

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,

November – December 2015

*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.

As I write this letter, we mark one month since our arrival in Kurdistan. God was good to us on deputation, but never have we seen the hand of God so prevalent in our lives than during this past month. We should not have residency already – yet we do. We should not have been able to acquire a vehicle already – yet we have. The media tells us that all Muslims hate all Christians – yet we have discovered they do not! We are rejoicing as we see I Timothy 2:4 “Who will have all men to be saved...” (yes brethren, that Scripture does mean even those who wish us harm) become more and more real to us. God has answered prayers before we prayed them and provided for needs we did not know we would have. Each day that passes makes me more and more grateful that God called us to this place. Our greatest dream is to introduce our people to the Christ who sent us here.



Apryl seated with the daughters of our neighbors Jasem and Miriyam. Wonderful people who need the Lord

Kurdistan

Kurdish soldiers (called Peshmerga) clashed with Da'esh (ISIS) in a village approximately 100km (62 miles) from our town of Zawita. Men on both sides were killed. Both sides fight for a cause, both sides believe in the truth of their cause, but when men on either side step out into eternity they do so without Christ. Our Peshmerga need to hear the Gospel. ISIS needs to hear the Gospel. I have no idea how we can get the Gospel to ISIS. All I know is that they will spend eternity in Hell if they do not accept Christ. Our Peshmerga will step out into the same hopeless eternity without the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. If God can save the cruel and murderous Saul of Tarsus then God can save the soldiers of ISIS. It breaks my heart to think of our Kurdish soldiers dying to defend Muslims, Christians and their homeland alike and then spending an eternity in Hell. What a waste and what a tragedy. It need not be so, brethren, for our God is able.

Personal

Please pray:

- For quickness of mind to learn Kurdish.
- For opportunities to share Christ
- For more missionaries to Kurdistan – there is plenty of room!!

In His Service,
Matt Haynes





The Wife's perspective

A Month of Learning

There's no way to narrow down the events of our first month here in Kurdistan, but I will try to share a few here by answering question I asked myself this morning: "What have I learned since arriving here one month ago?"

To begin with, I've learned that "squatty potties" don't smell lovely... no matter what you do to remedy it. I've learned that Christmas trees are surprisingly easy to find in this Muslim country and that my husband laughs at my childlike delight in such things. I've learned how quickly the village imam becomes human to you when he sings the call to prayer miserably coughing through his cold. I've learned that many things come to feel second nature here including being stared at in curiosity, unpredictable electricity outages, two cars in the width of one lane, and the sound of laughter after I pronounce words utterly incorrectly.

I've also learned that limited language makes you feel helpless when wanting to share the gospel, that God enables through the strangest of circumstances and that children are *beautifully* universal. Adults are also universal – a wife craves the love of her husband no matter what culture and a good man creates a thriving family no matter how little he has to give. I've learned that God can extend His watch care through unexpected sources – such as Muslim neighbor ladies who bring meals to your doorstep almost daily or the Muslim stranger who spends three days with your husband to help him secure a vehicle. Good Samaritans come in many packages and God opens doors in unusual places. More than anything, I've learned that I have *so* much still to learn, that nothing is going to happen overnight, and that no matter how easy or hard, God will continue to provide and surprise us with His loving care.

SENDING CHURCH:

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Your sister in Christ,
Apryl Haynes
Philippians 1:6, Philippians 2

