



PROJECT | JORDAN

30-DAY PRAYER GUIDE

Thank you for joining us on this prayer journey through Jordan! It is our desire that the stats and stories presented on these pages will inspire you to pray God's prayers over this nation. This is an unprecedented time in the history of Jordan with thousands coming to Christ in the last few years alone.



DAY 1 / AMMAN IS A SEA OF FISH

"Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. - Luke 5:5-6

- Amman is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world.
- The city was originally built on seven hills, but it now spans over an area of nineteen hills.
- Amman is considered one of the most "westernized" and liberal cities in the Arab World.



Amman is the capital and largest city of Jordan. It has a population of 1,291,150 and is continuously growing. The Greater Amman population is nearly 3 million and is expected to jump to almost 6.5 million by 2025 due to constant and rapid immigration. The city streets are crammed with rows of tiny shops. With so many people and so many shops, it can be overwhelming and hard to know where to go and who to talk to about Christ. Here is a testimony that shows how God wants to lead us in finding the ones in this big city who are waiting to hear the good news:

"It is not easy to catch 'fish' here. I pray all the time that God will give me divine opportunities to win souls for Him. I was going to church one Sunday and suddenly before me, God highlighted a little shop to me. I'd walked by this shop everyday, and yet it was like I was really noticing it for the first time. I asked the Lord, 'Why is this store shouting loud to me today?' But I just walked past and went ahead to church.

The following morning, the Lord reminded me of this clothing store, so I went to the store. I looked around and almost without thinking, I asked the owner, 'Are you a believer?' He said he was Muslim but that he was a little confused about the lifestyle of people now. Then I asked, 'What do you think will happen with your soul when you die?' He was very unsure, so I explained to him salvation in Jesus. His eyes lit up, and he was so amazed! He said, 'This is the first time in my life I'm hearing the simple message that brings life!' He agreed to pray with me and receive Jesus. He was so happy and asked me for a Bible. Now he has his own Bible, and hopefully his family will also follow in his footsteps. All the glory to God!"

Pray for:

- Believers to be aware and to follow God's lead to the ones waiting to hear the Good News.
- The clothing shop owner and his family to share their new faith.
- Church planting movements to break out in Amman.

DAY 2 / PERSON OF PEACE

"I will bring thousands with me to the truth." - Rami

- Jesus said, "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house." - Luke 10:5-6
- Without a person of peace to open doors and gather others to hear the good news, a movement of believers will not happen.

Cab drivers in Jordan are often quite talkative, especially when it comes to religious matters. An Arabic-speaking American woman, Rachel, and her fiancé entered into one of these conversations with a cab driver, Rami, one evening in Amman. The deeper the conversation went, the clearer it became that this man could very well be a God-appointed "person of peace".

Rachel, sensing that Rami was searching for something spiritual, asked him, "Do you believe in God?" The correct answer for any Muslim, no matter what he believed, would be an emphatic "Of course!" Any other answer is terribly shameful. Somehow Rami had the rare courage to speak honestly. He tilted his head, furrowed his brow, and admitted slowly with a mixture of shame and hurt in his voice, "Sometimes yes. Sometimes no." Wanting to bring the conversation deeper, Rachel asked, "Do you ever feel imprisoned by your sins, Rami?" With shocking vulnerability yet again, he confessed, "Yes, yes, I do." Rachel honestly identified with this feeling, sharing about her past and how God and the holy books had shown her the way that He gave to free us from the power of our sins.

After Rachel shared the full message of the cross, Rami asked if she had a Bible for him to read. Kissing it three times to her forehead first to show respect, she handed him the small, green Arabic Bible she had in her purse. He grasped it in his hands, turned to her, and said, "I'm going to read this the whole way through and then I will call you." Then he said something remarkable: "If you convince me that this message you told me is true, I will bring thousands with me to the truth." He went on, "If I am convinced that this is the way, I will take it to my wife, to my whole family, to all my friends, and to everyone I know, and I will bring them all with me to the straight path."



Pray for:

- The Spirit of God to guide Rami to the truth, that he will be convinced of it, and that he will truly bring thousands more to the truth.
- A person of peace to be found in every city in Jordan.

DAY 3 / REVIVAL IN IRBID

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

- 1 John 3:1



IRBID IS:

- Jordan's second largest city by population, after the capital, Amman.
- A major ground transportation hub between Amman, Syria to the north and Mafraq to the east.
- Home to several colleges and universities.

Irbid, with a population of 300,000, is situated in northern Jordan, in a fertile plateau. Irbid today combines the bustle of a provincial Middle Eastern city and the youthful nightlife of a typical college town. Here is one foreigner's account of God's Father-heart for the young adults living and studying in Irbid:

"An evangelical church in Irbid was experiencing a 30-day revival, and people from all walks of life and religions were coming to the church. One night a lanky 18-year-old teenager, Ahmad, walked in to the church and stood at the back. He looked depressed and angry. Immediately the Lord gave me God-given insight for him. I walked up to him and introduced myself. He was quite anxious, asking a lot of questions: 'What do I do here? Where do I sit? I'm a Muslim, this is my first time in a church, am I allowed to be here?' I began to ask him if he knew basic truth

about who God is. 'God knows everything and sees everything, do you agree?' He agreed, giving the typical Islamic response, 'Yes, there is only one God, and He is the God of everything. He knows all and sees all...' I told him, 'God wants me to tell you that He sees that you need a father.' Immediately his eyes became big, and he frantically began to ask, 'How do you know me? How do you know my family? How do you know this information?' Even before I could say anything, he ran out of the church and slammed the door.

The next evening we were still seeing God move in the church. I opened my eyes from singing at the front and there was Ahmad, standing at the back of the room with his head down. In the middle of the worship song, I dropped the mic, jumped off the stage and ran to the back. Ahmad had tears in his eyes and said, 'All night I could not sleep. There was somebody in

my room, standing there. I could tell this was a man and I knew he was not a family member. He was so white and bright. He didn't say anything, but I felt like crying the whole night.' I said, 'Ahmad, who do you think that was?' He said, 'I don't know.' And I said, 'Maybe it was Jesus.' Then he began to cry. I shared the gospel and then I asked him, 'What do you think about Jesus seeing that you need a father?' And he said simply, 'believe.' We prayed and after he said, 'I don't know what I feel, but I feel clean and I feel like I am alive for the first time. I feel like my life is starting today. I feel new. I don't feel like the same Ahmad.' Then I told him with

tears in my eyes, 'That's what salvation is. It's not a prayer. It's not a change of identity from Muslim to Christian. It's coming alive and awake to who you really are. A son. A son who has a Father.' The sacrifice of Jesus made this possible.'



Pray for:

- Ahmad and the many other university students.
- Revival to continue to pouring through the city of Irbid.
- The sons and daughters of Irbid to know their Father.

DAY 4 / MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners - Isaiah 61:

Jordan is a destination for women and men from South and Southeast Asia for the purpose of forced labor. There have also been reports of women from Morocco and Tunisia being subjected to forced prostitution after arriving in Jordan to work in restaurants and night clubs. Women from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and the Philippines migrate willingly to work as domestic servants, but some are subjected to conditions of forced labor, including unlawful withholding of passports, restrictions on movement, withholding of wages, threats, and physical or sexual abuse.

Malaya's story:

Malaya left her three year old son in the Philippines with her family and boarded a plane to Jordan. She was about 23-years old at the time. She came to work as a live-in maid for a wealthy Jordanian family. Her initial contract was for two years, but she stayed with them for 13 years. In those 13 years, she had only two real days off. She was always with the family, following them wherever they went, and she never went back to the Philippines to see her son.

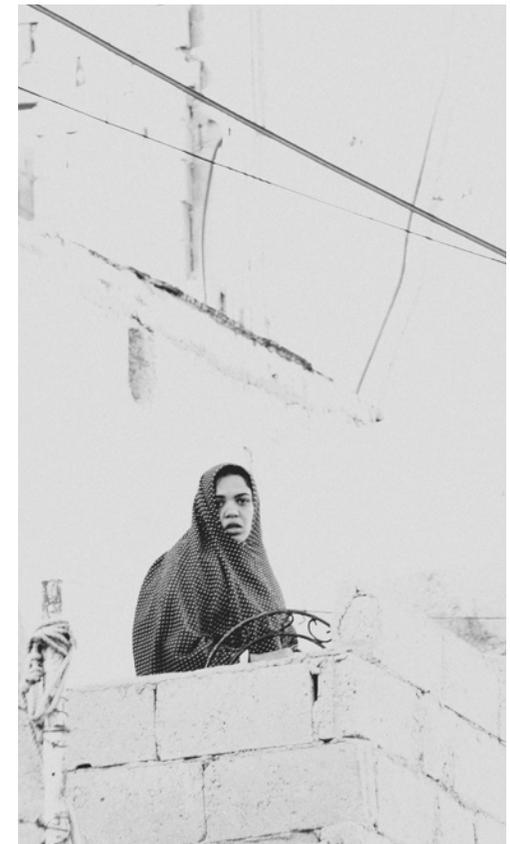
For several years, things were alright. Malaya had learned how to serve the family in a way that pleased them. She worked hard and was able to send some money home every month to support her son's studies. But life didn't remain this way.

