



# Kürdistan

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Dear Pastor,

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**“...many a statesman has opposed the work of missions, and in their alarm have checked the advance of Christ’s kingdom, instead of looking on the gospel as the true and only remedy for the evils that afflict mankind.”**

Henry Martyn (*“Henry Martyn” by Charles Dent Bell*)

## Duhok Baptist Church

God has been so good to Duhok Baptist Church. Our attendance fluctuates as one would expect with a new work. We’ve had as many as 22 and as few as 8. One of the unusual blessings (and there are a few) is that the men tend to be the more faithful.

We began services with a doctrinal series that proved to be a blessing to the people. As the months have come and gone, we realized that they needed a break from the depth that detailed theology requires. We will eventually return to those topics in a corporate setting, but a break has created greater interest in Bible doctrine and that is encouraging.

On the advice of our pastor, we will begin Bible studies in our home sometime after the new year. This will allow more exposure to Scripture throughout the week and help to knit our hearts more closely with the hearts of the people.

Pray for us as we work to put more songs into the Behdini language of this region and find those that are already written or translated. God has given us an incredible translator and, as time goes by, we will be writing material (theology, devotional guides, Bible studies, family helps, etc..) for the purpose of publishing it in the Behdini language. English language speakers are spoiled for the amount of and ready access to Biblical material of all kinds. We take it for granted and rarely consider what it would be like to walk this life as a Christian without those commentaries, biographies and sermons that were and continue to be impactful.



Our church logo!!

## Matt & Apryl

Pray for Apryl and I that God would allow us to see his will regarding the church and our respective roles. There are almost no churches of any stripe that are nationally run AND nationally funded. It may seem like a pipe dream to many but God has clearly given us a vision for a Kurdish church without foreign money or foreign leadership. God has given us a vision for a Kurdish church that will shine as a beacon of gospel truth long after every person reading this letter is gone. God has given us a vision of Kurdish pastors leading Kurdish churches to start new churches led by Kurdish pastors.



We have no idea how God will accomplish this. All we know is that we get to be part of God's eternal plan for Kurdistan.

Thank you for your prayers on our behalf and on the behalf of the people of Duhok Baptist Church. God has begun a work in the midst of a war-torn land of unbelievers. Truly he is not willing that any should perish.

God is good.

Your servants,

Matt & Apryl Haynes

**!!!!Under NO circumstances should this letter be posted on any social media, church website or the Internet at large!!!!**

Questions regarding our no internet policy can and should be directed to myself at [mattaprylhaynes@protonmail.com](mailto:mattaprylhaynes@protonmail.com)

There are believers who bear physical scars of their Christianity and we do not seek to cause them unnecessary suffering. They have enough of that as it is.





# *The Wife's perspective*

## A 3-Month Old Church Plant

It has been a whirlwind three months for Matt and me. We were not expecting the door to open for the first church plant here for a while - as in several more years. Still, when God opens a door and says go through it, it's time - no matter what idea of a timetable you or I might have. It was God's time for us to start this church.

This church plant has drastically changed what our life looks like here in Kurdistan. Our schedule is crazy just as anyone in ministry can attest. We still work here teaching English as a platform so we can stay in country, we still have Kurdish language lessons, language study, all the social demands of the culture, and now a church building to maintain and baby church body to try and minister to. Suddenly, everything has gone into hyper-drive when I thought we were already going at that speed! But you know what? THIS IS WHY WE'RE HERE. It's time to, like the household of Stephanas, addict ourselves to this ministry (I Corinthians 16:15).

There are a great many important things that can demand one's attention when living in a country like Iraq. These things are greatly important such as meeting needs of refugees, getting involved in women's organizations and orphanages, etc. Such needs pull on my heartstrings every day and I hope that in the decades we live here God will use me more to meet needs of fellow human beings, but there is only ONE thing that history or scripture tells us that has the potential to keep the gospel circulating in this region for a long time to come - the establishment of a local church. Pray for our little group of believers that this work will perpetuate and be the key to future works and many more Kurdish people receiving Christ. We can't give you their names, but we do ask that you pray for them in a personal and individual way. We appreciate the support of each one of you.

**SENDING CHURCH:**  
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Much love in Christ,  
Apryl

