



## THE HAYNES

MISSIONARIES TO IRAQI KURDISTAN



Pastor Raymond and Sister Leila in the Tomb of Nahum

### Confident in the Gospel

Our church held its first conference! We invited Pastor Raymond Abou-Mekhael and his wonderful wife, Sister Leila, to come and minister to us. He has been a church planter in his home country of Lebanon for over 30 years and has established multiple works as well as a Bible College for the training of pastors. It is a blessing to have such men as an example of what God can do right here in the Middle East.

The conference theme was “**Confident in the Gospel.**” Over the course of just a few days Pas. Raymond preached on personal evangelism and holiness.

#### **On the first night of the conference something amazing happened!**

**Let's get some context:** The mother (Sister L\*\*\*\*) of one of our murdered church members is an “inviting-people-to-church” machine. That did not stop even during her grief, and we praise God for her testimony of faithfulness.

She had been inviting to church and witnessing to two Kurdish ladies for about 6 months. These ladies and their children had been attending the church with some regularity, but they had some resistance to the Gospel. We weren't sure why, but the church kept praying and witnessing to them.

On the first night of the conference, Pas. Raymond came charging out of the gate and the Holy Spirit was present during the entire service.

When the service was finished and everyone was drinking tea (as is required by all Middle Eastern churches) one of our church leaders came to me and said, “Pastor Matthew, you know those Kurdish ladies that come with Sister L\*\*\*\*? They want to talk to you right now.”

Usually that means someone is offended or wants to disagree with or yell at the pastor. So, I steeled myself and made my way to the office.

Once I arrived, I found Sister L\*\*\*\* waiting with both of the Kurdish ladies. They asked, “Pastor Matthew, can you tell us in a simple way how to believe in Jesus? Because we want to believe in Jesus.” Are there greater words a pastor can hear?

After a few minutes of walking through the Scriptures with these Muslim (now formerly Muslim) Kurdish ladies, they both bowed their heads and confessed that Jesus is the Christ to the glory of the God the Father.

**Praise God that even in the face of tragedy we can be **Confident in the Gospel.****

*As always, we ask for your prayers that God would make us effective in the ministry of the Gospel.*



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