

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 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

"I shall never have to regret that I have loved Thee too well."

Henry Martyn (from "Henry Martyn" by Charles Dent Bell)

We hope this letter finds you having had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's Day. This letter closes out the past year for us and what a year it has been! God is so good. We would like to thank our financial supporters, both individuals and churches alike, for your faithfulness. Your generosity has allowed us to stay on the field and continue to fulfill God's calling for our lives.

We have received letters of encouragement from many sources that have been such a blessing. A teenager from Iowa sent a handwritten letter that I have read multiple times and has been such a blessing to my heart. While that may seem a small thing to some let me tell you that written words have power. So many have taken the time to send texts and emails designed to encourage and they have done just that. Thank you.

Thank you for the financial gifts during Christmas.

Thank you for your sacrifice prayerfully and financially for 2016.

I do not possess the vocabulary needed to express our gratefulness to you for all you have done for us. Thank you.

KURDISTAN

Continue to pray that whatever results from the Mosul initiative it will be to the benefit of the gospel and greater freedom to openly proclaim Christ.

We do not ask for prayer to prevent war (man will do as he has always done) but that we would be always faithful.

How can we not have such hope when we have such a Christ?!

God bless you. We pray for you.

Matt Haynes



Preaching, via Skype, for our home church on New Years' Day. It was a blessing to see a full house and privilege to speak to our sending church.

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.**



The Wife's perspective

The beginning of a new year is always a time of reflection for me. I like to think about the many things there are to be grateful for, consider what needs changed in my life, and I spend those last moments of the year asking God to give me a scripture for the coming one. He's faithful to do that for me every time.

Just after the new year began, I sat looking at the photos on my phone for over an hour just reliving the memories of our first full year here. I found myself smiling without even realizing it. As I looked at all of the photos, I couldn't believe the sheer amount of memories we've made here already. God is so good.

The picture below means a great deal to me. The ladies in the picture are a part of my heart now and I know you would love them just as much if you knew them. I'd like to tell you a little about them. The young lady on the left is Agreeen - my first English student. Her name basically means "fire". Meanings of names are very important here. She hates her name and scrunches her nose when someone asks it's meaning. I tell her that to me fire represents passion and drive and that I think that describes her within her shy outer shell — someone who burns to know answers to questions and who secretly loves to talk about her dreams. The young girl to my left and the two young ladies to my right are Hojeen, Roojeen, & Cajeen. Jeen (pronounced 'zheen') means life. Many girls here have Jeen in their names. Beautiful, isn't it? The amazing lady and my dear friend on the far right is the mother of this clan, Miryam. Her name means Mary, just as my mother's. I rarely get her to smile in pictures (culture prohibits that a bit) so this picture is a treasure because she's witty and kind and a little ornery and I think this picture captures that. She's taken me under wing culturally in many ways. Their home was the first we were in and they were the first Kurdish family in our home as well. Will you pray for them that they'll receive Christ?

I'm thankful to God for our first year here and can't wait to experience the next. I hope that 2017 is also blessed for you and that God receives all the glory He desires from your life. Much love from Kurdistan.

SENDING CHURCH:

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