

# MATT & APRYL HAYNES

## MISSIONARIES TO KURDISTAN

mattaprylhaynes@gmail.com | 405-412-7106

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

Dear Pastor

July – August 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

### Prayer Requests

- **Salvation of the people of Kurdistan.**
- **Knowledge and clarity of mind in learning the Kurdish language.**
- **Wisdom to walk rightly before God and man.**

***“To preach as one who ne’er should preach again, as a dying man to dying men”***

Henry Martyn (from “Henry Martyn” – Charles Dent Bell, pg 37)

What a wild world we live in! A few weeks ago, there was a coup to our north, there is civil war to our west, Daesh (ISIS) directly south, and Iran straying further and further into sovereign Iraqi territory. I cannot think of a better time to reach out with the Gospel of Christ. He is the God of comfort and well acquainted with our suffering and sorrow.



**Bro. Farat with his youngest son and wife. He believes God is calling him to be a pastor.**

### Kurdistan

Just a few days ago, a Kurdish journalist was kidnapped and murdered in Duhok (about 9 miles from our home and the city where we attend church). He had worked for a newspaper affiliated with the PKK (*Kurdistan Workers' Party – a militant socialist group based in Turkey and Iraqi Kurdistan*). It is unclear whether his former party or the current Kurdish government was responsible for his death. While conspiracy theories and opinions abound, there is only one certainty.... **he died without knowing Christ**. All of his political ambitions and patriotic desires now matter little to this man who stepped out into eternity. How small our temporal worries and concerns must seem to him now. The tragedy of his death is not that he died, for that is the way of all flesh, but that which he loved most in this world mattered least. When I heard about his murder, several thoughts hit me:

- Did I pass him by? Did I see him at the market? Did I see him at the store? If I had studied just a little harder on my language, could that have made a difference?
- Have I allowed temporal things to consume me? Am I seeing the eternal picture or just what I can affect right now? Do I have a passion for the Gospel the way he had a passion for politics?

### Ministry

There is a new Kurdish believer in Iraq!! He had been coming to the services for a little over a month. Last Wednesday, he called me over and said, “Do you have maybe five minutes? Pastor Behzad has something he wants to tell you.” Pastor Behzad told me that our friend had now become our brother. What a blessing! It's not all doom and gloom, folks. God is at work and sometimes we are privileged to see it firsthand.

God bless you. We pray for you.

Matt Haynes







# The Wife's perspective

## Learning the Language

Imagine that you come upon the scene of a horrible car accident. As you jump out of your car to investigate, you immediately see that the metal of the crashed car is twisted and mangled, it's original shape unrecognizable. It's not immediately clear to you where the driver's seat or back seat are reasonably located anymore. As you approach, you start to feel the heat of the burning engine. The smell of burning rubber, oil, and fire permeate the air. Your heart begins pounding as you prepare yourself for what you are about to see, when you hear the slight cry and plea of a person inside. You get on your hands and knees and peer inside to see a lady in the driver's seat. It appears she's the only one in the car. It seems that with little effort, she should be able to climb or be pulled out the window, but when you start to pull, you realize that her foot is caught. If she could just reach down, it wouldn't be difficult for her to get her foot released. You give her instruction to do so. She begins speaking, but you can't understand her. You try telling her again. "Just reach down, move that piece to the left and your foot should be free! Come on!" That's when you become aware that she can't understand you either. You try with all your might to reach down and release the foot yourself, but to no avail. The fire is getting bigger and hotter. A desperate and sinking feeling overcomes you as you begin to realize that, unless you can get the message across to her, she's going to die in this car and you will have failed her.

This is sometimes what it's like in these first stages of language learning. There are people in our life right now, people whose homes we sit, whose children we play with that I feel will pass off the scene before we can learn the language well enough to present the clear Gospel to them.

Before I go on, let me state that our true part in this is minimal. I am not the only who can reach my friend Delvin nor is Matt the only one who can reach our neighbor Sidad. To say we are would be to glorify us beyond what we are. We are simply helpless tools in God's hand and he can use whatever means he wants to win them to himself, but this is how it sometimes FEELS in the beginning stages of language. I'm not learning this language simply to deepen earthly relationships, but so that I can tell them the only way to salvation! It's **eternally** important when I sit down to study Kurdish and, as God recently brought to my attention while I was studying, it is the primary

way he wants me to "...**become all things to all men**".

Will you pray for us as we learn Kurdish? Will you pray that, when we are overwhelmed or tired that we still have success in language study time? Will you pray that God gives us grace and our minds increased ability to learn? Will you pray that we never lose sight of why it's so important to keep investing time in learning? God bless you!

*"... I am made all things to all men, that I might by all*

*means save some."*



### SENDING CHURCH:

Maranatha Baptist Church of  
Western Oaks  
Pastor Charley O'Daniel  
2800 N. Divis  
Bethany, OK 73008  
405.789.4662

### CONTACT ME:

mattaprylhaynes@gmail.com  
405.905.0489