

project 142



February 25, 2017

With so much to talk about, we are going to break away from the traditional newsletter and give you a list of ten random things about our lives in the Middle East. So here goes...

1
After a much-needed holiday break, class has resumed and Teresa and I are back in the full swing of Arabic studies.

2
For a suitable definition of **INTENSE**, see #1.

3
We found a great basement apartment we will move into very soon. (Having concrete walls without insulation, our top-floor apartment is quite cold in winter.)

4
Bacon continues to be treated and traded as gold in our area of the world. (For those of you that this seems odd to, pork is not very popular here and often difficult to find.)

5
Our most repeated catchphrase remains,

"That should be pretty easy to find."

Often heard spoken with a slight tone of sarcasm when discussing an object that would make life a bit easier for us -- but knowing it will never be found.

6
Most popular question asked of us: Our thoughts about the new U.S. president and U.S. governmental policies. For security concerns, it also continues to be **the very topic we try to avoid** since it remains an unpopular and passionate subject in this part of the world.

7
Blood sugar and caffeine levels caused by Middle Eastern sweets and copious amounts of tea and Arabic coffee linger at all-time highs due to frequent visits with local Arab friends.

8
Common items likely to be seen hanging out in the back of Toyota pickups at stoplights include: goats, sheep, a horse, and the occasional camel (yes, they will fit).

9
The concept of a "well-formed line" at ATMs remains unknown to most in this part of the world.

10
And finally, we'll teach you a common Arabic word: **Fine** -- a [klee-neks] type ordinary tissue used for everything out of the ordinary. Need the translation? It means: *table napkins, paper towels, hand towels in restrooms, window cleaner, dish drying towels, shop towel for checking oil, or who knows -- you might even decide to blow your nose with it.*



Life is different here.

We love you and are always thankful for your continued prayer and financial support.

All our best,

Pat + Teresa

Patrick and Teresa Houghteling