

MATT & APRYL HAYNES

MISSIONARIES TO KURDISTAN

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Maranatha Baptist Church of Western Oaks | Pastor Charley O'Daniel
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Dear Pastor,

September – October 2015

“Seasons of preparation are never wasted.” – Pastor Ryan Thompson

*The Lord is not slack
concerning his promise, as
some men count
slackness; but is
longsuffering to us-ward,
not willing that any
should perish, but that all
should come to
repentance.*

– 2 Peter 3:9

Ministry Goals

- Plant churches that will be pastored by nationals.
- Disciple and train men for the ministry.
- Translate Scripture into the major languages of the Kurdish people.

God must look down on his missionaries with no small degree of amusement. “I’m going to do this” or “We are going to accomplish that.” In spite of the focus and drive to accomplish ‘our’ ministry, he gently and kindly guides our eyes away from this vision of what we can do and toward his vision of what he can do. Everything we do personally is to prepare ourselves to meet him; everything we do ministerially is to help prepare others to meet him.



*Our destination and new home -
Zawita, Kurdistan, Iraq*

Kurdistan

The Lord has closed and opened more doors to us and for in the past two weeks than in all my years of ministry combined! Rather than list the many details, it is sufficient to say that God knew what we were going to do, where we were going to go and how we were going to get there long before we did. God has opened the door to obtain residency and a license to operate language schools in Kurdistan. There is also a possibility (truly in beginning stages) of planting churches out from under the authority of a long established, indigenous church pastored by a Kurdish national. Obviously, there is so much more to this than a few lines of text can convey. Were I to list everything God has done it would take several pages.

With all of our hearts, we truly believe that the Lord desires to see Kurdish people brought to him and local, Kurdish churches established.

Please pray that God would give us the ability to learn and absorb the language quickly. We have a lifetime of language learning ahead of us (Arabic, Kurmanji, Sorani etc..) and we desire to be effective and useful tools in the hand of our Creator.

Deputation

Even as I write this letter we are in our final meeting!!! Our departure date is November 20th. Deputation has gone well, but we are ready to be with our Kurdish people, God willing, for the rest of our lives.

In His Service,
Matt Haynes





The Wife's perspective

"God Must Really Love the Kurds"

One week ago, we looked at the calendar, looked at each other and realized that we were exactly one month away from boarding the plane that will take us home - to Kurdistan! A life change this big is a surreal feeling, yet it's what we have been dreaming of and planning for since the day we got married. Really, it's been even longer as Matt was called to the Kurds when he was 14 and I was called to missions at the age of 11. At just about the 20 year mark since He began this work in us individually, God is moving the final pieces into place for our move next month.

These days, I spend the majority of my time dreaming away about what daily life will be like in our new homeland while feverishly planning for the move, but I can't help but stop and consider His work in our life during deputation. HE HAS BEEN SO GOOD. There's not enough room to enumerate the moments He stepped in and showed Himself strong. Do you know what I've found myself saying to Matt again and again at such times? *"Wow, God must really love the Kurds."* And He must! There's no question He loves and tenderly cares for Matt and I, but the distinct impression I get every time He moves is this: God must really love the Kurds!!!

It's so clear through His intervention and supply that He has a special place in His heart for these people we get to minister to! It's so clear that He's blessing us so that we can go and bless these people He loves so dearly! It's so clear that He has such dreams for the Kurdish people that our feeble dreams would pale in comparison! GOD MUST REALLY LOVE THE KURDS! I can't wait to see what He has for the future of Kurdistan - and the future is just around the corner.

Apryl

~Matt has asked me to start contributing to our bi-monthly prayer letter with a thought "From the Wife's Perspective". I certainly hope that my little part can be a blessing and encouragement to someone and am looking forward to getting to be a part of our communication with each one of you that have a part in our ministry.~

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