



European Network of Adventist Doctors

# Mission-Report

“My husband went to prison due to political strife. He didn’t even know I was pregnant with our first child. My situation was very bad and I gave my entire savings to escape by boat. Police were chasing us and I nearly drowned while 9 months pregnant, but I’m safe now in Germany with my newborn daughter. Allah saved me because of her. I live because of her.”

“Bombs killed my family. I had to escape in order to survive. I live in a time of war.”

“I left everything behind, my career, my friends, my family, my life. I didn’t want to be forced to fight in a war I don’t believe in.”

These are true accounts from the Jefferson refugee camp in Darmstadt, Germany. I had the privilege of participating in ENAD’s first mission trip and befriending the refugees and hearing their stories.

Over 1 million refugees from this past year have entered the country from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Pakistan, Iraq, and Syria. This influx of migrants created division in Europe as mixed feelings of fear and uncertainty along with sympathy and compassion are felt across the borders. Some may declare that Germany is in crisis, but could it be that in the midst of great tragedy and war, God has placed this special group of people for us to bring hope and a correct representation of His character?



From September 29 to October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, ENAD held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual conference in Germany. The theme was “Walking in His Footsteps.” The conference was comprised of young medical and non-medical professionals who shared a single goal of witnessing to

others about Jesus through the health message. At the conference, Christians from all over Europe came together to network and share practical ways on how to reach their patients, friends, co-workers, and families. I had the opportunity to attend this conference and was thoroughly blessed by all the content that was presented along with the new friends that I've made. It was a time of refreshment, motivation, and encouragement. But it didn't end there. Directly following the conference, ENAD held a 7-day mission trip in the city of Darmstadt, where we had the opportunity to put our accumulated knowledge into practical use.

Our Mission team was comprised of 25 people that included medical physicians, dentists, nutritionists, entrepreneurs, educators, and students from all parts of Europe and North America.

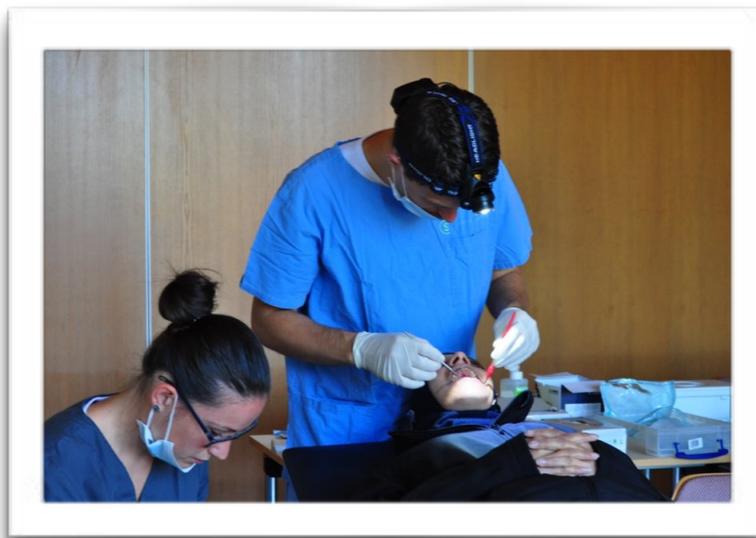


During the first two days of our mission, we teamed up with the Marienhöhe Church (which happens to be the largest Seventh Day Adventist church in Germany) to help conduct a Health Expo. We set up a variety of different booths and games on oral hygiene, smoking, water, alcohol, massage, vegetarian cooking and so on. The Health Expo proved to be a blessing as people from all over the community got exposed to the health message. A woman who received a massage by one of our missionaries was so impressed by the service she received, decided to stop smoking. Because Ellen White strongly warned us that by separating medical missionary work from the gospel would be

a huge disservice (CD75.4), the church held a mini evangelistic series in the evenings. Participants of the Health Expos were invited and encouraged to attend.

The rest of the duration of our trip was dedicated to bring medical relief and care to the refugees. Was it a coincidence that the refugee camp was just a 10-minute walk from the largest Adventist church in the country? I don't believe so.

One of the greatest challenges our mission team faced was the language barrier. Acquiring translators wasn't easy and to hire one would be too expensive, however, we serve a God who can part the seas of impossibilities. God brought several volunteers from the camp to help translated German/English into Farsi and Arabic. Upon visitations with the refugees, it quickly became apparent that language could also be expressed through smiles, laughter, body language, and touch. Our team developed close relationships with our translators who spent the day conversing, praying, and worshipping with us. One of them went so far as to call himself a "Christian-Muslim".



Our refugees program consisted of medical and dental clinics, health talks, visitations, children's programs, a great meal together, and worship. The majority of people we met were of Muslim faith so they were fascinated when they discovered a group of Christians who did not eat pork or drink alcohol.

Even during this short mission trip, we saw the beginning stages of our labor. A man made a conscious decision to stop smoking after listening to the health seminars. Another man asked what it meant to trust in God. Still

another claimed he was searching for the truth and wanted a Bible. The children from the camps begged us not to leave. If these were the results from a short visit, is it not true that the fields are ripe? I wonder what would happen if God's people started to realize the times we live in, and boldly share their faith. The results would be immense.

Throughout this trip, the promise in Romans 8:32 kept coming to mind; "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

God didn't even spare His own Son. If God went as far as He could to save us, we should be confident that all the resources of Heaven is at our disposal when it comes to soul winning. God is offended when we ask for little so expect great things from a great God! Let our experience be the start of a movement, remembering that we are on the brink of eternity. "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Revelations 22:20