



One of our mission partners serving in North Africa shares how mixed feelings and doubts led to teaching English and opened the way for sharing the gospel amongst unreached people.

AN UNEXPECTED PATH

I never intended to be a teacher (it was in fact the only career I officially ruled out during sixth form careers advice!), and yet here I am in North Africa, teaching English with AIM since 2018. So, what went wrong?!

WALKING THROUGH UNCERTAINTY

I've forever been an extravert and was longing to work with young men from unreached people groups. So, when doors opened to serve as an English teacher, I had mixed feelings. The promise of constant interaction with students was exciting, even if I was totally unsure of my abilities as a teacher. But God quickly grew me in confidence, helping me to see how the skills and character he gave me could be so useful in that context – not just in relational evangelism, but even in teaching, where I had just assumed I'd fail.

SEEING THE OPEN DOORS

I'm quite overwhelmed as I think back now to all the young men I've connected with

over the last 8 years. Being in the classroom together has always led so naturally into fun friendships and non-stop opportunities to share truth.

A recent highlight was a 9-week class on 'Ethics'. Unable to speak openly about the gospel, I was able to challenge them on an objective definition of 'right/wrong' and push them on what they'd be willing to sacrifice for the good of others. It prompted dozens of deeper discussions with students at my home in the evenings and reminded me once again of the privilege it is to so quickly enter into these guys' lives, hopefully rocking their misplaced foundations a little.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

So do please lift my colleagues and me up as we work to design classes and curricula that are accessible and fun, but that will prompt questions, provoke deeper thought, and open doors to share the most incredible news with our students.

How a last-minute invitation to a prison ministry opened doors for our mission partner to use their gifts as an arborist, so that they can take the light of Christ into dark places.

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

On my first vision trip, I was still exploring my calling. I had been interested in multiple projects but without a deep connection to any of them or a sense of God's calling. And so came the very last day of my trip. In the last hours of my stay, I met another worker who invited me to join a ministry working with prisoners. He took some time to share the story behind what they do and told me about another project in the pipeline. This one included planting trees in the prison grounds. The plan is to prevent desertification and for the prisoners to help in the process. With my background as an arborist, this was a match literally made in heaven. I'm currently preparing for work in prison ministry. Although working in prisons is new to me, the type of ministry is not.

HOPE IN DARK PLACES

The idea is that, by planting trees, the prisoners are not only given an opportunity to work but are contributing

to the wider society. By serving alongside one another, we are able to build meaningful relationships. These can open doors for us to show something of God's light in the darkest places. The hope and goal is that the prisoners will want to know more about his light and love, and that as we build relationships with them, they will come to want a relationship with Christ for themselves.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- My preparation for this new ministry; that I would be equipped not only practically, but spiritually.
- Opportunities to share the gospel with the prisoners
- Deepening trust and endurance as we build relationships.