



## UNITED PEOPLE IN CHRIST, Inc.

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December 5, 2000

Dear

United People in Christ, Inc., is a group of caring individuals who work to support needy Christians of any age and denomination in the Middle East. We are licensed as a non-profit charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service and registered with the Department of Agriculture in Florida.

While our mission is helping the poor and needy we believe that sometimes it is wise to give the hungry man a fishing rod rather than a fish. This way he can catch a fish for dinner today and for the days to come. We have 20 Christian poor families in the southern part of Syria and another 20 families in the upper part of Egypt that we would like to help. These families do not have any fixed source of income, they are unable to leave their villages and move to the big city because they cannot afford to rent a house in the big city, find a job, or because they are so attached to their land and their traditions they are afraid to be lost and deceived in the bright lights of the big city. These families have many kids and they are struggling to make ends meet. Especially, when the father of one of these families is sick and cannot work. Most of these families seek the Arch Diocese, Monistaries, and charitable organizations in the big cities to get very little money to buy enough food to put on their table and ease the pain of hunger and deprivation.

The sad situation of these families does not affect

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only their physical well being but also their spiritual life, sends a lot of them into deep depression, and despair and makes them feel distant from the Lord and the Church. We have a modest and humble solution to help these families lessen their suffering and make them able to provide for themselves.

What is the solution?

The solution is to buy a single cow for each family.

What is encouraging for this solution is:

1. Their country homes are equipped and suitable to take care of cows.
2. They have the knowledge of how to care for these cows.
3. The availability of veterinarians provided by the government.
4. Their willingness to do this kind of work.

What are the advantages of this new project?

1. Milk and milk products are essential sources of food for each family and its' members; old and young. The extra milk will be sold and will provide a steady source of income.
2. Fertilizers are in short supply and there is a high demand for cow manure for fertilizer. Its' sale will be an additional source of income.
3. The calves will be cared for or sold for substantial income.
4. The monthly income from selling the milk and its' derivatives, after the family's personal consumption, will be equal to \$80 per month. This will be enough money for a family of five to live decently for one month.

Cost of the project?

The cost of an excellent milk producing cow, which produces 20-25 liters of milk per day, including transportation and a little bit of feed for the cow for the first few weeks is \$1000 in Syria and \$1500 in Egypt.

The number of poor families willing at the moment to have a milking cow is 20 families in Syria and 20 families in Egypt. They are waiting patiently for the day when we can provide this service and free themselves from the pains of hunger, poverty and fear.

I am asking on behalf of the board members of United People in Christ, Inc., and myself for a \$ 50,000 grant to accomplish this goal. We feel tremendous joy when a desperate and needy family finds peace and tranquility, renews its' trust in the Lord, conquers its despiration and regain its' pride.

Would you please help?

Sincerely,

Amid Habib, M.D.

# United People In Christ Newsletter

Thanksgiving / Christmas 2000

United People In Christ 789 Douglas Avenue, Suite 137, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714 (Ph. 407 862-0107)

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## President's Message:

The month of November marks the second birthday of United People In Christ! It has been one year since my last letter and I am extremely happy to report on our activities during the year. First, since January 2000, YOUR donations have helped many brothers and sisters in Christ both in the Middle East and here in Central Florida. These donations totaled \$ 6,230.00 !! To date, a total of \$ 7,498.22 has been distributed as follows:

Egypt --- \$ 2,500	Syria ---- \$ 1,031.22
Iraq ---- \$ 1,000	Sudan --- \$ 250
Jordan -- \$ 1,000	Lebanon-- \$ 1,000
Medication & Medical Supplies to Lebanon & Syria --- \$ 715.98	

Last Spring we collected over 50 boxes of clothing, shoes and toys that YOU donated to our cause. These were sorted and delivered to the Christian Rescue Mission in Orlando, FL to be used by needy Christians.

Our first annual picnic was held on Sunday, November 5th at Sanlando Park in Altamonte Springs, FL. The weather was beautiful, the food was superb and the music was excellent ! We had about 200 adults and children attending. I sincerely hope that everyone had a good time, while helping our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thanks to YOUR support in purchasing meal tickets, raffle tickets and our auction, we were able to raise \$ 3, 634.00. Since this was our first picnic, we surely had some shortcomings and we ask your forgiveness. We have gained some experience for next year and ask that you write or call if you have any suggestions for next year.

Several people have contributed their time, effort and money to make this picnic a success and I wish to express my sincere appreciation to these individuals: Dr. Mikel Tuten, Mrs. Alice Camden, Mr. Bassam Mnayrji, Mr. Aboud Mnayrji, Mr. Joe Mitri, Mrs. Mercy James, Mrs Marsha Childs, Miss Gladys Awad, Mr. George Layous, Mr. Edward Jacob and Mr. Tony Joseph Estephan. I would also like to thank the Arabic musicians that donated their talents, Mr. Joe Ghannoum, Mr. Khalil Maalouf and Mr. Kamil Antoury. Mr. Khalil El Sabaali, not only prepared and served our food, but donated all of the food for the children.

