

# 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,

January – February 2016

*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.

"I think that ISIS and Taliban and these ones kill people will not go to the....what word you call sky?...O yes! Heaven. They will not go to the Heaven. They will go to the Hell. I think, Mr. Matt, that if you be peace to any people...to all people that you will be go to the Heaven. I think I am ok, Mr. Matt."

These are the words I heard from a young man in our village. This is the mindset of the majority of Muslims around the world. If we can be good enough, God will forgive us. In spite of media misinformation regarding the state of the heart of Muslim people, the fact remains that they, like most of the world, seek peace through reconciliation with God. For most, they simply live in fear wondering if they will have done enough to get by on Judgment Day.

My young friend said, "I do not go to the Mosque. They said to me, 'Grow a beard and follow us.' I say, 'Why I follow you to find God? I will pray to the God outside Mosque.' I do not like Salafi teaching, Mr. Matt."

Please pray that God will use us and others to be a light to people that are looking for the peace that is found only through Christ.



Ali Bapir – head of the Kurdistan Islamic Group. This man is in need of the Gospel.

### Kurdistan

The Kurdish Government (KRG) is currently undergoing a financial crisis. Most people in Kurdistan have not been paid for 6 months as of this letter. This has created an air of uncertainty for some. Politics are often a game (or treated as such) in the USA while in the Middle East they determine the life or death of multiple people groups. There is an Islamic Party in Kurdistan that seeks to wrest control of the country away from the moderate government we are currently blessed to enjoy. This fact ought not elicit fear or confusion as to what we ought do. Planting local churches and reaching souls with the Gospel is our commission and joy, brethren. God has not given us the spirit of fear....we do that all on our own!

We pray for your faithful service to him as we hope you do for us.

In His Service,  
Matt Haynes





# The Wife's perspective

## Thoughts on Hospitality

By nature, I am an introvert. As long as I had the company of my husband and a beautiful view, I'm convinced that I would be content living as a hermit and only rarely seeing civilization. It's for that reason that hospitality comes hard to me.

A couple of years before our move to Kurdistan, God started working on my heart regarding the Biblical subject of hospitality. I didn't understand it at the time because we were beginning deputation and I had no home to invite others into. Yet for two years, He consistently kept convicting my heart about it. With His help, I finally came to the conclusion that hospitality is not simply for the extrovert nor is it perfection in hosting skills. Rather, it is simply doing your best to make someone feel cared for in your space and on your time.

After three months of living in the Middle East, I am starting to see why God started preparing me in this area. Hospitality is everything here to a degree that I never experienced in the States. It's woven into the fabric of everyday life and it's seen in nearly every interaction.

Here, life is event and people-oriented. When sitting down for tea, time is thrown out. If an invitation for lunch is extended, the host understands that he has now given his whole day, not just a couple of hours, to his guest. This is so foreign to my American brain and, I confess, I am still adjusting to it and probably will be for a long time.

It is funny to think that God is using my Muslim neighbors to teach me hospitality so that I can then be a greater witness to them. I pray for the day that instead of simply seeing them open the door of their homes to the Christians, we will see them open the door of their hearts to the Savior.

*Apryl Haynes*

**SENDING CHURCH:**  
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*"...in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves...  
Look not every man on his own things, but every man  
also on the things of others."  
Philippians 2:3-4*

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