The master of the house began violating Malaya while his wife was away, grabbing her and abusing her. She tried to talk to the wife about what was happening and said that she didn't want to work for them anymore. She asked them to give her her release papers and to let her work for someone else. But the family refused to let her go, saying they were the ones who paid for her to fly from the Philippines and that she belonged to them. They also kept her passport from her.

One day, when her boss was pressing her for unwanted physical attention, Malaya pushed him back. The old man fell and hurt his head. Malaya became really scared, so the first chance she had when she was out with the family, she ran away. But the family still had her passport.

Malaya had to endure two years of fear and helplessness before she finally received her passport and release papers and was sent back to the Philippines. Even being home has been difficult. She was admitted to the hospital because her health had deteriorated as a result of all the fear and overwork. Now Malaya faces the hardship of finding a new way to support her son.

- Slavery is being forced to work without pay under threat of violence, unable to walk away.
- There are between 10 and 30 million slaves in the world today.
- \$90 is the average cost of a human slave.



Pray for:

- Malaya and so many others who get trapped in forced labor.
- God to open our eyes to this enormous issue that is happening in Jordan and the surrounding countries.
- Justice to come.

DAY 5 / TAFILA: NEVER SEEN A NEW TESTAMENT

For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."
- Acts 13:47



Pray for:

- A growing, maturing, beautiful church to be birthed in Tafila.
- The handful of known believers in Tafila to witness breakthrough.
- The Lord to soften Tafila's Islamic pride for His name's sake.

Off the beaten track, Tafila is incredibly conservative and far from being a tourist destination. It has a small population of 23,512 and produces more imams, Islamic religious leaders, than any other city in Jordan. Tafila has always been closed to outsiders. Only Jordanian tribes live there, so there is really no influence of other cultures, just the Islamic tribal culture. Because of this, they take their religion very seriously.

One day on the streets in Tafila, an outsider stopped to talk to a few young guys. They were about 16 or 17 years old, sitting around, drinking coffee and chatting. As they were sitting there, the call to prayer rung out. None of the guys moved, but one of them leaned over and said, "I confess that there is no god but God, and Mohammed is the prophet of God." The foreigner turned to him and asked, "Is there any church here in Tafila?" The young Jordanian laughed at him, like of course there are no churches here. The foreigner pushed the issue and asked, "What would happen if someone came and built a church here?" The Jordanian said firmly, "You cannot come and build a church here. We will kill you if you tried." The foreigner pushed a little further and asked if they had ever read the Injeel, the New Testament. The group of guys laughed making a motion like, "What is that?" He explained, "It is the book of the Messiah, the book of Jesus." They all said, "No, no, no of course not! We are Muslims! We are Islam!" They went on to say, "We haven't even seen one. We've never seen an Injeel."



- Although Tafila is rich in history, it has one of the lowest numbers of tourists in Jordan.
- Tafila is well known for having green gardens which contain olive and fig trees and grape-vines.
- There are more than 360 natural springs in the Tafila area.

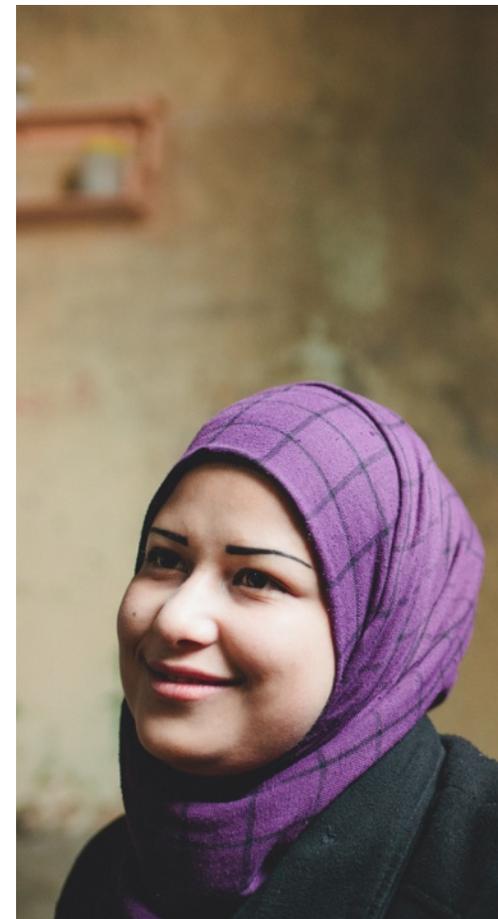
DAY 6 / SYRIAN REFUGEES: *LONGING FOR HOME*

- On the road to the capital city, Damascus, Paul had his first vision of Jesus.
- Damascus has been inhabited for over 4,000 years, making it the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world.
- Syria's population of roughly 26 million is 90% Muslim.

Tensions in Syria flared in March 2011, escalating into a civil war that still rages today. As the once peaceful Syria became more and more violent, the dam broke and as of August 2013, more than 560,000 Syrian refugees have flooded into Jordan, a large percentage of them going to Mafraq. The city is struggling to cope but continues to selflessly welcome her Syrian neighbors.

"We didn't think we were going to live. We just cried and ran", said 25 year-old Sewa, her deep purple veil complimenting her beautiful Syrian face so perfectly. It's been over one year since Sewa and her family left their home in Homs, escaping the army several times before crossing into Jordan. "The hardest part was living in fear," Sewa's uncle said, using "khawf fuze'e'a", a strong Arabic phrase that goes beyond fear. "I was scared even to go get bread."

The family of twelve all live in one room with only a few thin mattresses and a rusted heater that makes them wake up coughing in the night. Sewa, clearly tired of life being hard, said, "I just want to go back to Syria. There's nothing better than your own country." Yet, in the midst of reminiscing about the horrors of the past year and sitting in the uncomfortable difficulties of the present, life continues to force them to push on and look forward. The mother said solemnly, "The only joy that keeps us going is the possibility of going back home."



Pray for:

- God to calm the storm in Syria.
- Sewa and her family and the other refugees.
- Strength for Jordan as they help during this crisis.

DAY 7 / KING ABDULLAH II

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority — 1 Timothy 2:1-2

- His Majesty King Abdullah bin Al-Hussein became king in 1999, when his father, the late King Hussein, died.
- King Abdullah married Queen Rania in 1993, and they have four children.
- King Abdullah is the 41st-generation direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammad.



On a hot summer day in Amman, the King was going to visit a local orphanage. Army men lined the streets, and the sidewalks were bulging with masses of people. An excitement brewed among them as they crowded together. Even the little orphan girls, clutching paper flags in their hands, were obedient and patient, knowing their king was coming.

His Majesty was later than he'd said he'd be, and the people began to grow tired. The yellow ball of fire in the sky blazed down on them mercilessly. The women were wearing headscarves and long coats, and their lips were chapped from fasting and dehydration because of Ramadan. But even in their fatigue, it was worth the wait to see their king. They began to clap and chant songs in unison to express their devotion to him.

Finally, in an instant, the crowd knew. They shouted, "He's coming, he's coming!" The motorcade of military vehicles and silver cars sped toward them. Everyone squinted, trying to discern which car he was in, as the convoy was passing by so quickly. Then a lady yelled and pointed, "There he is!", and for an instant they saw him and his elegant queen. They whizzed by, waving. And then, as quickly as he had appeared, he was gone. The crowd fell silent for a moment, as if to exhale all of their anticipation, and then they slowly dispersed, back to their homes. All that anticipation for just a fleeting glimpse of their king.

The king of any nation has incredible influence. People of all social statuses flock to him at any opportunity. King Abdullah II is an honorable man with honorable intentions, and he is a strong political bridge between the Middle East and the West. Let's pray that King Abdullah comes to know Christ as his king and that he uses his influence and position to open the doors for his people to enter the Kingdom of God.

Pray for:

- The Royal Family.
- Godly people to surround and advise him.
- Godly people to surround and advise King Abdullah.

DAY 8 / RAMTHA IS GOOD SOIL

*...and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.
- Isaiah 35:10*

- Ramtha is named after a local desert plant, Al Ramath.
- The city is famous for the ritual-poetries recited in wedding ceremonies and public affairs.
- Gypsies from Turkey and Romania have settled in Ramtha and the surrounding area.

