

## MIDNIGHT AT THE OASIS, SEND YOUR WORRIES TO BED...

*Once upon a time...* we had the pleasure and challenge of serving on the Cook Team for Cursillo 96 which took place at Camp Noel Porter, Lake Tahoe.

The Saturday night dinner theme was "Midnight at the Oasis," which included the main dish of Lamb. Since no one had any good lamb recipes, we were off to the Web. But our Heavenly Father had a much more spiritual adventure in store for us.

My next door neighbor, Ibrahim, is from Afghanistan and owns a restaurant and is a practicing Muslim. So, I asked him if he had any great recipes that he would share with us for our spiritual journey at Cursillo 96. His eyes lit up and said that he would teach me how to make lamb stew...the Afghany way. I instantly took him up on his offer. His wife then said that the stew wouldn't be right without the special rice dish that goes with it. How could I say no after all the Holy Spirit was already smothering this dinner?

So, Wednesday night before Cursillo, Ibrahim came to my house and began showing me how to make this dish. It was instantly apparent that I was the sous chef and Chef Ibrahim was going to cook it right so that it was perfect for Saturday night. Suddenly, in the middle of the first batch, he said that he had to go home to pray and break his fast at sunset as he was celebrating Ramadan. Forty-five minutes later, he returned (to my relief) to insure that all was well in the kitchen. We finished up batch two and off to the refrigerator to let the flavors meld.

Next step...how to make the special rice. His wife Hassina had already stepped in on this and told Ibrahim, "If they can get it to Lake Tahoe on Saturday afternoon, I'll cook the rice on Saturday morning." The Agape Team agreed to pick up the rice on the way out of town. Wow! How did this all come together? It's a rhetorical question...we all know how. Needless to say, the dinner was fantastic. In fact, rumor has it that it was the "best" Saturday night dinner ever!

Entertainment that night was also special, as the team prepared to pretend to belly dance for the candidates. There was much preparation, but the surprises weren't over. After dinner the music began and the team started their performance. They

were immediately stopped, as among the Cursillistas was a "World Renowned" Belly Dancer. This quiet and shy candidate jumped up and proceeded to give belly dancing lessons to anyone that would try.

It was the perfect ending to a perfect meal. A Muslim family prepares a meal for 60 Christians at their retreat, ending in the candidates providing the entertainment for the cook team. This could not have been planned by man alone.

Yours In Christ,

*Micky and Debby Gross*

***At every Cursillo weekend there is a moment when something, unexpected and wonderful happens. If you have a short story about one of those God moments please send to the Rainbow Reflections editor for consideration in a future Rainbow Reflections: [fiddlefish@volcano.net](mailto:fiddlefish@volcano.net) or J Fisher, P.O. Box 10 Fiddletown, CA 95629***

The governing body of Cursillo is the Secretariat, which meets every month on the third Monday at Faith Episcopal, Cameron Park at 7:00 p.m.

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