

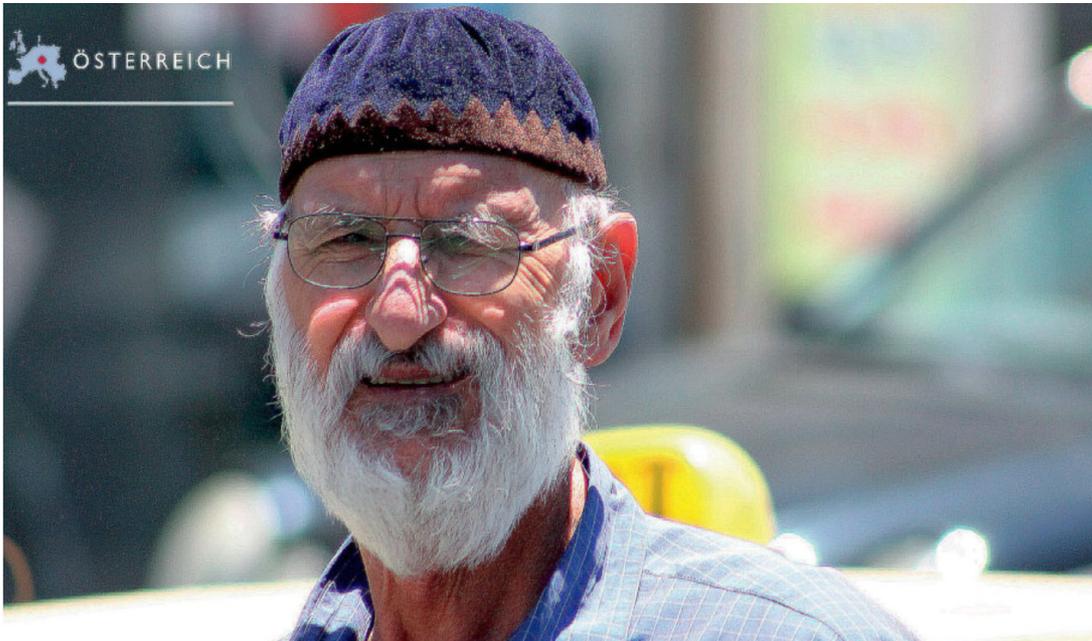
# TT-EXTRA: "They can't do anything to me!"

„To the thirsty I will give freely from the spring of the water of life.“ (Rev 21:6)

Beginning of March 2018

The latest edition of the "DMG informiert" missionary news magazine includes the following article:

[https://www.dmgint.de/files/cto\\_layout/img/red/downloads/PDFs/dmg-informiert/dmg-informiert\\_0118\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.dmgint.de/files/cto_layout/img/red/downloads/PDFs/dmg-informiert/dmg-informiert_0118_WEB.pdf)



## "They can't do anything to me!"

During a short visit to the Near East, where we are looking after Austrian missionaries, we met a Christian whose faith made an impression on us:

An old man from the Near East had a dream: He saw Jesus as a figure of light who told him to read the Bible. So he went to the nearest city and asked in several bookshops for a copy of God's Word. He didn't find one and didn't exactly get a sympathetic response to his unusual request: "This is a Muslim country – you won't get a Bible here," explained the owners of the bookshops harshly. Without success he returned to his own town.

Again he dreamt about Jesus who asked him to read the Bible. "How can I do that?" thought the old man to himself, "I don't have one." Later he was sitting in his favourite café reading the newspaper. In it he found a little advert: "Have you ever read the Injil (New Testament)?"

Below was an address. He made a note of it, went home and wrote a reply to the advert.

Weeks later some Christians from his country came to see him for the first time. They put him in touch with our missionaries. The old man was very glad when they eventually came to see him. His wife served them tasty fresh fish and salad. He told them about his life. There were occasions when God had kept him from an early death, one time was when he was swimming in the lake. He was a vet in his town, a well-known and much respected man. He had helped many people with his services and often didn't charge poor people.

He told us he had been put forward as a candidate for the Islamic Party. The party members had asked around in his area who was held in particular respect, and his name was put forward. Straight away he told the people from the Party that he didn't want anything to do with the majority religion. "That doesn't matter!" they said. But one day they persuaded him to go with them to the mosque so that, "the people would see him." In the mosque he became so uncomfortable that he immediately withdrew his candidature for the Party.

The missionaries recommended a Bible correspondence course to him so that he could start to understand the message of the Bible. They sent him a copy of the New Testament, but he could only read it with difficulty, so they provided him with an edition in large print. Many times they visited him and answered his questions.

Today when he talks to his neighbours he is confident in his faith in Jesus Christ. Doesn't he meet with hostility? After all he is in a country which is 99 percent Muslim, where those who believe in anything else are looked on almost as traitors.

He looks mischievous, "They can't do anything to me!" He has just turned 89 and he is held in respect. It would be completely unacceptable in the local culture for anyone to say something negative about him.

During our visit on this occasion we had a good time together. **With a winning smile and a woolly knitted hat on his almost bald head he invited the missionaries and ourselves into his little living room.** His brotherly love was plain to see, without him having to say anything.

Towards the end he took our missionaries on one side. "I am old and haven't got too much longer to live," he said, "I don't wish to be buried in the Islamic tradition – please could you help me." It is certain that his relations would arrange a Muslim funeral. The missionaries promise to help him apply to the authorities, so that he can have "Christian" entered in his passport.

This is not an easy process, but he was right when he said, "They can't do anything to me!"

For us his clear faith is a great encouragement. In that country it's amazing what he has to go through for his clear witness for Jesus.

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