

MATT & APRYL HAYNES

MISSIONARIES TO KURDISTAN

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Maranatha Baptist Church of Western Oaks | Pastor Charley O'Daniel
2800 N Divis | Bethany, OK 73008 | 405-789-4662

Dear Pastor,

March – April 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

There is something unexplainably humorous at being awake during the 5am Muslim call to prayer and hearing your wife (who is still half-asleep) say, "You know something...just once I'd like to hear him break out into 'The hills are alive with the sound of music.'" Then, as if she had stated her peace, your wife goes right back to sleep.

*I hope you will never forget that every moment **is not suffering**; every moment **is not ISIS**; every moment **is not sacrifice**.*

*I hope you will never forget that every moment **is an opportunity**; every moment **is a blessing** to be exactly where God wants us.*

I hope you never pity the Haynes Family. We don't!! We are having the time of our lives! God calls every Christian to live a life of service and sacrifice. Perhaps one day God will count us worthy to suffer for him. Until then, we praise and thank him for the life he has allowed us to live with the people we love.



Matt & Pastor Behzad during a
Wednesday Night Bible Study

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.

Kurdistan

Iraq, Kurdistan, Turkey and the problems of these areas are so often in the news that Americans tend to forget these places are not peopled by problems...they are peopled by sinners in need of the Savior. For the life of me I do not understand our insistence that and dependence upon politics and governments (whether a republic, autocratic, communist, socialist, republican or democrat) to solve the "*Islamic Problem*." Muslims and Islam have never been the problem...sin is and always has been the problem. Governments have proven able to regulate man's sin, but only Christ has proven able to redeem man from sin. The surety of the Believer is NOT in political primaries or November elections but in a risen Savior who is ready, willing and able to redeem mankind. II Peter 3:9 is still in the Bible and God is still looking to save sinners (that means he wants to save Muslim people whether American Christians like it or not).

Prayer Requests

Outside of salvation for the unsaved and growth for the Believers, our greatest prayer is for the civil war that seems likely to happen ([is already happening in Tuz Khormato a town south of Kirkuk, Iraq](#)).

In His Service,
Matt Haynes





The Wife's perspective

Halat is a young, beautiful new wife who will soon also be a new mother. She lives here in our village of Zawita, just down the street from us with her husband and his family and I have had the privilege of getting to know her a bit over the last few months.

Halat is a Kurdish girl who grew up in Sweden. Her English is excellent and she is smart as a whip as we learned from her professors when we went to university classes with her. Spirited but serious, she has dreams about a different future for Kurdistan and of a bright future for her family.

It was at university that she met her husband, Dirwar. Their marriage was one borne of love. Many marriages in Kurdistan are between cousins and, though not always arranged in the strictest sense, it is strongly suggested who should marry whom. Instead, Halat and Dirwar met at university, became friends, and fell in love with each other.

The first time I met her, she was bringing a gift of food to our house to welcome us. From that first encounter on, I have never had a conversation with her that didn't turn serious. She's not one for small talk so anytime we're together we find ourselves speaking about more serious things. She thinks about the heavy things in life; dwells on them. It seems such subjects keep her up at night so to speak.

I've had two opportunities to share Christ with Halat. She's shared with me her fear of death and her doubts that we can really be sure of what's after this life. She's had questions regarding Christianity and shown surprise to find out we are not Catholic nor were we born into our "religion". I'm thankful for the Holy Spirit's opportunities to witness and I hope for the day that her questions lead to her acceptance of Christ.

SENDING CHURCH:

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Until then, will you pray for Halat? Will you pray that perhaps this new baby will spur even more questions about truth in her mind? Thank you and God bless you as you continue to serve Him!

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Your sister in Christ,
Apryl Haynes

