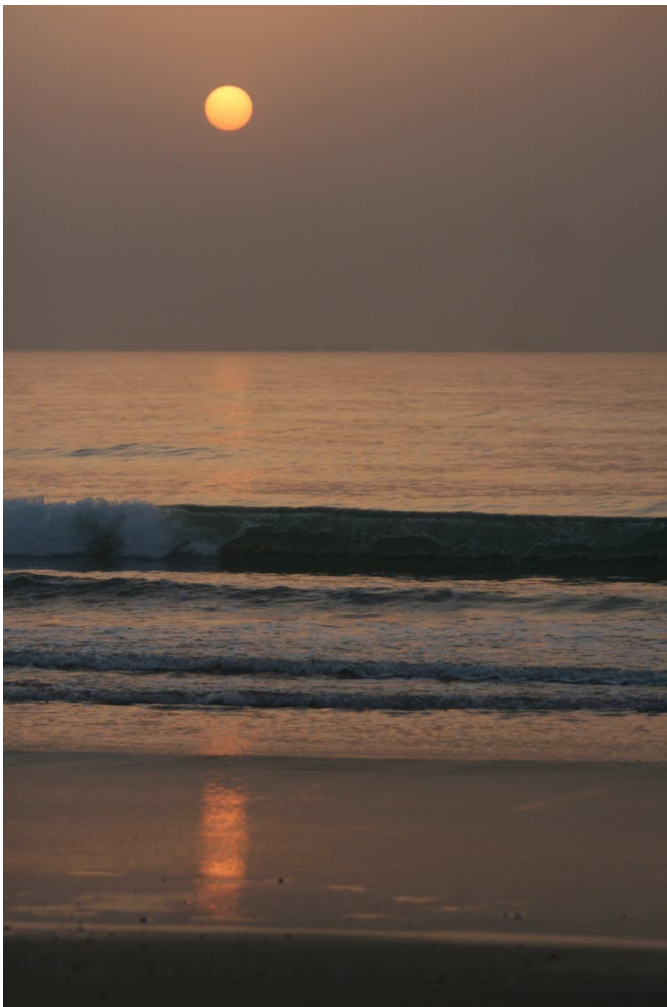
I guess I am writing this to unload my own thoughts as well as to share them with any who happen upon here. I didn't send it out to my list because....I said I was done :-D . Can't stay in your face the rest of your life. I look at things and realize I'll very soon not see them daily. I've been bringing a flower inside from the Magnolia Tree each evening just to enjoy its scent, its feel, and the way the creamy white of the petals just smooth into a bit of lemony yellow in the center. By morning it is wilted. All things on his earth are temporary, including our lives. This is God's mercy, once sin came into the world. But it is very easy to see how beautiful things still are after all these thousands of years since creation, and one can sit and imagine how much more it once was, and will be again. And then the incredible heat index makes me go into the kitchen where the temperature is tolerable ☺

Stay tuned, I may be back. My psyche requires it of me.

One of my favorite things (the gecko. Not my hand)



"From the rising of the sun to its setting, The name of the Lord is to be praised." Psalm 113:3



saying goodbye

