GLOBAL TALK

Issue 33 Volume 3 October 20, 2006

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Topic of this month: Talking about family

Family Reunion

Cross word puzzle

<u>a お薦めHP</u>

Serving James English School and our clients since 2005

Family Tree ~家族を表す言葉~

ジェイムズ講師のZiadの家族は父親の故郷シリアでFamily Reunionを開く ことになりました。会ったことのない親戚に会える喜びを胸にシリアへと向か いますが...

n America, there is a tradition called the "Family Reunion." In this tradition, the family throws a party and invites all of their relatives. This can be a very large party. Sometimes, a family reunion might have over a hundred people.

My father is an Arab. He comes from a country called Syria. Family Reunions aren't really practiced in the Arab world, but my father has always been interested in American traditions. My siblings (1 brother and 1 sister) and I have lived in America all of our lives, so we never knew very much about Syria, and we had never met many of our relatives. So, in the summer of 2000 my father decided to have an Arab family reunion. He called all of our relatives and told them that we were having a party in Hafar (our family's village.) They agreed to come.

It is very difficult to travel to Syria from the United States. Many airlines that travel between America and Europe will not go to Syria. So we had to fly to Lebanon and drive into Syria. Beirut is a sort of scary place. There was a war there for many years, and the country was never fully rebuilt. In some areas of the city, buildings have been completely destroyed by gunfire. Crossing over into Syria was also difficult. The border patrol



didn't believe that my mother was married to my father, but one of the guards was from a village next to Hafar, so he convinced the others that we were safe. It took a couple of hours to get through the border.

- cont. on the right

-- cont. from the left

Hafar is a small Christian village in between two mountain ranges. The area surrounding it is mostly desert, but there is a reservoir there, and there are many plants and trees that grow inside the village.

Half the people living in the village were family members, so we were welcomed warmly when we arrived. It was surprising how friendly everyone was. We met many relatives that we had never seen before, and every person we met came up to us and kissed us on both cheeks.

For the reunion, we planned several activities. There were several weddings that were planned to coincide with the reunion. There was a talent show, where my cousin (who is a professional violinist) played for us, and several other people danced. There was an art show, presented by another cousin who is a professional painter. There was a church service lead by another cousin who is the secretary general for the Middle East Council of Churches. And there was a big dance where we listened to Arabic music and we all danced together. But, mostly we just sat under the fig trees and talked to our cousins about what everyone was doing with their lives.

While we were in Syria, we visited many places. And we met many people. And we decided that every 5 years, we would return to Syria for another family reunion.

み	解き	 ヒン		

reunion	再会、再結合
relative	身内、親戚
sibling	きょうだい
rebuilt	~ を建替えた

range 山脈、山並み reservoir 貯水場、ため池 coincide 同時に起こる fig イチジク

Family Reunion

Ziad Jarjur / James English School



