



Kürdistan

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Dear Pastor,

November - December 2019

“The open door beckons, but the closed door challenges.”

- Samuel M. Zwemer, *The Present Crisis*, (p. 12) 1915 -

Christmas and Muslims

Kurdish Muslims love Christmas! They have no idea why we “do” Christmas but they love it. The lights, the commercialism, the shopping, the feasting and the general spirit of cheer are all things they have found fit right in with Kurdish culture. If there’s a celebration to be had, you can be sure that you will find a Kurd there eating and dancing traditional dances.

While there are things that I do not like about the commercialization of this season it is impossible not to see the many opportunities Christmas affords the believer to speak to Muslims who, otherwise, would not listen. There is no “gift of God” in Islam. For the Islamist, God is ever-poised with his hand raised to strike down those who do not measure up. The God of Christmas is ever-poised with his hand outstretched to whosoever will.

Let me challenge you to see this time as one that affords you, believer, the opportunity to speak to a Muslim who just might be more open to hearing the Gospel during the Christmas season. Be kind, be bold, be gracious and, above all, be seeking for opportunities to preach the Gospel.

Kurdish Bibles

I will speak a little more on the Kurdish New Testament in the video that is attached (Signal, Telegram and email).

Apryl and I are using this Christmas time to give Bibles to Muslims who are more willing to receive them as gifts because it is our “tradition” to give gifts. It has been wonderful to see Behdini speaking Kurds take a New Testament that is not Arabic, English, Farsi or another Kurdish dialect but written in their heart language of Behdini. We have had an overwhelmingly positive response and we praise God that the Bibles were ready for Christmas. Thank you to all who have prayed for the Gospel to go out in the form of the written Word. There is no substitute for hearing God’s words in one’s heart language nor for a linguistically direct communication between the Word of God and the sinner.

Please be in prayer for Apryl and I that we would be effective in getting these New Testaments into the hands of Muslim people as well as for wisdom regarding method.

2020 Furlough

The dates for our furlough are listed in the body of the email, Signal message or Telegram message. If you would like for us to come by and update the church on these past four years and our future plans please let me know.

May God bless you with a very merry Christmas.

Your servants,
Matt & Apryl Haynes