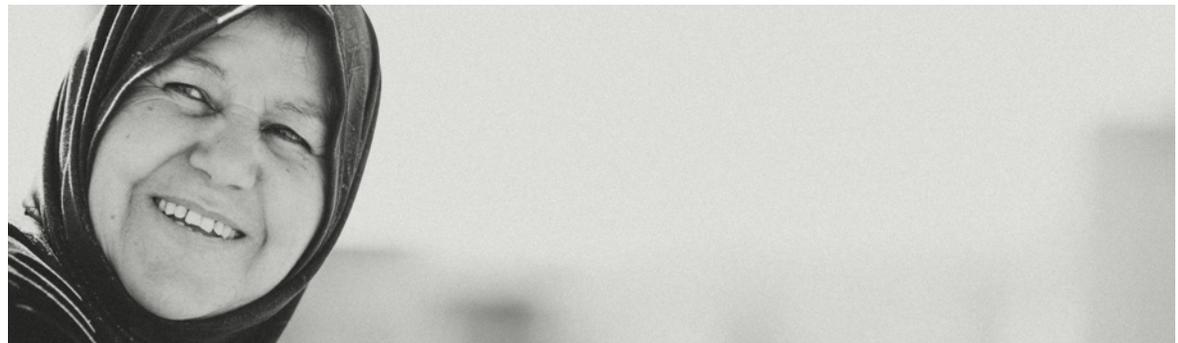
Ramtha is a city situated in the far northwest of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with a population of 85,600. Unfortunately there are no known churches or Christian workers in Ramtha. Here is a short story from a foreign girl who visited Ramtha one morning with a few friends.

“The city was like a breath of fresh air, not only because of the blue skies and the agricultural land, but also because of the genuine friendliness of the people. My friends and I were walking down a residential street when we came across 6 or 7 wrinkly Arab men sitting in a half circle in the sunny, quiet street. They were all dressed up in their traditional Jordanian winter clothing: grey and beige robes, warm, brown, wool vests, and red and white checkered Jordanian headscarves. All laughing and having a good time, they quickly invited my male friend to join them, pulling up an extra chair for him.

As for my two girlfriends and I, we were spotted by a mom and two daughters from up on their rooftop and were immediately invited up for tea. Sitting on the sunny roof, drinking tea amidst the drying clothes on the line, we heard a little about the lives of people living in Ramtha. They are a simple people with a simple, traditional lifestyle. ‘We love our country,’ the mother said. ‘Our roots are here.’ We enjoyed a few more cups of steaming tea, watched a video on a decrepit laptop of the one lady’s son’s wedding, and had a few more laughs. Then we were on our way, leaving our new friends.”

Pray for:

- More Christian witnesses in Ramtha.
- The hearts of the people in Ramtha to be as ready for seeds as the rich agricultural land is.
- The miracle of a church planting movement to be birthed.



DAY 9 / JORDANIAN CHRISTIANS

"I must never deny Jesus." - Fadi

- Christians are well integrated into Jordanian society and have a high level of freedom, though they are not free to evangelize Muslims.
- In the early 20th century, Jordanian Christians made up nearly 20% of the population, much higher than the now estimated 2.8 - 6%.
- The main churches are Catholic and Greek Orthodox.



The Middle East is the birthplace of Christianity and home to some of the world's most ancient Christian denominations. But Christian communities across the region are declining in numbers, including in Jordan, because of a combination of low birth rates, emigration and, in some places, persecution and violence. Despite this, there are still Jordanian Christians standing strong in their faith in Jesus, and the ripple effect of these faithful followers is powerful.

A 21-year old Canadian was living in a village about a 45-minute drive east of Amman. Every time she had to make the drive, she took the same taxi driver, Fadi. He owns a small shop in Amman and is very open about being a Christian. The more the Canadian drove with him, the more she got to know his story.

One night, driving back to the village, Fadi was quite bold and asked the Canadian, "When you are out here in the village, do you tell people about Jesus?" The girl was hesitant to answer the question but told him, "If people ask me about Jesus or ask me if I'm a Christian, I tell them the truth." Then she put the question back on him, asking him if he tells people about Jesus. He said, "Always! I am not shy or afraid. I must always be ready for their questions. I must never deny Jesus." His words were like gas on a small fire in her heart. She wanted to share Jesus with Muslims as fearlessly as Fadi.

She asked him how he came to know Jesus so personally. He said his parents were Christians too, and that he grew up being a nominal Christian, but they had never had a personal encounter with Jesus. As a young man, 28 years earlier, he was a boxer. One day when he was in

the boxing ring fighting another man, Jesus appeared in the ring. The girl couldn't believe it and said, "Anjad?!" (Really?!) He said, "Really! Jesus was in the ring! And He said to me, 'I want you.'" So he stopped boxing, went to a church, and told Jesus, "I need You." The car ride finished with Fadi turning up the volume and singing along as his cassette tape played the song "Majesty" in Arabic.

Fadi's life is a strong testimony. His entire family is living in the truth that Jesus Christ is the true God. He is a light in his

neighborhood and city, fearlessly sharing his faith.



Pray for:

- More to come to know Jesus through Jordanian Christians like Fadi, fearlessly sharing his faith.
- God to strengthen, unify and grow the Jordanian Christian community.

DAY 10 / AQABA IS FORGIVEN AND LOVED

*Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—
for she loved much. - Luke 7:47*

Aqaba has a population of 106,800 and is the southernmost city of Jordan. Safia lives in Aqaba. She isn't a typical Muslim woman. She has 13 brothers and sisters, and her home is well-known as a drug-dealing and prostitution ring. Despite being cautioned strongly by some Muslims to keep their distance from Safia, three Christian girls knew Jesus loved Safia. And so the story begins of Safia accepting the One who died for her.

When Safia was 27 years-old, she was having lunch with some Arab Christians and a foreigner, and the conversation turned spiritual. They told her story after story about Jesus, and Safia was soaking it all in. The Christian Arabs shared their testimonies – about how God had saved them from lives of depression and hopelessness. At one point Safia said, her forehead wrinkling up perplexed, “God really answers your prayers. He really listens to you. He doesn’t do that for me. He doesn’t ever answer my prayers.” Without missing a beat, one of the Arab girls looked at her and said, “If you’re trying to call someone on the phone, and you keep dialing the same number and no one answers, what do you do? You stop and think to yourself, ‘I must have the wrong number.’” Then, with loving forthrightness, she pointed at Safia and said, “You have the wrong number! That’s why God is not answering your prayers! We have the right number. We know the way to have relationship with God, so He listens to us and speaks to us.”

Safia, hungry to unravel this mystery, asked, “Well, what’s the right way?” They told her, “Jesus said He’s the way and the truth and the life, and that no one can go to God except through Him.” They talked about how God required a sacrifice and how only Jesus’ blood could take away their sin and shame and make their hearts pure before God. After they’d talked for some time, the foreigner asked Safia, “Do you want that? Do you want to be forgiven by the blood of Jesus and have relationship with God?” She said, “Yes, I want that. But how do I do it?” They explained some more, and then, right there on the sidewalk, Safia, the Muslim prostitute, prayed that God would forgive her of her sins, take away her shame, and clean her heart by the blood of Jesus.



- Aqaba is Jordan's only coastal city.
- Aqaba is best known today as a seaside and diving resort and also as a home for Jordan's mega-projects.
- Aqaba or al-Aqaba means "the burden".
- The city of Aqaba has one of the highest growth rates in Jordan. The population is growing so fast that only 44% of the buildings in the city were built before 1990.



Pray for:

- Safia to grow in the knowledge that she is loved and made pure by Him.
- People in Aqaba, visitors and residents, to give their burdens to God.
- God's everlasting love to flood through Aqaba.

DAY 11 / CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
- Matthew 19:14*

- Half of Jordan's population is under the age of 15.
- Many churches in Jordan have thriving children and youth ministries.
- The average girl's education is 14 years in school.



With half of Jordan's population being under the age of 15, this younger generation is often being overlooked, especially the females who aren't as valued in Middle Eastern culture. But God sees their worth, value and potential, and He wants to use us to help transform these young lives.

A prayer camp, focused on praying for the region and living out reconciliation, was happening in Jordan for children and youth. One hundred twenty young people from Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Israel and other countries came to the camp. The camp offered opportunities to foster amazing change in the young lives of Jordan and the surrounding region. Amira, a 13-year-old girl who lives in Amman, was one of those precious lives that was transformed.

Amira was a real tomboy, dressing and acting tough. Her family used to go to their local church, but recently they stopped going as much. Amira still occasionally went to the youth program at the church, and the pastor's wife signed her up for the prayer camp.

Amira went to the camp with her three friends from the church. From the beginning, she didn't really fit in. She was rough, disobedient, didn't show any interest in making any new friends, and was giving the leaders a hard time. She would do whatever she pleased, pushing the limits and exasperating the others who were with her.

As the leaders and staff had their daily morning prayer time, Amira's name always came up and usually not in a positive way. Then the staff felt they should really encourage her. So one morning all the leaders prayed and asked God for words of life for Amira. They wrote down all the words and verses that God gave them and then Sarah, who was part of the intercession team, went to her and shared all the words with her. She told Amira that they all loved her and that God had great plans for her life. The girl was incredibly touched by the words that were shared and started crying.

