



Kürdistan

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Dear Pastor,

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“Can you and I look at the map of Asia and not see the unoccupied fields face to face with our unoccupied lives?”

-Samuel M. Zwemer, *The Present Crisis*, 1915-

Politics, the Gospel and the Syrian Crisis

The unlikelyst of companions are politics and the Gospel. One is ever-changing as it is defined by the whims and desires of sinful men. The other was defined by one unchanging man upon a sacrificial cross two thousand years ago. One is a tool reflecting the depravity of man and other a gift reflecting the glory of God.

As we look at the situation that has arisen and is unfolding in Syria we are tempted to despair and ask why or how this political situation came to be. I humbly submit to you that this is the wrong question. These tragedies have marked the long history of man and will mark his future until the Lord returns. The greater meaning of this political crisis is not what policies might be enacted to prevent them from reoccurring but what will the Christian believer do in light of the Gospel. There are many thousands of Syrian Muslims who have fled to the Kurdish Region of Iraq where they are exposed to Christians and a clear Gospel testimony. The politics will always happen over our heads, but the Gospel is carried forward by Christians on their knees. Every believer is empowered through prayer to intercede for their missionaries. Pray that those missionaries will be effective tools for the spread of the Gospel and hope of Jesus Christ.

Update on Muslim Friend

Many of you will remember the young man we have witnessed to multiple times from the small village where we used to live. During a recent conversation he confided to me that he had angered his father and uncle by expressing his desire to use his education and leave the family business. While this seems unconnected with the Gospel it most certainly is not! Many Muslims fear to go against the wishes of their families in any area of their life and this creates a social barrier between them and the Gospel. This young man's willingness to go against his family's wishes in one area may, indeed, put him in a situation to more seriously consider the Gospel. If his family is wrong about something so small as a job then the seeds of doubt regarding Islam can take root and grow into a realization of the truth of the Gospel. This is our hope.

Email Issues

Thank you to all who have informed us that they have not received letters. We are working on addressing the issue through various means. If you would like to receive our updates via Telegram or Signal please let me know and we will help you get that set up. For some, email is a must and we ask for your patience as we work out the kinks.

Your servants,
Matt & Apryl Haynes