Our original goal for individual contributions for 2000 is \$20,000. Obviously, we are yet to reach this goal and we still need donations --- not only from Christian Middle Easterners, but from every able Christian brother and sister in this country. Your commitment to send whatever you can --- weekly, monthly, quarterly, will be greatly appreciated. I ask that each one of you tell at least three friends or relatives about our organization and our mission and ask each one to do the same. Remember that all members of United People In Christ are volunteers --- they receive no salary or compensation. Donations go DIRECTLY to the needy. Enclosed is a donation envelope, please help us.

We encourage you to visit our website, mail or email your comments and suggestions. We also would like for you to send us the names and addresses of others that might be interested in receiving our literature and support the cause of Christ.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth we are celebrating, be always with you.

Yours in Christ,



Amid Habib, M.D.

**United People in Christ, Inc.**

**Visit the UPIC Website at: <http://upic.faithweb.com>**

A Letter to Dio-Ginitos, 220 A.D.

The author of this letter is unknown. He is defending Christians to his atheist friend. As you read this, consider how it applies today.

“Christians are no different than other people in regards to country, language or dress. They have no towns or cities built just for them. They don’t speak strange languages. They live very ordinary lives. They are scattered among the Greek towns and cities and among the heathens, according to what the Lord has decided for each one of them. They abide by the local traditions as far as eating, dressing and the way they live, but they follow the laws of their spiritual kingdom.

Each one of them lives in his country, but is often treated as a guest or a foreigner. They abide by the laws and regulations of the country they live in. Every foreign land for them is home and every home they live in is a foreign land. They get married and have children just like everybody else, but they never abandon their children. They share food with each other but do not share husbands or wives. They live in the flesh but not according to the flesh. They spend their lives on Earth but they know that their permanent home is Heaven. They obey their government’s rules and regulations but the way they live is superior to any laws made by man.

They love everybody but almost everyone hates them, ignores them or persecutes them. They get killed but they never die. They are poor, but they make many around them rich. They don’t have much but they are given more and more of everything they ask. When they are ridiculed, they find their pride in the cross. When they get accused, they are found to be innocent. When they are cursed, they bless their cursors.

In brief, the Christians in the world are like the soul in the body. The soul is usually present in every part of the body, the soul lives in the body, but it is not part of the body. These are the Christians, you find them in every city of the world, they live in the world but they are not from the world.

The soul becomes pure with prayers, hunger and thirst. The Christians, the more they are persecuted, the more they increase day after day. The Lord has given them a gift, a grace, that is very difficult or impossible to let go of.”

1783 years later, things are no different. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Translated and edited by Amid Habib, M.D.

## المسيحيون في العالم

الجسد، ولكن لا بحسب الجسد. يفضون حياتهم على الأرض، لكنهم مواطنو السماء. يخضعون للقوانين المرعية، لكن طريقة عيشتهم تفوق كل قانون.

يحبون جميع الناس والجميع يضطهدونهم ويجهلونهم ويدينونهم. يقتلون فيكسبون الحياة. هم فقراء ويفنون كثيرين. ينقصهم كل شيء وكل شيء يزداد لهم. يحنقون فيجدون افتحارهم في هذا الاحتقار. يفترون عليهم فيتبررون. يهبونهم فيباركون.

وبكلمة، فالمسيحيون في العالم كالروح في الجسد. الروح منتشرة في كل أعضاء الجسد كالمسيحيين في كل مدن العالم. الروح تعيش في الجسد، لكنها ليست من الجسد. والمسيحيون يعيشون في العالم ولكنهم ليسوا من العالم.

النفس تطهر بالإمانة والجوع والعطش، والمسيحيون، إذ يضطهدون، يزايد عددهم يوماً بعد يوم. فالمكانة التي خصهم الله بها هي من الكرامة ما لا يسمح لهم بالتخلي عنها.

إننا نجعل هوية كاتب هذه الرسالة إلى ديوجنيطس. يبدو أنها وضعت في الإسكندرية حوالي سنة ٢٢٠. يكتب المؤلف دفاعاً مؤثراً عن المسيحيين ويرسله إلى شخص وثني:

ولا يتميز المسيحيون عن سائر الناس، لا بالوطن ولا باللغة ولا باللباس. فهم ليس لهم مدن محصنة يسكنهاهم ولا يتفاهمون بلغة غريبة، وطريقة عيشتهم عادة جداً. إنهم منتشرون في المدن اليونانية وبين البرابرة بحسب ما قسم الله لكل منهم. يتقيدون بالعادات المحلية بما يخص اللباس والمأكل وطرق المعيشة، في حين يعلنون شرائع دولتهم الروحية الغريبة والمتناقضة.

يعيش كل منهم في وطنه، ولكن كغرباء وضيوف. يؤدون كل واجباتهم الوطنية وبصبر على كل التهم كغرباء. كل أرض غريبة هي لهم وطن وكل وطن أرض غريبة. يتزوجون كسائر الناس وينجبون، لكنهم لا يهجرون أطفالهم. يتشاركون في المأكل، ولكن لا يتبادلون الأزواج. يعيشون في