

سلام عليكم / As-salamu alaykum! (Peace be upon you, a common Arabic greeting in Muslim communities)

As you probably know, God has called me to the mission field. Last year, I was blessed to be able to go to Trinidad and Tobago, Kenya, and Costa Rica. This July, I will be doing my first official mission assignment in a creative access country in North Africa. If you don't know what creative access is, it means that Christianity and missionaries are not really accepted in that area, and in some cases, illegal. So, missionaries must find a *creative* way to access the country, like through business or cultural exchange, for example.

Where am I going?

Here are some things that I *can* tell you about the country that I will be going to!

- The main religion is Islam (less than 0.1% is Christian)
- Their main language is Arabic.
- In *Open Doors World Watch List*, which lists the countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian, it is ranked within the top 25 countries.
- They have around 60 protestant churches that strictly only tourists or non-citizens may go to, but over 51,000 mosques. Many Christians meet to worship in each other's homes, in secret.
- Islamic Sharia Law is part of their legal system, which means they may not protect those who are not Muslim.
- It is still considered safe for tourists.

What will I do when I am there?

This is being considered a culture exchange program. I will continue to learn Arabic while there, walk through different parts of the city and interact with the locals and have "cultural workshops" which will include history of the country and culture, learning about Islam. I will not be there alone. Some people I met while in Kenya last year will also be going!

How am I preparing?

I am currently learning some Arabic! It has not been easy, but it has been fun. I have also been working on my health. My doctors are all aware of the area I will be going to and are very supportive. Because I will be spending time with Muslims, I have been learning about Islam. Having a strong foundation in my faith is crucial because Christianity and Islam actually have many similarities. Having a conversation with someone of a different religion or spending a lot of time in a place where another faith is very prominent could cause someone to waver in their own faith. This is also why we have people to check in with (our host missionaries, friends who are also on assignment, and locals who are Christians).

How you can help!

You can help me by praying as I prepare for this journey. Pray for my health, finances, education, travel safety and preparation. You can also help me as I raise support for this assignment. You can be part of the process of helping me become a missionary in the Church of the Nazarene! If you decide to support me financially, you will be helping me with flights, my homestay with locals, the cultural workshops (which will aid me in future missions) and so much more (est. to be around \$3,300).

If you desire to support me financially, you can do so by scanning the QR code below! I would love to meet with you beforehand to answer any questions you may have, please contact me through my cell (217) 994-1259 or my email tayisdancing@gmail.com if you would like to connect! This link will take you to my giving profile for the Church of the Nazarene.

<https://give.nazarene.org/donate/taylorc>



****Please keep all this information confidential and do not share anything on social media. This is very important and essential in keeping myself, my host missionaries, and the locals safe. Information being released can put us foreigners at risk of being deported, development of relationships being cut-off, and locals being imprisoned and persecuted.*

Open Doors World Watch List. <https://www.opendoors.org.au/world-watch-list/>

