

Vienna, November 1, 2019

## BAKERY OF GRACE

Dear friends and supporters,

Only recently, you received my letter "HELPING IN SYRIA". In that letter I explained that poverty has crept into almost every Syrian household. It is evident that without help from outside, people won't be able to withstand the depressing and threatening circumstances.

Poverty leads to famine. Hunger threatens especially the weaker people. Children, sick people and elderly people are the ones most seriously affected.

The hope of the church in Syria is that Christians can remain in their home country and can help the most desperate people in the spirit of Christ.

The church has the mission to assist the poor and the needy. Therefore, we would like to set an example and send out a signal conveying the grace of Christ to the poor.

Most cities in Syria still have state-subsidized bakeries. For the people living in the countryside, it has become very difficult in many regions to have access to bread which is not already hard or even spoiled.

We, the foundation "Korbgemeinschaft – Hilfe für Syrien", initiated the construction of a large bakery in a Christian village. The bakery will be able to supply 2,000 families with daily bread. Later on, the bakery can serve as many as 10 000 families, working for 24 hours in four shifts with 8 persons each. One kilogram of bread (i.e. seven flatbreads) produced with state-subsidized flour and energy currently costs around € 0.10 in Syria.

The building plot was provided by the Melkite parish of St. John Baptist in Maaruneh (18 km northeast of Damascus). The project is carried out in the name of the Greek Catholic Patriarchate in Damascus. The necessary state permits for the operation of the bakery have been obtained.



The structural work is supposed to be completed by the end of November 2019. After that, the final building work and the bakery machines have to be financed as soon as possible, so that the licence for putting the bakery into operation won't expire. The envisaged machines are modern, efficient and have a low energy consumption.

The very poorest (orphans, chronically ill people, destitute old people), who cannot afford even the subsidized price, will

receive the bread from the bakery for free and will also get the bread delivered free of charge. This is why the bakery will bear the name "Bakery of Grace".

This grace comes directly from God, because your giving hands and your mercy, dear friends and supporters, are likewise the manifestation of God's love in this world. He needs our hands and our hearts as vehicles for his work in this world.



Once this first pilot project is completed and operating on its own, it will serve as an example of successful help for people to help themselves. The bakery can take on the additional function as a training center and it can eventually diversify its product range to add other bread specialities to the original flatbreads, thus gradually creating more jobs.

The provision of help directly in Syria is to prevent the flight and uprooting of people. Let's join as Christians and enable our Syrian brothers and sisters to stay in their home country. Let's support them so that they don't lose courage despite the bitter poverty. Help for self-help is provided at eye level and preserves the dignity of the recipient.



The bakery will also be a valuable contribution towards peace and a good future. Where there is no acute hunger, there is less cause for social conflicts, envy, abuse, exploitation, corruption and aggression. Let's give bread to hungry children to protect them from those who give them weapons in order to abuse them for terrorist purposes!

If you decide to invest your help right in Syria, your donation will be used most sensibly and efficiently. You may be happy to know that every donated Euro that you entrust to the foundation "Korbgemeinschaft – Hilfe für Syrien" reaches the poor on a 1:1 basis, as the entire team of helpers is working free of charge.

May God, on today's All Saints' Day, give you blessing and joy through the intercession of the Saints!

A heartfelt thank you for any contribution you can give!

Yours in Christ  
Fr. Hanna Ghoneim

Bank connection in Vienna: **Korbgemeinschaft - Hilfe für Syrien**  
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Bank connection in Germany: **missio - München**  
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For further project information please see: [www.korbgemeinschaft.at/en](http://www.korbgemeinschaft.at/en)