



THE HAYNES

MISSIONARIES TO IRAQI KURDISTAN



Update #1

Tragedy

Nine months ago, after preaching a pointed Gospel sermon, one of our attendees approached me and asked if we could talk. "How can I help you, my friend?" He said, "That thing you were talking about with Jesus. The peace and accepting him. I want that. My wife wants that and my sister wants that." It took me a moment to recover myself before I replied, "My dear friend, would you like to believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior and become a believer and follower of Christ?" With a very serious face he said, "Yes pastor, we all want to become believers."

All three of us sat together and looked at what the Scriptures had to say about becoming a believer in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. All three bowed their

heads and confessed Christ.

Their lives bore out their confession of faith in Jesus. His wife, nine months pregnant, would climb the stairs to the church because she wanted to be with her "second-birth family." When their son was born Apryl was the first to hold and carry him to their home. They began calling their son "little Pastor" and expressed hope that he would become a pastor of a Kurdish church.

One week after being baptized, this brother was singing in church and seeking to bring everyone he knew to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. There was such a change in the loves of these folks! There is not space to tell all that we watched God do in their lives.

At the end of October I received a call at about 1:00 AM from one of our men in the church. Both this dear brother and his wife

had been shot to death in their home earlier that same day. The details of their death are tragic. They were executed by a friend. This friend had stood with them at their wedding. We praise God that the child was left alive.

This was a politically motivated murder and was not connected to their faith. This brother had refused to be recruited as a spy by competing political parties in our region.

Apryl and I visited them just a few days before they were murdered. He informed me of threats he had received and said, "I told them that I am a father, a husband and a Christian. I live for Jesus and not for political things." His dear wife put their child in my arms and said, "Here is the big pastor and the little pastor."

Preaching the following Sunday was one of the greatest challenges I have ever faced in ministry. God was so good and the Holy Spirit brought comfort to our church folks.

God has been good in this time of tragedy and I hope you will immediately read our second update letter, "Triumph," to learn more about what God has done and is doing at Light of Life Baptist Church.

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
news@kurdishmissions.org

Sending Church
Maranatha Baptist Church
2800 N Divis, Bethany, OK 73008