After the camp, life went back to normal, except Amira's life had been changed forever. The leaders of the camp heard from Amira's family that there was a major positive change in Amira after she had come home from the prayer camp. Amira, during a critical time of growing up and maturing, was able to hear of her worth and value. Her life and the lives she touches will never be the same.

Pray for:

- Amira to continue to learn how much God loves her and who she is in Him.
- The ministries that are reaching out to the younger generation.
- The children and youth of Jordan to be used by God to bring their families and communities to faith.

DAY 12 / MAFRAQ'S STRUGGLE

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. - Isaiah 40:28

- Mafrq means "crossroads".
- Mafrq is at close proximity to the three major cities in the region, Amman to the south, Irbid to the west, and Damascus to the north.
- Mafrq is currently one of the main cities in Jordan to take in Syrian refugees.

Mafrq, with a population of 47,764, is located 80 km north of the Jordanian capital Amman, at the intersection of the road leading from Jerusalem to Damascus and the road from Tel Aviv to Baghdad. Given the key location, many military campaigns have used Mafrq as a base of operation, including those of Lawrence of Arabia.

Mafrq is an ideal example of a major struggle happening in this land. With the tens of thousands of Syrian refugees making Mafrq their temporary home, tensions are high among the people of Mafrq. The Jordanians are forced to learn to move aside for those torn by war. They are having to make the choice between being generous and giving to those in need or despising them and taking all they can get for themselves. This struggle is played out every day in the lives of the people of Mafrq and the Syrians. Many Jordanians are openhanded to those in need, making meals and giving their extras to those around them. However, many others are raising the cost of food, increasing rent and lowering wages.

The Syrians aren't the only ones in Mafrq who are in need. The people of Mafrq are also in need, and they resent being overlooked because people are mainly focused on the plight of the refugees. "Everyone else gets help but us," says one Jordanian. "Many of us are worse off than them. But we don't have war, so no one cares." One foreign worker living in Mafrq said, "The Jordanians of Mafrq are a strong, proud people who have lived and continue to live in hard situations."

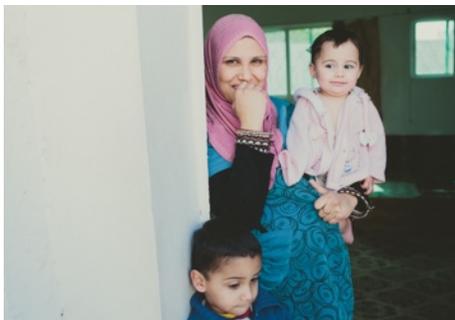


Pray for:

- The Jordanians of Mafrq to know God has not overlooked or forgotten them.
- The Jordanians of Mafrq to learn the value of coming along side and helping their Syrian neighbors.
- Hearts to be open and God to reveal Himself during this time of struggle.

DAY 13 / MARRIAGES

In the original creation, God made male and female to be together. Because of this, a man leaves father and mother, and in marriage he becomes one flesh with a woman—no longer two individuals, but forming a new unity. - Mark 10:6-8



Here is a sad but not completely uncommon story: “My husband and I met at university in my home country. I wasn’t a believer and it wasn’t long before we fell in love and got married. All was going well until he mentioned returning to his country, Jordan. I agreed to visit with him for a few months, but I didn’t like it at all. Upon returning home, our marriage began to deteriorate. We finally decided to get a divorce but we remained friends. He left and returned permanently to Jordan. After a while, he asked me to come and visit, especially to bring our child to see him. I wasn’t familiar with parental custody laws of Jordan, and therefore was unaware of the danger of having my child taken away from me. Toward the end of our visit, my ex-husband forcibly insisted that our child remain in Jordan with him. The law was on his side; I could go, but our child had to stay. I was thrown out and helpless to do anything about it. Finally, with the help of my country’s authorities, I managed to secure visiting rights with my child. I now live here, in a country that is not my own, in order to stay close and see my child once a week, if all goes well.”



While many women are happily married to their Jordanian spouses, Sarah's story is not all that unusual among expatriate women in Jordan. She managed to find God in spite of all these difficulties and hold onto Him as the most important thing in her life. While others are happily married or have decided to stay married to their Jordanian spouses for the sake of their children, they still face loneliness and other struggles.

Pray for:

- The women like Sarah who are in desperate situations.
- God to use the believing partners to bring Arabs Muslims to Jesus.
- Not only cross-cultural marriages, but all marriages in Jordan.



- Studies show intercultural marriage is on the rise.
- Some of the wisest and most honored biblical heroes and heroines, including Moses, David, Esther, Ruth, Solomon, and Joseph, were involved in intercultural or interracial marriages—marriages that God approved of and blessed.

DAY 14 / ZARQA IS HUNGRY FOR TRUTH

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. - Psalm 63:1



- Zarqa means "the blue one".
- Zarqa is home to Jordan's industrial center, located in the Zarqa River basin, and to over 50% of Jordanian factories.
- The city of Zarqa has the second largest population after Amman.

Zarqa, with a population of 481,300, is located 25 km northeast of Amman. There are a lot of God stories coming out of Zarqa. One of them begins in a small cafe far away from Jordan.

Isaac and Matt met a girl in a cafe in the States. She asked to come to Jordan to experience new things and do whatever she could to help. Isaac and Matt prayed and felt like she should come. She was a very adventurous girl, one of those million-miles-an-hour, doing-everything types of people, jumping at every invitation and opportunity that presented itself.

One day she got in a cab in a rough part of Zarqa. Charging straight to the point, she asked the taxi driver, Mahmoud, if he was a Christian or Muslim. Mahmoud told her, "I don't know", and proceeded to tell her that when he had been in the United States, some people had told him about

Jesus. He told her that he really liked Jesus and wanted to know more about him.

She took his phone number and gave it to the team that was hosting her in Jordan. A couple of the guys followed up with Mahmoud, going through the stories of the prophets with him. Isaac found out that Mahmoud had been sharing everything with his friends and that his friends were so hungry for truth that they were getting frustrated when Mahmoud didn't bring them information about the prophets quickly enough!

Although Mahmoud became satisfied when he found out how to get to heaven and didn't grow much more, he has remained a courier of information, and many, many others have come into the Kingdom of God as a result. Many of them are determined to reach their nation and the world for God's glory!



Pray for:

- Mahmoud to become as hungry for truth as his friends are.
- God to lead the believers to more people of peace within Zarqa.
- The believers in Zarqa to be bold in their witness for Christ.

DAY 15 / THE CHURCH

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
-Matthew 16:18

Here is one Jordanian church's story, from their first small home gathering, to having a church so packed they had to sit outside, to having to close the church doors due to persecution and war.

In 1954 a Jordanian family started to meet together in their small home in their dusty Amman neighborhood. More people quickly came, and they started to have church together. Soon they were bursting with faith and bursting beyond the walls of the house, so the small group bought some land, dreaming that one day they could build a church on the newly purchased plot of earth. God was determined to honor their audacious faith, and just a few years later, He brought a team of foreign volunteers to cement their dream into reality. A church building was erected right there on the patch of soil that was theirs.

Once they moved into the church, hard times hit, and the ministry started to slow down. The war in 1967 completely shut down the church, and in 1970, it turned into a refuge for Palestinian refugees. Things perked up for a while, and they began to hold services again, but soon relentless persecution met them at their doors and forced them shut yet another time. It was discouraging for the faithful few, trying to stand united and strong in such opposition.

In 1987, a very ambitious, young pastor came to lead the struggling church. He had a big heart for sharing Jesus with the lost, and with fierce determination, he fought through the opposition that terrorized them, like a courageous defender standing up to a full-grown bully. He would not allow his church doors to be shut, no matter what.

Because of their focus on sharing the Good News, in 2012, the church started out with seven home groups and grew to an astounding twenty-two groups within a year! "We're really excited about the home groups, because we see that we are able to reach the people who can't or won't come to the church," says the current pastor, fueled with obvious passion to reach the lost. Along with all the small home groups, the church has also birthed a sister church in the more

developed part of the city. Bursting with more vision for the ones God loves, the Arab pastor said with a twinkle in his eye, "Now we have big dreams to buy land across the street to build a playground and a soccer field, so we can meet with and minister to people who don't want to come into the church." Nearly sixty years later, the church's vision clearly grows within its people, not merely within its walls.

Pray for:

- The park to be built across from the church. There is no park in this neighborhood and it would create many ministry opportunities.
- Spirit-led leaders to lead the Jordanian Church in the right direction.
- More Jordanian churches to reach out to their neighbors.



- Like Arab Muslims, Arab Christians refer to God as Allah. The use of the term Allah in Arab Christian churches predates Islam by several centuries.
- Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Anglican are the denominations that make up the majority of Jordan's Christian population. There are religious societies that are allowed to meet freely, but they are not recognized as churches by the government, such as, the Church of the Nazarene, and the Baptist Church.

