



THE HAYNES

MISSIONARIES TO IRAQI KURDISTAN

"And O how I did long, that every soul of Adam's race might come to know the love of God in Christ Jesus!"

Elhanan Winchester, 1769

Dear Pastor,

May - June 2020

Furlough 2020

God has been so good to us, specifically, in that most of our meetings continue to confirm. We recognize that this is not always easy for our supporting churches and that, with the recent spike, there are further considerations and choices pastors must make.

Our sending church, Maranatha Baptist Church in Bethany, OK, has been a particular source of encouragement during our first furlough. Our pastor's father-in-law, Stephen Heidenreich, himself a veteran missionary of many years, has been especially used of the Lord to be a blessing to us.

We continue to travel to our meetings and would covet your prayers for safety on road, but more so for effectiveness in preaching and encouraging churches and pastors.

Gospel Opportunities

Kurdistan - A few days ago I spoke with another Kurdish friend (we will call him Mr. S.). He expressed concern for the poor in Kurdistan who will be greatly affected by the crashing economy and blatant fiscal theft of relief money by the local government. He was surprised that his government closed all the mosques in response to COVID-19. I began to speak to him of the peace that Christians have, in spite of COVID, because of what the Lord has done in our hearts. He quickly changed the subject. Please pray for Mr. S. He is a dear friend to Apryl and I and has shown great kindness to Christians over the years.

Plans and Needs

PRAY:

- *We will be able to return to Kurdistan at the end of the year.
- *We are able to raise the necessary finances for our Emergency Fund.
- *We are able to raise the necessary finances for the purchase of a reliable and safe vehicle upon our return to Kurdistan.

As always, we ask for your prayers that God would make us effective in the ministry of the Gospel.

Matt & Apryl Haynes

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SENDING CHURCH

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The Wife's Perspective

A Story to Inspire Your Prayers

On occasion, I like to use my platform here to introduce you to a Kurdish lady that needs your prayers. As we are currently on furlough and away from direct access to acquaintances in Kurdistan who need Christ, your prayers for them are appreciated in a special way.

Today, I would like to tell you about a past student of ours. Matt and I teach English as a means to stay and live in Iraq. In one of these classes was a very sharp but extremely shy young lady. For anonymity purposes, we will call her "Sarah". Getting Sarah to engage in lessons was easy, but her shyness prevailed when trying to have a conversation unrelated to class. I would labour to have a conversation with her that would facilitate that personal connection. I was patient, as I understand firsthand the struggles of introversion, but did find myself frustrated with the lack of success in finding that point of connection that would cause her to open up.

At last, on the final day of class she not only opened up but (as if suddenly finding the courage she had been seeking all semester) went directly to the subject of faith. Her classmates had left the room for a break and she and I were alone. She opened the purse sitting beside her and silently motioned for me to look inside. To my shock, there was a set of rosary beads with a cross on it - in the purse of a Muslim girl! Now, in our privileged understanding, we know this to be Catholic paraphernalia which is just part of another false religion, but to her it was a symbol of who was drawing her - Jesus Christ. I quickly asked, "Why do you have a symbol of Jesus in your purse?" She went on to tell me that she had been sneaking off to the Catholic church to pray. She said she didn't know why she was doing it except that she couldn't stop thinking about Jesus and thought there was something beautiful about praying to him.

I cannot express the overwhelm of excitement I had. I quickly told her, "Sarah, I know Jesus! He has saved me!" As Satan loves to do, the moment I started sharing with her, the students re-entered the classroom, she shoved her purse closed, and frantically whispered to me to *please* not tell her friends. After that final class, I asked Sarah if I could visit her at home sometime. She said that I would be very welcome. The students left in a taxi to return home.

Though I believe I *would* be welcome in Sarah's home, there has always been an excuse when I have tried to see her. I suspect her own fear of her family knowing has closed her door to me. Satan is the master of fear. I am saddened at the lost opportunity with Sarah, but Jesus did not draw her to himself and send her to me by accident or in ignorance of Satan's devices in her life. His door is still open to her and I know in my soul I will have opportunity with her again.

As I asked on the onset, *please pray* for Sarah. When I return to Iraq, I want to quickly start endeavoring to get in her home again. We would also ask again that you pray our other relationships with people in Northern Iraq do not suffer while we are away.

Lastly, I have designed a prayer book for Kurdish ladies in which are stories and prayer points for Kurdish women whom I've witnessed to. If you or any ladies in your church would like a copy of the prayer book, please contact me via text, phone call, or email (all listed below) and it will be my pleasure to mail it to you.

Apryl Haynes

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