



THE HAYNES

MISSIONARIES TO IRAQI KURDISTAN

"Credit for perceived success is a non-issue if our goal is the glory of God."

Dear Pastor,

May - June 2022

Kurdistan, Iraq

Light of Life Baptist Church

On May 9th, Apryl, myself and another couple signed the Church Covenant inaugurating the beginning of Light of Life Baptist Church! This couple was already well-grounded in fundamental aspects of the Christian faith and live a life that reflects the Gospel of Christ. We are excited and blessed that they desire to serve God corporately with us. It is a huge step of faith for them (and for us) and one that God is already blessing. They have humbled themselves during this church starting process and shown themselves eager students of the Word and have quickly applied what they learn in a practical fashion.

It took more than a simple plowing of the field and we recognize that we did not plow in a vacuum. This church is the result of much prayer and much work on the part of those in the USA as well as others in Iraq. God brought this church together and because of that we believe he will bless it.

Ministry Outreach - "Christian" but lost

As Apryl and I sat in the home of an ethnically Armenian family the old man turned to me and said, "Why are you here?" I knew where he was going, but answered politely. "NO! I want to know for which people you have come here? Muslims? Orthodox? Armenian? What?! Who did you come for?" The room was stock still. "We came for the glory of God. If God leads me to a Muslim I will speak the Gospel. If he leads me to an Orthodox or Armenian man I will speak the Gospel. We are here for God," I said with a smile. He shook his head and said, "We don't want the Muslims to become Christians." I took a deep breath and prepared to offend my host with as much tact and grace as I could muster. "My friend, then you have a problem with God. The Scriptures say that God desires all to come to repentance. So your problem is not with me it is with God."

This is the definition of Christianity that pervades most of the Middle East. These are 'first-birth' Christians relying on their ethnicity for favor with God. One need only replace "Jew" with "Christian" in Romans 2-3 and the story is the same. It is heartbreaking and these precious people need the Gospel just as much as the most devout Muslim. Pray that the Gospel of the second-birth would be mightily proclaimed among these who so desperately need it.

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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