DAY 16 / BEDOUINS

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen - Luke 2:20

- The word 'bedouin' comes from the Arab word 'bedou' which means "desert dweller".
- Estimates say nomadic Bedouins constitute about one-tenth of the population in the Middle East.
- The Bedouins are often referred to as the backbone of the Kingdom of Jordan, since they traditionally support the monarchy.
- All throughout the south and east of Jordan, Bedouin communities are marked by characteristic black goat-hair tents.



The first converts to Islam came from the Bedouin tribes living in and around Mecca. Therefore, Islam is embedded and deeply rooted in Bedouin culture. Although there are pockets of Christians in Bedouin tribes, the Bedouins are almost untouched by the gospel. However, visits from Jesus are not infrequent to this Bedouin family.

The great-grandfather had been visited with visions of Jesus. He had dreamed about a glowing figure in Bedouin garb. Curious, the man traveled to Jerusalem to find out more about this dream. Upon arrival in Jerusalem, the man heard a Christian arguing with a Jew about Jesus. The Bedouin man followed the Christian home and knocked on his door. The Christian invited the man in to talk, and when the Bedouin seeker entered the home, the first thing he saw on the wall was a picture of Jesus wearing the same clothing as the man in his dream!

The grandfather also said Jesus saved him from a rocket attack while he and his children were picking tomatoes. The tomato patch was near a Palestinian camp, and when four Israeli planes came in low to shoot missiles at the Palestinians, they mistook him and his children for the enemy. One of the planes fired a missile at the family. The impact was no more than five meters in front of them, as they scrambled for cover in the trees. When the grandfather looked up, he saw Jesus standing between him and the explosion. After the initial impact, he looked around the blast site—trees on either side of where they had cowered from the attack were sheared off by the shrapnel. Jesus had protected them.

Later, Jesus visited the grandfather in a dream and told him he was healed of a heart condition that three doctors had diagnosed as needing bypass surgery. The next morning he got up, went to the doctor, and was given a clean bill of health. Jesus also healed his grandson of an ear ailment that would have required surgery.

Four generations of this Bedouin family have been transformed. The grandson's mother said, "I believed the day Jesus healed my son." And the grandson's father is now reading the Bible.

Pray for:

- This Bedouin family to continue on the path to salvation.
- More resident gospel witnesses among the Bedouin tribes.
- Jesus to visit more of the Bedouins.

DAY 17 / OPEN DOORS IN MA'AN

I will show my love to the one I called "Not my loved one." I will say to those called "Not my people," "You are my people"; and they will say, "You are my God." - Hosea 2:23

The city of Ma'an with its population of roughly 25,000 people is fiercely independent and greatly attached to militant Islam, as it lies on the traditional pilgrimage route to Mecca. The original inhabitants of Ma'an were a nomadic, Bedouin tribal people who gradually settled down in the area around the oasis. It has resisted those sharing Jesus over the past century, but through the perseverance of His people, God is starting to open the doors of Ma'an.

One weekend a few foreigners made the trip down south. They travelled through a few cities, and spent one of their nights in Ma'an. Their purpose in going was to ask God for His heart for the cities they were visiting. But one girl, Emma, wanted to give God the opportunity to show her an open door for ministry in Ma'an. The morning they were leaving the small town, Emma woke up with the thought that she had to go to a high school in Ma'an and simply offer to volunteer there as the head of a "newly formed organization" that she had just made up. After some prayer and worship, she got in a taxi with another girl and said, "Can you take us to a high school?" The taxi driver looked at her strangely and said, "There are three. Any high school?" "Yep," she replied.

The school he brought them to was only about two blocks away. They walked in to find the director's office and were warmly welcomed in. As soon as they explained why they were there, the director told them that she would love to have them volunteer there! She spoke with her superior who also welcomed them! Emma can remember feeling numb, asking herself, "It can't be that easy, can it?" She had faith that God would open a door, but she hadn't expected it to be done so quickly or easily, as she'd heard from many people that there were hardly any opportunities in Ma'an.

The director proceeded to show them the school and introduced them to the staff and students. The school had just been vandalized by people protesting the government. Emma and her friend knew that one of the reasons the school was so open to receiving them was because of the vandalism that had happened so recently. God had been softening the hearts of these Jordanians before they got there! Emma is excited for this opportunity God provided and is looking forward to leading a small ministry team there. Praise God for open doors in Ma'an!



- Local tradition has it that the city was named after "Ma'an", the son of Lot.
- Ma'an is geographically isolated and has a low frequency of travelers, with the exception of Mecca-bound pilgrims.
- The people of Ma'an consider their town an advance post to the sacred city of Medina.



Pray for:

- More people who are willing to go and serve in Ma'an.
- More open doors and opportunities for believers to go to Ma'an.
- Encouragement, strength and perseverance for those who are already ministering in Ma'an.

DAY 18 / PERSECUTION

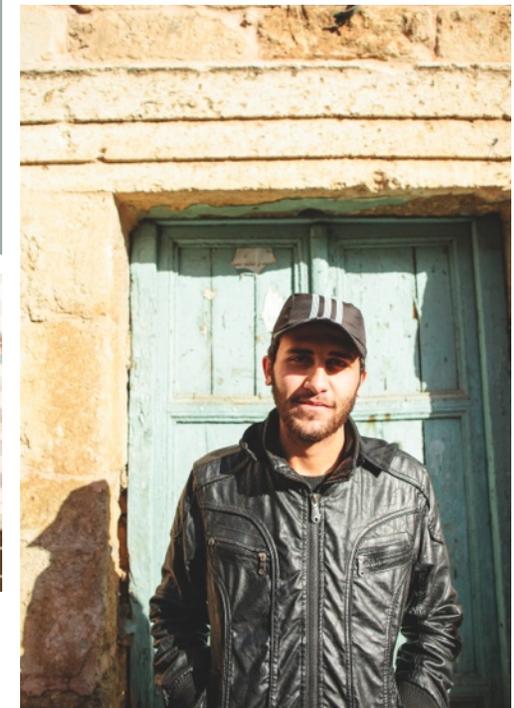
"While they were torturing me, I remembered God's promise to Abraham: 'Don't be afraid, Abram. I am your shield.' And then I fainted." - Reda

It was a Sunday morning when the national security called for me. I was being accused of evangelizing in the Middle East. As soon as I went to the secret police office, the psychological torture began. After hours of being left in a room by myself, an officer entered and started to terrify and threaten me, using bad, insulting words. I had been there almost the whole day without food or water. I told them I had high blood pressure and they just started mocking me. When they brought me water, instead of letting me drink, they poured it over my head and started cursing me again, saying I was a shame to my people.

I was moved from one interrogation room to another, getting psychological whiplash from the good cop/bad cop tactic. One officer befriended me, the other insulted me. I was getting tired and losing strength. Then the physical torture began. My hands were bound by cuffs behind my back and they beat me until I bled. When I was punched in the face, one of my teeth broke. The officer ordered me to open my mouth to check the injury and then spit inside my mouth, twice, and ordered me to close my mouth and swallow. I asked him, "Why are you doing this to me?" He answered, "Shut up! You are Christian. Damn your Christ!" Then he lit a cigarette, blew smoke in my face and burned my chest and neck with it and started kicking me. The torture continued, only worsening, and after six brutal days, I was deported to my beloved home country.

Reda's story isn't as uncommon as we'd hope it would be. Persecution of Christians in many of the Muslim-majority countries of the Middle East and North Africa is frequent, widespread, and violent. The pervasiveness of Sharia law enables religious and secular authorities to act in concert and makes sharing the gospel extremely hazardous. Muslims who make the choice for eternal life with Christ know that all too frequently, it is a decision for an end to their life on earth. Though Jordan has been traditionally peaceful, the situation is becoming more intense. Militant Islamists are attempting to force the government to establish Sharia law, secret police are keeping tabs on Christian ministries, and evangelists are being prosecuted.

- In Jordan people born into Christian families are free to practice their faith, but it is illegal to proselytize and illegal for Muslims convert to Christianity.
- Converts from Islam risk the loss of both their civil rights and their jobs, while sometimes facing death threats from family and others.
- The government of Jordan is much less hostile than other Middle Eastern countries, yet it still tolerates and encourages persecution of



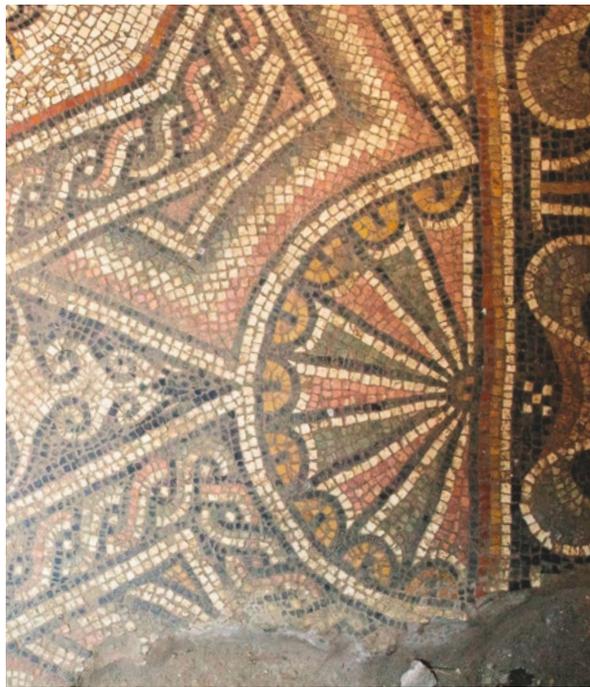
Pray for:

- Christ followers who face the challenges of living within the constraints of Islamic law.
- The freedom to proclaim the gospel and for followers of Jesus to be able to remain in Jordan.

