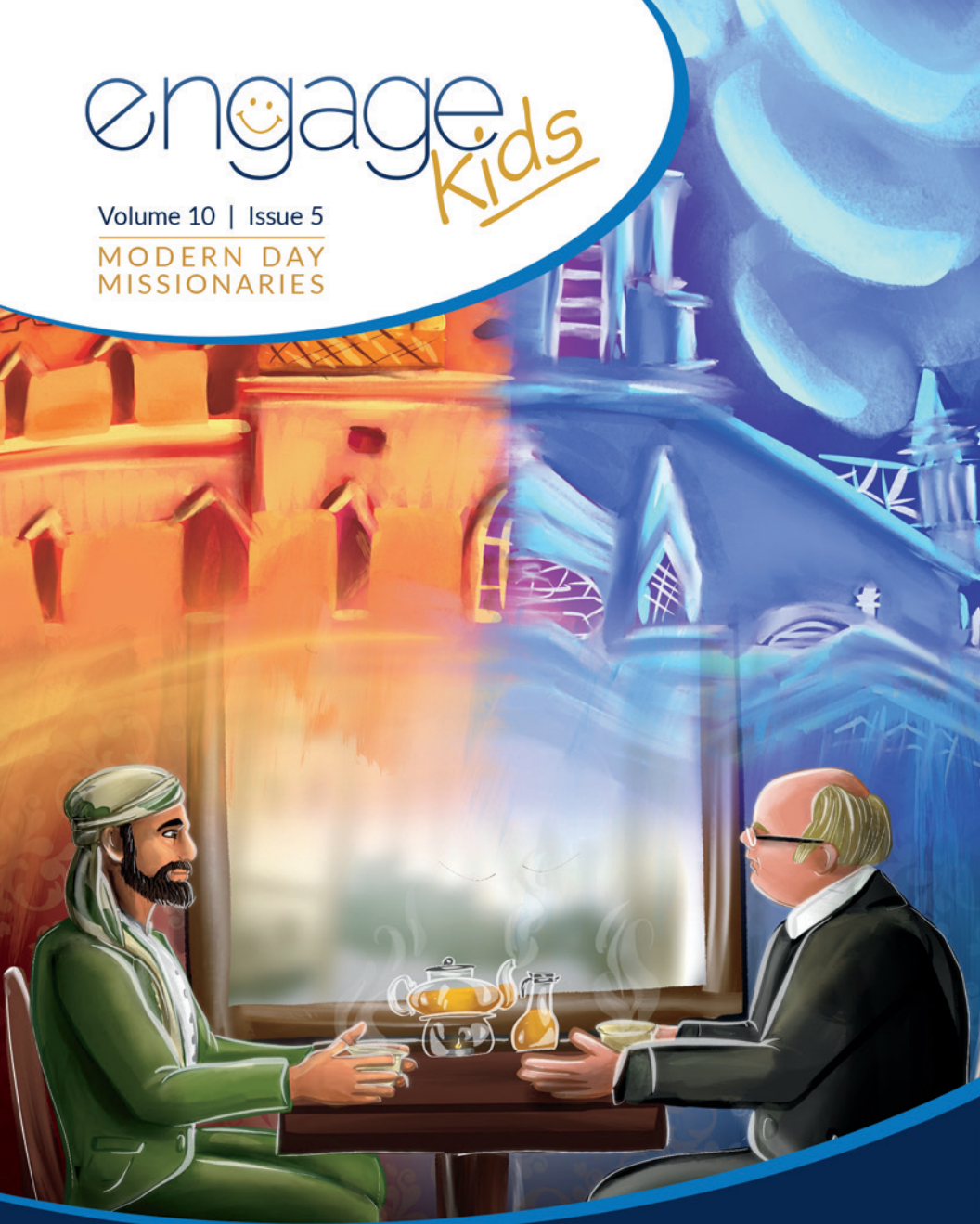


engage Kids

Volume 10 | Issue 5

MODERN DAY
MISSIONARIES



SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

The happy chatter of children playing ball in the street caused Jonathan Gray to look up from his Bible. He smiled, then checked his watch. *Perfect*, he thought. *I have just enough time!*

“Victoria? I’m heading out. I’d like to take some water out to the kids. Do we have any bottles on hand?”

