



# THE HAYNES

MISSIONARIES TO IRAQI KURDISTAN

**"We will suffer. Why not suffer well? Why waste it?"**

*Joel Haynes*

September - October 2022

Dear Pastor,

## **Kurdistan, Iraq**

*Light of Life Baptist Church*

God has been good to our church and we have gone from averaging 4 in attendance to an average of 9 during the month of October. Our church members are excited about services and have been faithful to share the Gospel as well as invite others to attend the service.

Be in prayer for our church as we endeavor to have a good reputation, practically, in the village where we meet. The village is peopled by Assyrians and they are often as aggressively against Christianity as Muslims are. Cultures in the Middle East do not, typically, make a separation between ethnicity and religion. Often, the name of a group of people is the same name as the religion of that people. When someone converts to Christianity the community views them as having denied their ethnicity and rejected their heritage. Islam is not the only game in town when it comes to attacks on biblical local churches.

## *Bible Study*

Light of Life Baptist Ministries, the organization with which we are associated, started a Bible study among some young Yezidi (an indigenous, Kurdish culture in North Iraq) men. God has blessed the study and the men have been faithful and excited about each study. One young man said, "We like coming to this Bible study because you encourage us to think about what the Bible says and not just to sit and listen to what you say." This young man, by his own admission, is not a believer. Please pray for Mr. H. that he will humble himself and call upon the Lord for salvation. Mr. H., after a study through the book of Jonah said, "God sees our possibilities and he will forgive if we repent." There is no doubt that the Holy Spirit is working in his heart.

Life in Iraq for the Yezidi people is extremely hard and the attempted genocide they faced at the hands of ISIS has shaped the minds of the younger generation. They are not satisfied with the status quo and long to be something more than just another victim. Pray with us that these precious people will see the truth of the Gospel and the peace that is only found through Jesus Christ.

*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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