DAY 19 / MADABA IS BEING DRAWN TO HIM

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."
- Psalm 31:3*

- The town of Madaba was once a Moabite border city, mentioned in the Bible in Numbers 21:30 and Joshua 13:9.
- Best known for its spectacular Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics, Madaba is home to the famous sixth century Mosaic Map of Jerusalem and the Holy Land.
- Madaba has been chosen to house new universities, one being the American University of Madaba.



Madaba is one of the most memorable places in the Holy Land. After passing through a string of ancient sites on the 5,000-year-old Kings' Highway, the first city you reach is Madaba, known as the "City of Mosaics". Amazing stories are coming out of the town of 84,600. People are searching and are coming to know Jesus! Here is one of those stories:

The first time Sally and Jen met Amel was on a windy, spring day. They had just settled on a popular picnic area to spend the afternoon when they spotted a group of women taking a photo together. Offering to take the photo for them, one photo turned into several, and then turned into an invitation for tea up the mountain a bit. There they met Amel, two of her sisters, her mother, her aunt, and some other family members. Amel was clearly the most outspoken of the family, an active university student with a love for making jokes and laughter. When Jen and Sally got up to leave, they were invited back for a meal with the family the following week.

The meal was delicious. Sally and Jen were introduced to other family members who were curious to see the foreigners visiting their village. As they talked together, Jen and Sally started to notice that many within the family were sick in some way. Jen shared with them that the prayer of faith can heal the sick, according to James 5:15. Amel immediately latched onto this verse and began to memorize it. She told them, with surprise, that she hadn't known the Bible was written in Arabic. She thought it was only in English!

During subsequent visits, Jen and Sally had more opportunities to share how God had healed people, both in the Bible and in their own lives. On a later visit, Amel asked to borrow Jen's Bible. Jen gladly gave Amel a copy of her own to read and also showed her the Jesus Film. Within a short time Amel had finished reading all of the New Testament. Even more encouraging was her desire to take notes and ask questions. Soon after, she made the declaration that she believed Jesus was the way to heaven.

The following months were difficult to meet with Amel. All of a sudden she seemed busy and unreachable. Finally, not long ago, Jen was able to meet with Amel. This time Amel told Jen, "The Bible has changed my life, and I want to follow the life of Jesus."

Pray for:

- Amel as she continues to read the Bible and learn what it means to follow Jesus.
- More people like Sue and EunJin to share the life of Jesus with the people of Madaba.
- The people of Madaba to respond to God drawing them to Himself.

DAY 20 / NEW BELIEVERS

And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest. - Luke 8:15

Though the majority of Jordan is Muslim (94%), some churches are alive and growing, enjoying a strong government commitment to freedom of religion. Twenty years ago it was unheard of for Muslims to come to Christ. However, years of hardship and much prayer are bringing a new openness. Christians no longer simply ask, "How we can reach Muslims?", but "How can we disciple the new believers?" Here is a story of an American woman and one of her students, a new believer who is presently being disciplined, and is in turn, discipling others.

Some time ago, I had a student, named Wisaam, in my English class. I knew he was seeking the truth about God, and when I prayed for him I felt like God gave me something to tell him. So I went to Wisaam and I said, "Wisaam, today as I was praying for you, I felt strongly that you are very close to the Kingdom of God, and that when you find it, you will bring many people with you. You are like the meaning of your name—you are humble, but you are courageous. I think you will be a strong leader to bring people into the Kingdom." He just listened, eyes welling up with tears, and then he said, "Lord willing. Thank you, teacher, thank you."

Here is one of Wisaam's journal entries from a few months later, something he wrote for homework in my class: "I believe that I am very, very, very valuable and very special, because God loves me and sent His son to die for me." Somehow when we weren't looking, Wisaam came into the Kingdom! He was baptized, and he is growing and sharing his faith with many people.

In a conversation with him some time ago, he was saying that he thought it was admirable that some of us had given up our families and our homes and our lives to move to another country to tell people about the truth. I said, "It's not admirable, really. It's our duty. God has given us so much, and it's our privilege." Then I asked him, "What if God were to call you to leave your family and your home and go to another place to tell people about the Truth?" Without a moment's hesitation, he answered, "I wish that this would happen! I hope that God asks this of me!"

- As possibly the only nation open to all Arabs, Jordan is becoming important in the training and preparation of new Christian leaders in the Arab world.
- Jordan's relative freedom and stability have made it possible for a lot of Christian literature and Bibles to be distributed there.
- Many Muslim followers of Christ still live isolated lives, not integrated into fellowships of other believers.



Pray for:

- Wisaam to continue clinging to God's word.
- New believers to multiply and produce huge harvests.
- Divine knowledge on how to train and disciple new believers to be true and loyal followers of Jesus.

DAY 21 / ISLAM

I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 8:11



Islam first came to Jordan in 633, the year after Muhammad's death, when the Islamic armies crushed the Byzantines at the Battle of Uhud at the Yarmuk River. Jordanians today tend to follow a moderate but conservative form of Islam, following Sharia law but without the harsh ramifications that are experienced in countries like Saudi Arabia. Abdu Rahman's life gives a clear glimpse into what life is like for a conservative Jordanian following Islam.

Abdu Rahman is a typical religious Jordanian. He prays five times a day at the mosque, if he can get there, although if that is not possible, he will take out his prayer mat, face the direction of Mecca, and pray in the corner of his shop. On Friday he attends the sermon at the mosque along with other male family members and friends in his community. He gives faithfully to the poor, fasts during Ramadan, and looks forward to the opportunity of going on pilgrimage to Mecca. For Abdu Rahman, Islam is more than a religion; it is his family, his heritage, his culture and his pride. It has enabled him to start a business and will be an important part of his marriage and how he raises his children. It is something he cannot question. To step away from it is to deny everything that he, his family and his community are.



Islam is infused in every aspect of the lives of Muslims. When they become believers of Jesus, it's a delicate process of remaining in their culture while adopting the new way of living in Christ.

Pray for:

- Conservative Muslims to be saved together as families and communities.
- Muslims to be set free from legalism and to become new creations in Christ.
- Muslim followers of Christ to redeem the beautiful aspects within their Muslim culture.



- About 94% of Jordan's population is Muslim. "Muslim" means "anyone that submits him or herself to the will of God".
- "Islam" means "peace through submission to God".
- Islam has upwards of 1.5 billion followers worldwide. Along with Judaism and Christianity, it is considered to be one of the three Abrahamic traditions.

DAY 22 / GRACE IS WAITING FOR AJLOUN

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. - Hebrews 4:16



Ajloun is a hilly town in the north of Jordan, located 76 kilometers northwest of Amman with a tiny population of 7,289. Towering high above the town is the Ajloun Castle. From this fortress the Muslim army commanded the Jordan Valley and three small valleys leading to it. The Crusaders made repeated attempts to capture it but were unsuccessful. From a viewpoint high on the castle you can see why. On a clear day you can see south as far as the Dead Sea, west across the Jordan Valley to the West Bank of Palestine, and north to the Sea of Galilee.

Given Ajloun's beauty and strategic location, a few foreigners went to visit this town to get a sense of God's heart for the people there. They were

amazed by the atmosphere it had to offer. It was incredibly green compared to many other cities in Jordan, but that wasn't the only difference this group noticed. One of them recounts her sense:

"Nearing the city of Ajloun, I could feel it was different than any other place in Jordan. Even before I drove through the busy market town, I could feel the energy of Ajloun and could tell the people had a high work ethic. Ajloun is far from the typical Middle Eastern city where there are usually a lot of people sitting around, drinking tea, smoking, just watching the minutes and hours of the day go by. This bustling town was filled with activity. But the work wasn't done begrudgingly; the people of Ajloun enjoyed it, smiling as they spent their

day getting things done.

I could feel God's heart for these people, how much He loved them and longed to flood their land with more of His favor. God is so willing to help the people of Ajloun. He's simply waiting for them to depend on Him and receive what He wants to freely give."



- Although Christians are a minority in the Ajloun governorate, they form about half of the population in the city of Ajloun.
- The Ajloun mountains are famous for their lush vegetation and thick, green forests. It's one of the country's most beautiful regions.
- During Mamluk times, around 1260, the Ajloun castle was one in a network of beacons and pigeon posts that allowed messages to be transmitted from Baghdad to Cairo in only twelve hours!

