



THE HAYNES

MISSIONARIES TO IRAQI KURDISTAN

"It cannot be God's Word for this country if it won't preach in that country."

Old Baptist Preacher

Dear Pastor,

September - December 2021

An Exciting Opportunity! **Kurdistan, Iraq**

As we mentioned in our previous communication God has been so good to connect us with Light of Life Baptist Ministries and Bro Irfan Abdullatif. Through that partnership we came into contact with a young man that expressed a desire for discipleship and ministry training. I am actively developing a relationship with another young man as well and praying I will also be able to train him. I believe I see the hand of God on his life for ministry. This dear brother and his wife have been stalwart in their evangelism and have seen many souls come to know the Lord. Pray with me that God will move on his heart regarding training and planting a local church.

The young man that I am working with currently, Bro. S., has expressed a desire to pastor as well as a sure call to preach! What a blessing! It is men like this who are the answer to church planting in Kurdistan and the Middle East as a whole. Foreign missionaries play an important role in the Middle East, but it is the local believer, the local pastor and the local church that God will use to break the back of Islam and pierce the hearts of unbelievers.

Iraq, as well as many countries in the world, is embroiled in war, intrigue and suffering, but God is not still and the Gospel is not silent. We believe that the Middle East can become, once again, the bastion of Gospel light that it once was. It starts with local evangelism, local training and local churches...just like it always has.

Cairo, Egypt

God willing, we will travel to Egypt several times in the coming year and we are excited about what God is doing! Please be in prayer for the annual Bible Conference at Light of Life Baptist Church held in the summer (summer in Egypt...yikes) as well as the Baptist Distinctives Conference.

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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Gospel Opportunity - "Jane"

Matt and I have known "Jane" since the week we arrived in Iraq. In fact, she was our first language helper. She was single and living with her parents in the village we lived in at the time. A couple of times a week we would take the short walk to her house and spend hours learning language and then share a meal with her family. She is funny, a little ornery, and very, very smart. Since we first met Jane, she has gotten married, moved to the city we now live in, had terrible struggles in her arranged marriage, fallen out of touch with us (as she tried to conceal some issues within her in-law's household), struggled to conceive a child, and is now back in our lives again. I prayed for nine months that I would be able to rekindle this relationship and am so grateful. She has shared with me pieces of what she has gone through and, even more remarkably, her mother has shared some details and asked me to pray on Jane's behalf.

Recently, I have had the opportunity to help proof the ongoing Behdini Kurdish translation of the Old Testament. Part of this process is to sit down with native speakers and determine their understanding of the language translation and grammar. Despite her mother's displeasure, Jane has enthusiastically agreed to help me with this. In the process of looking at scripture together, I am using the opportunity to create a Bible study with her. It has taken six years of active pursuit to get to this point with Jane and I am so excited about what has already come of it! Exposure to scripture has prompted question after question from her. She wants badly to believe as she always has - that God has a scale and as long as her good outweighs her bad she will be okay. She wants to believe that whether Muslim or Christian as long as we try to be more good than bad we should all be okay, but she is already seeing that Scripture contradicts her. This has spawned questions and conversation that make clear the Holy Spirit is drawing her and allowed me to share the gospel openly with her again.

Pray for Jane! If you happen to have one of the prayer booklets I gave out to ladies on furlough, it contains a picture of Jane and her mother (I use her real name in the booklet). As always, I would ask you to pray for her and for me as I know the Holy Spirit will continue to work!

Apryl Haynes