



THE HAYNES

MISSIONARIES TO IRAQI KURDISTAN

"It is an indictment on our missions that they (labeled people) have not been more effectively reached."

Joel Haynes - Sermon: "Labels" 2019

Dear Pastor,

July - August 2021

A Broadened Vision

Cairo, Egypt

In 2019, God allowed us to travel to Cairo and preach a conference for an Egyptian church. Bro. Irfan Abdullatif, through the wonderful Light of Life Baptist Ministries, graciously provided the invitation and contact with the local pastor. The conference topic was "Baptist Distinctives" (honestly, what preacher could say no to that topic!).

This year we were invited back to preach again! We had two hour preaching sessions every morning and evening with question and answer sessions held after. Preaching to an Egyptian crowd is a bit wild and, once you acclimate to the context, an unforgettable experience. While we enjoyed our first foray into Egyptian culture and ministry, it was this conference that knit our hearts with the local pastor, Bro. Irfan and the people. God blessed the conference and we saw six folks baptized and added to the membership of Light of Life Baptist Church.

We will be going to Egypt again next year and plan to make this conference an annual event. As the Lord leads, we are planning additional trips to Cairo to strengthen and train local believers outside of the annual conference. Pray that Light of Life Baptist Church would grow and see men step up into positions of leadership. They face a great many challenges politically and culturally and would appreciate your prayers. God could well use this church to send more missionaries to the Middle East that are actually FROM the Middle East. What a thought! This is the dream of every missionary that men be called into the ministry locally and as missionaries.

Kurdistan

In our next letter we will be detailing some exciting new things God is doing in Kurdistan! The Middle East is an exciting place to serve the living God!

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

Matt & Apryl Haynes

(405) 468-6500 | mattaprylhaynes@protonmail.com

SENDING CHURCH

Maranatha Baptist Church
2800 N Divis, Bethany, OK 73008



Why the Middle East Needs More Workers

The idea of Muslim missions can be exciting. “You’re going to the Muslim world? Isn’t it dangerous?” “You’re in a war-torn area? Are you safe?” “It’s dangerous to convert there, right? Are you scared?” People are often amazed by missionaries going to a “closed” country. Let me assure you that workers here are as ordinary as you could imagine. It’s a romantic idea perhaps to serve here, but do you know what the reality is when the rubber meets the road? Missions in the Middle East isn’t hard because of these things. Missions in the Middle East is hard because it’s a *toil*. It’s a *labor*. It’s like Psalm 63’s description of a “dry and thirsty land where no water is”. **It is a desert work - both literally and spiritually.** Matt and I are seeing exciting things happening right now some of which my husband mentioned in his letter. God is doing some exciting and new things, but Muslim missions takes faithful labor! The soil in the desert is reluctant to give way to growth. So too is a society that has been steeped in as powerful a religion such as Islam for thousands of years. Islam has made the ground dry, cracked, and unyielding. The water of the Word is needed here in abundance.

We need workers.

The Middle East doesn’t need workers because the harvest is so large but because there *is* a harvest! It doesn’t need workers because the yield is too much, but because the ground *must be plowed* and we need more hands to plow it! There is too much soil for just the handful of workers sprinkled across the Middle East! The Muslim world needs faithful, steady workers *with a long-term mindset*. Perhaps you are someone who God is calling to come and labor in the Middle East or you could pray for someone to come labor. Perhaps you know of a Muslim in your town you could befriend or know of a Muslim community there. Whatever your situation, the unplowed soil of the Muslim community is spread all over the world and you could have a part in it!

The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.
-Henry Martyn

Apryl Haynes