Pray for:

- The people of Ajloun to have the revelation of God's grace, that it's not by works that they get to heaven.
- The believers in Ajloun to have boldness to share the good news.
- A strong church planting movement to be birthed in Ajloun and to expand into all the surrounding areas.

DAY 23 / WOMEN

Created with Infinite Love and Value

- Women in Jordan received the right to vote in 1974.
- Queen Rania has fought for a wide range of causes, including women's rights, and has set an example for the independence of the Jordanian woman.
- There are many legal documents that support women's equality in Jordan, but years of tradition and devotion to Islamic Sharia law influence the way women are treated and viewed.

The perception of male/female relationships in the Islamic world contains some truth and some lies. Are women regularly beaten? Are men tyrants? Is there equality as in the West? Jordanian legislation and culture suggests that men have a certain control over their wives to mediate their interaction with the public. In fact, most women in the Islamic world - historically and currently - spend the majority of their time in a "domestic context," as their male authorities expect and require. Men expect their wives to be obedient because, among other reasons, they work in order to support the family financially. Even marriages that begin as loving, often turn oppressive and harsh. Here is a story that gives a glimpse into the complexity of male/female relations in Jordan:

Her face braved a smile, but her words told of the pain she felt deep in her soul. Ameena was still young, twenty-five years old, sweet and beautiful, even with her long, dark hair unkempt. As she was serving tea, her 4-year-old son peaked his head into the room for a few seconds. Her face lit up at him, but when he left, something changed in her. She began to tell her story.

She married at 19 to the love of her life. Their marriage was like a dream, until they had their firstborn. Her husband began comparing her to the women on TV, saying her body wasn't as beautiful as it used to be. Feeling unvalued and unloved, she still desperately wanted to please him. They had been trying to have another baby for over a year without success. Her pain and disappointment made the air feel physically heavy in the room.

Ameena needs to hear of the One who cares about her vulnerable thoughts and longings. She needs to hear of the One who created her with infinite love and value.



Pray for:

- The women in Jordan to find their worth and value in Jesus.
- The men in Jordan to discover God's love and that it will bring transformation in their own hearts and the way they love their wives.

DAY 24 / GOD IS REACHING SALT

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. - Deuteronomy 31:8

- The Greater Salt Municipality has about 97,000 inhabitants of which 70% are Muslim and 30% are Christians.
- Salt is famed in Jordan for its fertile soil and the quality of its fruit and vegetable harvests, particularly olives, tomatoes, grapes and peaches.
- Salt boasted the first hospital in the country, founded by the British Church Missionary Society in the late nineteenth century.

Pray for:

- Ali to have a personal relationship with Jesus.
- The people of Salt to feel God's presence just like Ali does.
- Church planting movements to happen in Salt.



The city of Salt, with a population of 88,900, is an ancient agricultural town and administrative center, that lies north-west of Amman. The small town lies amid the rolling hills of ancient biblical Gilead and is on the old main highway leading from Amman to Jerusalem. Today the surroundings of Salt remain among the most pleasant and beautiful areas in the country, particularly in the spring when, as if by magic, everything turns green and wild flowers and exquisitely colored blossoms cover the hills. Here is a story from a well-known school in Salt that focuses on helping blind, deaf and mute children.

When you walk into the school, it's as if you're walking into a whole other world. Hundreds of kids are playing on the playground, yet everything is quiet, except for the pitter patter of little feet on the ground. One of these kids is a 10-year-old boy named Ali.

Ali, like some other children at the school, can't hear, see or speak. He also struggles with other mental and physical problems. Every day he would endure episodes where he would convulse violently. No one could come near him during those times, but those were the times one Christian Arab volunteer, Sireen, would pray for him.

One day, as everyone was following the daily school program, Sireen and Ali were walking to the next activity, when Ali began to have one of his episodes. This time Sireen began praying in the Spirit with a loud voice. Immediately Ali calmed down and looked inquisitively at Sireen. After that, Sireen started praying in the Spirit with Ali all the time. Praying God's holy words over Ali seemed to have a calming effect over him that nothing else did. Even though Ali couldn't see, hear, or speak, that didn't prevent him from feeling the Spirit of God. Because God loves Ali, He found a way to reach him.

DAY 25 / SECULAR JORDANIANS

But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." - Mark 10:24-25

Although most people in Jordan would call themselves Muslim, there are a great number that live lives similar to people in the West. Ahmed, who studied in the States and has now come back to run his family business, is a lot like this. He doesn't pray or fast, and Friday is a day for sleeping in and catching up with family, rather than going to the mosque. For Ahmed, materialism and hedonism are his religions. As far as Ahmed is concerned, Christianity and Islam are basically the same, and it is not important if he marries a Muslim, a Christian, or a woman from any other background. Ahmed enjoys nightclubs, drinking, and beautiful women, but his real pride and joy is his BMW convertible.

In many ways Ahmed chooses the parts of Islamic culture that suit him and ignores the things for which he doesn't have time. Although Ahmed's immediate family are liberal in their faith, parts of his extended family are still quite religious. This has caused tension in the family in the past, so Ahmed is still a bit careful about what he says and does.

There are many negative influences, often from the West, that are coming into Jordan. These go hand in hand with greater freedoms, such as alcoholism, drug abuse, materialism, sexual promiscuity and pornography. These influences cause a lot of problems, especially as the more conservative parts of the community react to the way these influences are damaging their community.

- Jordanians live in a relatively secular society that is increasingly grappling with the effects of westernization and globalization.
- Jordan is considered one of the Arab World's most cosmopolitan and westernized countries.
- 67% of Jordanian youth identify themselves as liberals, second highest in the Arab World after Lebanon.



Pray for:

- Secular Jordanians to find satisfying freedom in Christ.
- God to transform their worldly mindsets.
- Secular Jordanians to be set free from materialism.

DAY 26 / KARAK IS COMING TO FAITH

Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. - Luke 6:38

- Karak is famous for its traditional Jordanian meal called mansaf, lamb (or chicken) cooked in a sauce of fermented yogurt and served with rice.
- Karak is known for its famous Crusader castle. It is known to be one of the most spectacular buildings in Jordan. The castle is one of the three largest castles in the region.
- Karak has an unusually high Christian population (25%), among the highest in Jordan.

Once a kingdom, Karak, with a population of 20,280, lies to the south of Amman on the King's Highway. Karak was the capital of Moab. Standing 1000m above the Dead Sea valley with a commanding view of the surrounding countryside, it was of great strategic importance for militia and traders. A Bedouin man from Karak shares this story:

"Ever since I had a Christian colleague at work, for more than ten years, I've wanted to know more about this Christian faith. I would sometimes drive through the Christian villages, buy a drink in a coffee shop, and wait, hoping that someone would share with me about the Injeel (Arabic for New Testament). But no one ever did. No one gave me an Injeel; instead I was faced with suspicious looks.

I had a lot of questions about Christianity. What was the right denomination? Orthodox? Catholic? Protestant? I had also seen Christian football stars on television making the sign of the cross. Would I have to do that if I also turned to Christ? I thought that there would be no way I could do that, since everybody knows and respects me as a Muslim religious leader.

I felt so much relief when a stranger shared with me that I did not need to accept any of these denominations or outward signs to know Christ as my Lord and Savior. "Can you give me an Injeel?" I asked. He gave one to me, and I thirstily read the words and said the Lord's Prayer for the first time."



Pray for:

- The Bedouin man to continue seeking the truth and for him to bring others to it.
- Boldness for the Christians living in Karak to share the gospel.
- The misconceptions of Christianity to be broken.

DAY 27 / DREAMS AND VISIONS

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. - Acts 2:17

- Muslims are coming into the Kingdom at what foreign and local church leaders describe as an unprecedented rate. Joel Rosenberg, an, claims that “more Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus Christ today than at any other time in history.”
- Muslims believe in the significance of dreams and visions. They believe that their prophet, Mohammad, received much of the text of the Koran from dreams he had.



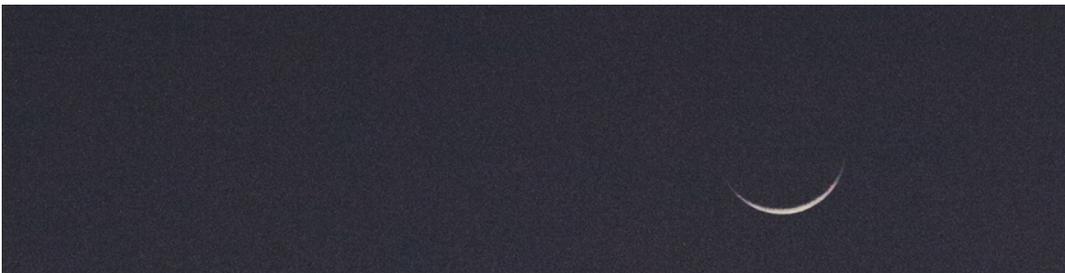
Dreaming dreams and seeing visions of Jesus is happening today, not only among Christians, but across the Muslim World. For many Muslims, their belief in Jesus is not simply the result of believers sharing the gospel with them. It is the result of dreams and visions where Jesus himself appeared to them. Many actually meet him face to face. Here is just one story of how meeting Jesus in a dream catapulted this Muslim man into a search for truth:

One night Fuad, a Muslim man who had a major problem with his eyes, had a dream. In the dream Jesus came to him and touched his eyes. When Fuad awoke, his eyes were completely healed! Amazed by this unrequested miracle, Fuad asked his friends and family how he could find out more about this Jesus who had healed him. They told him of a certain place in the downtown area where he could find an Egyptian man who was always talking about Jesus.

