



Kurdistan

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Dear Pastor,

November - December 2017

“Doing nothing does not negatively impact Heaven, but it certainly has a positive effect of peopling Hell”

David Peacock (sermon: *“The Certainty of Judgment”*).

“We are now in a dark tunnel. God help us.”

I received several videos on my phone from a Kurdish man that were followed by that statement. The videos depicted bombs and violence that occurred southeast of us in the city of Kirkuk. He asked if he could call and I spent 30-45 minutes listening to him pour out his heart. He was broken for the suffering of his people and the continual cycle of war in which this part of the world so often finds itself. “If there were no bombs we couldn’t go to sleep,” he said sarcastically, “They are our bedtime songs.”

After a while, we spoke of happier things and I asked him, “Is there anything I can bring you from America?” As long as I live I shall never forget his answer, “Mr. Matt, if you could find some peace bring that back to us.” My heart broke anew for the people God called us to. The Kurdish people desire a country because they seek peace; they look for God in Islam because they seek peace. It is the peace of Jesus Christ they seek in all these things. It is not a country our people need, it is not less war or conflict, but it is the saving grace that only comes through the shed blood of Christ.

Currently

Many things have changed in Kurdistan since the disastrous Independence Referendum on September 25. There is a nationwide feeling of isolation and depression. The Kurdish people are divided internally and besieged externally. While my heart breaks for their shattered dreams of their own country, I rejoice for the opportunities God has provided to speak of the peace that only comes from Christ. Our fellow laborer, Dan Rogers, made this statement, “If this is what it takes to make them consider Christ then it is worth it.”

Please pray with us that the failure of the government and national religion to provide a solution and bring peace will cause Kurdish people to listen to that still small voice calling to their hearts. Pray that we would be used of the Lord as his messengers of peace to a people in desperate need of hope.

Your servants,

Matt & Apryl Haynes



Apryl and I spent Thanksgiving with Bro Basil and his wife. He is a believer, but she is not saved.





The mother of one of our language teachers.



Bro Ryan Nez and family. Church planters in Window Rock, AZ



The oldest and youngest Haynes siblings.



Kurdish man from Turkey who understood our dialect of Kurdish!



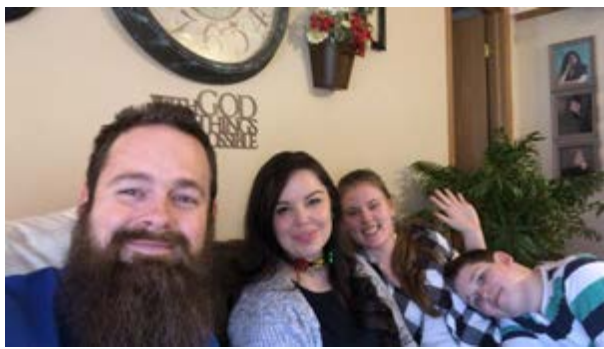
Apryl and Aya (the little sister of the groom).



Our Yezidi neighbor who has since moved back home.



Bîner, who said, "I want a beard like Bro Matt."
This little fella will go far.



God was good to allow us some time with family at Christmas.