



# The RADANK FAMILY

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Reaching Germans to reach Germany, Europe, and the world

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**Dear Praying Partners,**

It may sound cliché, but our trip to Jordan was life changing. We saw beautiful, historic places. We walked where our biblical forefathers walked. We stood in the very city where Jesus cast out the demons from the maniac of Gadara. We stood on a mountain overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Even though each of these experiences were amazing, they were not what made a lasting impact.

I believe it was our personal interaction with people that made our trip so life changing. To be honest, my impression (as is the impression of most Westerners) of Middle Eastern culture was of a harsh, uncivilized people. But I learned from spending time with them, that the majority of Middle Easterners are friendly and very hospitable. They love to talk and hear stories. It is part of their time honored tradition to enjoy the company of friends and strangers around a delicious meal...And they spare no expense when serving food to their guests! We entered their homes as strangers and left genuinely as part of their family.

But, unfortunately, we did see the darker side of humanity. We stood on a Jordanian hill at the Syrian border, overlooking the city where the war began. There we heard shelling in the distant Syrian city. We spent time with Syrian refugees who told us of the unspeakable atrocities they had experienced. We heard stories of those who faced the most tragic moments in their lives and escaped such cruelty. Despite their difficulties, they all spoke of hope in living a normal, peaceful life.

As we interacted with our new Syrian friends, we gained a better understanding of the situation that has flooded Germany. Given that we have come in contact with many Syrians here in Germany, a trip like this was beneficial. As many of you know, God allowed our path to cross with our Syrian friend, Samer, and his family. While in Jordan, we were able to meet his wife, children, and in-laws. During our visit, we not only brought much needed food and diapers, but we also shared God's love for them. This trip opened our eyes wider for those who are struggling here in Germany, and it



motivated us to do more for these precious people in the place where God has called us. I agree that the political situation is a mess, but let us not allow that to distract us! We must be vigilant to use this opportunity to help those see their need for a relationship with God!

This case must be repeated, because sometimes we forget this important fact: Throughout our trip, we met people for whom God loves. We did not meet villainous monsters, as portrayed in the news and social media. Even if we did meet such people, do they not deserve to know of God's love? What we did find were people longing for the truth. We sat with groups of men and women and shared with them the love of God. For about an hour, we stood with our friend, Stephen, who lives in Jordan, listening to him speak to the owner of a jewelry store concerning the great stories found in God's Word. Instead of kicking us out of his store, he listened intently and remarked that he wanted God to make his heart white! Unfortunately for him, he trusted only in his religion. At a quick pit stop for some coffee, Stephen shared his story with complete strangers about how God changed his life. One place after another we were given an audience to speak of God and His love. And this is in a land where such things are impossible!

We have convinced ourselves that certain areas of the world are inaccessible to the truth, but in reality, God's message of redemption has no boundaries!

We should be ashamed of ourselves to think such things! Where there is life, there is hope! All can find that hope through the way that God provides, regardless of the circumstances!



We are thankful for the dear friendship that we have with the Troell Family! Much thanks goes to Stephen for literally driving us all over Jordan! It was a great blessing spending time with them!



#### JORDANIAN CULTURAL TIDBITS:

Driving in Jordan is not orderly as it is in Germany. A two or three lane road would inevitably become five or six lanes! Traffic laws are not obeyed, much less even considered. Continuously honking the horn (a faux pa here in Germany) is a normal way of communicating with other drivers!

If your host/hostess really likes you, you might find more food on your plate than you originally started with. They arbitrarily give you more food. Or they may literally shove food into your mouth without you expecting it!

