

Essential Oils

Then & Now Newsletter

- By Joanna Barrett, RN, CNHP



April 2010

THE FRANKINCENSE TRAIL

We went out essentially to be a part of a 90 camel caravan documentary. Our guides were great in explaining the beliefs and lives of the Kings and Queens and Pharaohs, and the reverence anciently for the Nile, the Sun and the Zodiac. We visited the West Bank and East Bank temples in the area of Luxor, the former capital of Egypt. We also visited the temple Dendara, King Tut's mummified remains, and the Karnack temple. The sculptures and carved drawings were beautiful and very detailed in telling the lives and beliefs of the people then. When we flew back to Cairo the modern capital we were saddened to see the pre-reverenced Nile trashed and polluted.

We trekked the Sahara. There were tire tracks there that would defeat the authenticity of a documentary. So despite the fact the desert gets rain only twice a year, Gary Young and others prayed to the Father in Jesus' name for rain to help wash out the offending tracks. The next day we woke up to a gentle rain. While it rained we donned our costumes and applied make up to color our skin darker. By then the rain had stopped and there were no tire tracks. Hiking back to the film shooting spot where the camels were was much easier in the dampened sand and the people at the back of the camel convoy were spared the sand dust that would cover them. There was a sword fighting scene where robbers on horses tried to steal the riches of oils, spices and silks. The camels had to circle like the wagon trains out west when attacked by Indians. After winning the battle, lightning began to flash and it was pretty seeing the Caravan camels silhouetted on the top of a hill at twilight. By the end of the shoot the wind picked up and we were hit with a sand storm and the high winds and rain about broke down the huge tent we used for our supper meal. Mer and I and some others battled to hold the tent posts up while others outside tried to strengthen the ties. We ended up leaving supper to head for the busses. The evening scene at the camp and the tending of the "wounded" was scratched for the night. Cairo had large hail – almost unheard of.

The next day after costumes and make-up, was the village scene where the husbands, wives and children had their tearful goodbyes. The men would be gone for about 2 years to do this dangerous caravan venture. When it was almost dark the cameras filmed the tent camp scenes (all the tents had been flattened during the storm and had to be re-pitched). Groups of men were talking around the campfires and their bedding mats and the "wounded" were cared for.

The next scenes would be in Petra, Jordan – I will tell you about that and about the great pyramid next month.

Until then,

Joanna