



THE HAYNES

MISSIONARIES TO IRAQI KURDISTAN

"Agreeing with the Word is not just mental assent"

Ryan Thompson, 2020

Dear Pastor,

September - October 2020

Furlough 2020

When we originally planned this year's furlough it was going to be 6 months max! Our pastor, Bro. Allen Domelle, recommended a longer one. Truthfully, we were not especially thrilled with the idea of one year away from our field. His reasoning was sound and we came back with a one year furlough in mind. We are very thankful for our pastor's counsel in this area as it gave us opportunity to take care of health issues, visit family, get to know our pastor and his family as well as take part in some of our sending church's activities. We plan to make some adjustments in longevity in future furloughs but there is no doubt that this furlough was the right amount of time at the right time.

Gospel Opportunities

Kurdistan - A few days ago I spoke, again, with Mr S (I have mentioned him in previous letters). I approached the topic of the New Testament we gave him for Christmas, but he was very evasive and did not want to talk about spiritual matters. God has given Apryl and I great favor with this man and his family. We love them as if they were our own. At the close of our conversation Mr. S said, "We are so happy for you return to Kurdistan, Mr. Matt. We are very lonely without your face." Pray that the relationship will translate into the salvation of this dear man and his precious family.

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.

Apryl and I are so grateful to all those churches and individuals who have given to the Emergency and Vehicle funds as well as for those who are praying for those needs to be met!

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

Secrets of a Furlough Wife

In about a month, we will wrap up our first furlough. It's been a lovely year and our soon departure has me reflecting. Being back at supporting churches has been a breath of fresh air. We have been encouraged and spiritually built along the way. While traveling from church to church, you carry your field with you - the burdens of it and the blessings of it. There is often a beneath-the-surface dialogue going through the mind of a missionary wife. As I know so many of you seek to be a blessing, it occurred to me that perhaps it would benefit you to know some of these things so I would like to share a few thoughts with you now.

Firstly, she may be exhausted more than she shows. The endless hours on the road, achey bodies from travel, lack of consistent dwellings, unpacking and then repacking can be wearing. Though I am not one, this is especially true for mamas. A woman misses having a home and a mama is tending to children who are facing an inconsistent environment. She might be thrilled to be with you, but she might also find herself overtired and often unsure of what town she's in when she wakes up in the morning.

Also, she might be hoping you don't notice how awkward she feels. She may not even realize how much she has changed until she arrives on American soil again. You grow up in American culture, so it must all just snap back into place, correct? Surprisingly, it doesn't work that way. Upon arriving in a foreign country, the mind does what it has to do to adapt and accepts things as the new normal without one even realizing it. Your missionary wife may be juggling two worlds when she's at your church - the one that she's in currently and the one she calls her new home. She might feel like she can't carry a relevant conversation. She might feel frumpy. She might be feeling like she is no longer relatable. She might be afraid it shows.

Lastly, she might be longing to return while at the same time overwhelmed with the great task back home. She knows this furlough time is temporary; a stopover until she goes back to that place where God has placed her. It's home now and it has many joys, but it can also be lonely. It can feel not just miles but worlds away. It can seem that her role there is less straightforward than in the church culture she knew in America. She may even be dreading time with family because she knows it will just make it harder to say goodbye yet again, but also feel unsettled until she returns to her field. I've learned it's possible to feel all these things at once.

None of the above diminishes the immense gratitude that I have for each and every one of you. I love you in Christ. I don't know what I would do without you or without knowing there are people in the U.S. who are invested in us and in Kurds. I often think of you and see your faces in my mind when we are in Iraq. *Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.* You have blessed and refreshed me this furlough.

As a final note, I want to say this: I can only fully speak through the perspective of a woman, but our husbands have weight of their own - the weight of casting a vision to churches, making decisions for our foreign and domestic life and making decisions for our ministry, etc. Though we wives carry a great deal, the true and final weight of the ministry falls on our husbands. Please pray for them. God bless you as you serve Him!

Apryl Haynes