Fuad found the Christian man and eagerly told him, “I had a dream, and Jesus the Messiah came to me, and he touched my eyes and healed them! He really healed my eyes! Who is he? Will you tell me about him?” Happily, the Egyptian man shared the gospel with Fuad, and that very day, Fuad believed, entered the Kingdom, and was baptized.

Pray for:

- Even more Muslims to meet Jesus in dreams and visions.
- Christians to have wisdom to interpret dreams and disciple the new believers.
- Whole communities to be reached through dreams and visions.



DAY 28 / A LIGHT IN JERASH

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. - John 1:5

- From AD 350, a large Christian community lived in Jerash, and between AD 400-600, more than thirteen churches were built, many with superb mosaic floors, including one with the story of Noah.
- Jerash is now the second-most popular tourist attraction in Jordan, following closely behind the splendid ruins of Petra.
- The ruins in Jerash have been carefully preserved and spared from encroachment, with the modern city sprawling to the west of ancient Jerash's city walls.



Of the wealth of archeological sites gracing Jordan, Jerash is one of the most beautiful. Often called the 'Pompeii of the East', Jerash is one of the largest and finest of the ancient Roman cities to be found outside of Italy, rivaled only by Ephesus, in Turkey. People have lived in this fertile, well-watered area for more than six-and-a-half thousand years. Today there are 3 churches: one Baptist, one Catholic, and one Orthodox, adding up to approximately 250 Christians. In the 1990's there were 2,000 Christians in Jerash, but because of immigration there are only 15 families now. Here is a story of a little light in Jerash.

Some years ago, a kindergarten was started in Jerash. It started in a small

home and grew rapidly. It is now registered as a Christian pre-school and has permission to teach the Bible freely, which is very rare in Jordan. In 2007 it only had 9 children but with much faith, the staff prayed for more, and, miraculously, more came. The kindergarten longs to bring light into the darkness. Now there are many kids who have graduated from the little school. Often they return to visit the people who brought them light and life. Here is just one story of how the kindergarten has impacted a life.

One mother had two little girls, but she longed to have a boy. One of the teachers prayed and fasted with her to have a boy, and she became pregnant. Sure enough, she had a baby boy. The mother says it is

because of the Christian prayers that her son was born. When her son was old enough, he attended the kindergarten. One day he came home from school, and his mother said she was very tired. The son simply said, "It's ok, mom, I'll pray for you in Jesus' Name!" Generations are being impacted for Jesus in the little school in Jerash!



Pray for:

- The kindergarten to continue bringing His light into the darkness.
- This young generation of 4 and 5 year olds to grow in the strong foundation of God's love.
- The relationships with the children to grow into relationships with the families and communities in Jerash.

DAY 29 / NIGHT OF POWER

Open to Dreams and Visions



- The whole Night of Power, from sunset to dawn, is the holiest night of the year for Muslims.
- Many Muslims think this is a special night when God gives heed to their requests. Often they are open to dreams and visions as they seek for guidance and revelation.
- Christians often strategically pray for Muslims that they will receive dreams and visions of Jesus during this night.

Fatima is excited. Her husband, Salim, has invited the family of his teacher to celebrate the breaking of the fast with them. Leading up to this day, Fatima has had many encouraging conversations with Sarah, while the men were talking and the girls were playing. During Sarah's last visit, she had offered to pray for her. Fatima experienced a strange sense of peace while she was being prayed for by Sarah, and is now hoping for some more prayer. Sarah and her family are followers of the Messiah, Jesus.

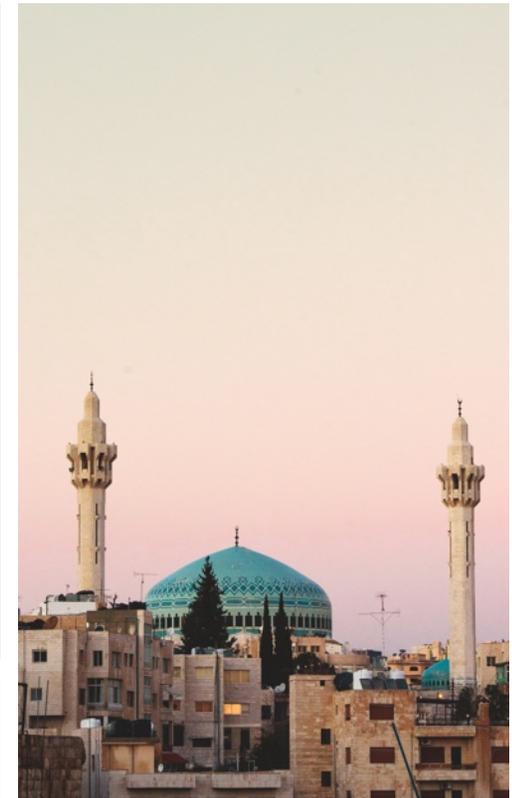
Fatima isn't only excited about Sarah's visit, but even more about today's Laylat al-Qadr, the Night of Power. Fatima intends to stay up praying all night in the hopes that her prayers for a son might be answered. Fatima has given birth to three daughters. Thankfully Salim has not rejected her, but her mother-in-law has cursed her for not bearing a son. She has encouraged her son to take another wife. Fatima was greatly worried by that threat and made a pilgrimage to the grave of a holy man to plead for a son. She also has worked very hard at keeping all her religious duties. Today she has great hopes, for this is the Night of Power.

According to Sura 97 (chapter 97 of the Qur'an). Muhammad received his first revelation of the Koran during this night. Muslims believe that prayers offered during this night are particularly well-received. Some believe that prayer during this night will compensate for the omission of regular daily prayers. The Night of Power occurs during the last ten days of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting, and most Muslim clerics believe it is on the 27th night.

Fatima is representative of thousands of Muslim women eagerly anticipating the Night of Power. Unfortunately, there are only a few who have a Sarah to introduce them to Jesus.

Pray for:

- Supernatural revelations of Jesus to come in dreams and visions during the Night of Power.
- People who have revelations to meet believers who can help them become disciples.



DAY 30 / THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

God Sings a Song of Love to His People

God will move — through us, apart from us, whatever it takes to reach the Jordanians and pull them close to Himself. This story is a clear picture of how much He loves the people of this nation and of the different ways He wants to speak to them and show them His deep love and affection.

There is a thriving English center where a lot of Jordanian young adults study and hang out. One evening, at the request of one of the students, Grace, a Canadian girl who was helping in the coffeebar, brought her guitar. The students begged for songs from her and her American friend, Kara. They sang a couple of worship songs, ones that weren't offensive to Muslims. Then Kara put her hand on Grace's shoulder and began to pray for her.

As she was praying, both of them got filled with the Spirit of God, and they began to sing a spontaneous song that they had never heard or sung before. As Kara began singing a sentence, Grace would complete it. As they were singing, a few of the tough 20-something guys in the English center came over and sat on the floor at their feet, like little boys at the feet of their teachers. Kara and Grace continued singing deep, truthful words about how the love of God is better than a father's love. Tears began to stream down the guys' faces.

When they finished the song, Kara was so astounded at what had happened, she jumped up and ran to the bathroom to hide. After composing herself, she came out, only to be met immediately by three guys who had tears in their eyes. "Kara," they exclaimed, "that song was beautiful!" Then one of them pounded his fist on his chest and asked, "Why, even now when you have finished singing, are our hearts still thumping like this?" Another one said, "What song was that?" She simply said, "I don't know what song it was, because I have never heard it before. God just gave it to us right now as we sang it. You don't have to believe me, but that's what happened. I've never heard that song in my life." And she continued to explain how God was reaching out to them in His love.

- The national flag of Jordan has a seven-point star, the points represent the seven opening verses of the Koran.
- Two seas border Jordan. The Red Sea is on the south coast of Jordan, and the Dead Sea is an inland sea located on the western border with Palestine and Israel.
- Jordan has the world's lowest suicide rate at 0.04 per 1,000 people.



Pray for:

- The three tough guys to remember this song and dwell on that love that surpassed all understanding.
- New revelation of Jesus to come to the Jordanians.
- The whole of Jordan to be transformed by His song of love.