His wife checked the refrigerator. “Yes, we do. I’ll take them! I see some kids out there whom I know.” She came into the living room carrying several bottles of water. “Oh, hey... don’t lose track of time. English classes don’t start for another couple of hours, but we don’t want to be late. We are the teachers, after all,” she said with a smile.

As he headed out the door, Jonathan saw his neighbor and stopped to ask if the man’s wife was feeling better. He greeted the kids in the street, informing them Victoria was on her way with water. They cheered and thanked him as he drove away. Next Jonathan spent an hour visiting with a friend at a nearby *bayt alqahwa* (bāte al-ka-ha-wha—coffee house). Before he left, he grabbed an extra cup of Arabic coffee with cardamom (a spice) to take to the auto shop. At the shop Jonathan spied his friend, a mechanic, rising from his prayer rug in the back room. Jonathan handed his friend the coffee and cheerfully asked about his day.

Is this not just a typical day in America? In a way, it is.

Jonathan and Victoria Gray are building relationships with Arab Muslims right here in the US. But in many ways they feel worlds away from home. Their city is approximately 42 percent Arabic and filled with the friendliest, kindest, most hospitable, and most religious people you could ever meet—but they serve the Islamic god Allah instead of the true Jehovah God. As the Grays teach English and work to learn Arabic, they are letting Jesus shine through them into the spiritual darkness of the Muslim world.



CAN YOU WRITE IN ARABIC?

Practice writing these words in Arabic.

ENGLISH

ARABIC

Water

ماء

Child

لطف

Coffee

قهوة

Name

اسم

Smile

ابتسامة





MEMORY VERSE

I am the Lord, that is My name;
I will not give My glory to another,
Nor My praise to idols.
Isaiah 42:8 (NASB)

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

“Mama?” Elijah Gray popped around the corner to where his mother was preparing dinner. “What were you saying about me earlier?”

Victoria turned on a burner on the stove. “Was I talking about you? Oh, wait! I did mention your name, didn’t I? Well, the ladies who came over for a visit this morning asked me why your dad and I named you Elijah.”

“Did they ask about the other kids’ names, too?”

“Yes, they did! And do you know what? It was a perfect way to start talking to them about the Bible.”

Elijah’s brothers Isaiah and Ezekiel crowded in to hear the story. They were curious, too. “What did they say? Did they listen?”

“Yes, they did!” Victoria smiled. She loved the boys and her daughter Andrea so much. They were such a vital part of the family’s ministry to the Muslim people of their city. Taking the children to the park was how she met several Muslim ladies. Some wore a head covering, and others wore the full Muslim burqa (a long, loose garment covering the whole body from head to feet). Victoria enjoyed visiting with these special ladies, though her heart broke for them. They worked

hard to follow the rules of their religion. But Victoria knew they had discovered that giving to the poor, praying to Allah, and fasting regularly were not enough to bring true peace. Victoria knew they needed to accept Jesus as the Son of God who died for their sins.

As Victoria returned to her dinner preparations, she talked to God about their new friends. She prayed God would help her and the children find more ways to show them Jesus and His love.





Louie's treehouse Lair



ABC's of Salvation

If we want to go to heaven, we must accept Jesus as Savior. If a friend asked you how to be saved, would you know what to tell him? If you are not sure what to say, memorize this simple method—the ABCs of Salvation—and practice it with a parent or Sunday school teacher.

- A – **Admit** you have sinned.
- B – **Believe** Jesus died for your sins.
- C – **Confess** your sins and accept Jesus as Savior.

Do you have a prayer list of people whom you know need Jesus? If not, start one today!



ENGAGE KIDS is a ministry of
Hope International Missions
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