



THE HAYNES

MISSIONARIES TO IRAQI KURDISTAN

**"It is a rich saying, that a preacher should go from his knees to the pulpit, and from the pulpit to his knees.
To which I would add, he should keep upon his knees in the pulpit."**

John Leland

Dear Pastor,

March - April 2022

Kurdistan, Iraq

We were blessed by a visit from my brother, missionary to the Navajo Nation Joel Haynes! It was a wonderful visit and he was able to meet many of the people that both Apryl and I have spoken of in our prayer letters. Joel was able to be a blessing to one of the Kurdish preachers by spending time with him and sharing his experiences in planting cross-cultural churches. Joel preached in our home and the message is still regularly referenced by those who heard it.

The Bible study is going well! We began with more than we thought and have kept more folks than we thought! God is good. There have been some new ministry developments in Kurdistan and we are looking forward to sharing those with you! Be on the lookout for an update video this month.

Cairo, Egypt

Light of Life Baptist Church in Shubra as well as the Sudanese Light of Life Baptist in Cairo each hosted us for a conference. The preaching was centered around Baptist Distinctives. While the churches each have their own distinct personalities, they were both a blessing to visit.

Unbeknownst to me, a local Catholic woman attended all five days of one of the conferences. I had seen her and greeted her, but assumed she was a member of the church. On the final day of the conference she approached the pastor and said, "I have been going to church all of my life. No one ever just preached out of the Bible and told us what it said. is it ok if i come to church here from now on?" Be in prayer for her that she will be convicted regarding her salvation and receive Christ!

We will be returning to Cairo in August to preach in an evangelistic conference where the majority of the attendees will be unsaved. Please pray that many souls will be saved and members added to the local church.

God has been so good to allow us to partner with Light of Life Baptist Ministries, International. He is truly using their mission model and emphasis on local church planting to see a great work done in the Middle East!

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

Matt & Apryl Haynes

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SENDING CHURCH

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The Historical Christians in Iraq

Historical Christianity has had as long history (if not longer) here in Iraq as Islam. Please understand what I mean when I say “Christians” in the Middle East. Other than a few believers in Iraq, most of what exists in the Christian minority is more akin to Catholicism. The majority of “Christians” living here were born into Christianity just as Muslims are born into Islam. They consider themselves Christians but have never received the second birth. Most are not believers. Scores of headlines over the years have said something like this: “Christians Martyred by Radical Muslims” and this is alarming to Western believers who naturally are deeply saddened by the idea of fellow believers being killed. However, it’s much more tragic than that. These are not fellow believers being killed and going to Heaven. Instead, these are people as lost as Muslims that die with no hope.

I say all this to help you understand the need of this minority group here in Iraq. Thankfully, here in Kurdistan, there’s no current violent conflict between Muslims and Christians, but the eternal need is still great. Though our main focus is on Muslim Kurds, we want to be faithful to share the gospel with everyone God brings into our path. Please pray for this minority here in our region and for us as we seek to show them the truth.



Apryl Haynes