

United People in Christ, Inc.

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A registered and licensed nonprofit organization

UNTIL WHEN, O' LORD

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Until when, O;Lord, you are going to permit what is happening to your people, called by your Name, to go on in the Middle East, especially in Iraq and Syria? They came to Iraq in March of 2003 and to Syria in March 2011 to free the Iraqi and Syrian people and teach them democracy. To Syria and over the past three years and nine months they sent 250,000 terrorists from 83 different countries around the world, to teach the Syrian people democracy and freedom, large numbers of them were released from prisons. The Syrian army has killed so far 100,000 of them. 50,000 went back where they came from and the country still has another 100,000 on a rampage of destruction, stealing and killing. 1,000 terrorists per month continue to enter the country illegally through the Turkish-Syrian borders. Another 100 through the Jordanian-Syrian borders, after they supply them with training, weapons, money and intelligence. So far, they have killed over 300,000 Syrians, 30,000 of those are Christians, maimed over 400,000. In addition to killing by bullets and guns, they enjoy different ways of killing, including beheading (playing football with the severed heads), crucifixion, opening the chest and eating the hearts and livers. They kidnapped thousands of people where their loved ones had no idea whether they were dead or alive. Kidnapped Bishops, Priests and Nuns. 25,000 children and women sold to Israel for \$10,000 per child and a little bit less for a woman. They sold the corpses and the wounded to harvest and sell their organs. Many women are stoned to death, thousands are kidnapped, raped and sold, most are Christians or Uazidi. The pretty ones are forced into "marriage" to the terrorists "princes" to be raped, the ones who are not so pretty are sold. In the city of Al-Rakka, Syria and the city of Mousel, Iraq, they opened "souk al-sabaya: (slave market) where the kidnapped and raped women are put on display and sold like cattle, putting 2 tags on their chests, one for a number, the second for the price which ranges anywhere from \$100 to \$500 per woman, to be raped again and again by the purchasing beasts. They burned or destroyed 100 churches and stole their invaluable ancient books and manuscripts, they looted homes and destroyed its contents, stole Syrian archeological treasures which dates back thousands of years and sold them and still selling them to the Turks and the Europeans. They stole all the factories of Aleppo, Syria's second largest city and its industrial capital, and sold it to the Turks for pennies on the dollar. They continue to steal the country's oil and sell it to the Turks for \$10.00 a barrel. They blew up and destroyed gas plants, electric generators, water reservoirs, roads bridges and medical factories. Until when O'Lord, are you going to let these atrocities continue to go on?

Never in the history of man, that half of the population of a country have become refugees in less than 2 years time, and keeps on rising, creating a humanitarian disaster of epic proportions. Half of the 22 million population of Syria have become refugees, 6 million of them outside of the country, the other 6 million displaced inside the country,

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where they were forced out of their homes after it was looted, burned and destroyed, leaving all of these refugees to hunger, cold and disease. The other half of the country have very little water, electricity, gas, fuel and medicine. Half of them are jobless, inflation is rampant, and people are barely surviving.

They can stop this war if they wish, and put an end to it, but they do not want to, they do not want to stop the killing, destruction and stealing. Obviously they want no democracy, freedom or peace in the Middle East, they want to dismantle it and divide it into pieces and each one of them has his piece. They love money, other people's money (Syrian's & Iraqi's gas and oil) and the "love of money is the root of all kinds of evil", (Timothy 6:10). The killing and disappearance of Christians in the Middle East is only a collateral damage.

Persecution and killing of the Christians, especially the Middle Eastern Christians, is nothing new. It started centuries ago with the Roman Empire, the Moslems, the Mongols, the Ottoman Empire, the Turks and Communists. In the beginning of the 20th century (1910-1920) the Turks killed 2 million Christian Armenians, and 1-1/2 million of the Christian Syriac, Caldeese and Assyrians. Less than 100,000 Christians remain in Turkey these days out of 80 million Turks (0.125%) Christians made 30% of the population of Turkey in the early 1900. Between 1975 and 1990 over 100,000 Lebanese were killed and half of the Christian population left the country to Europe and the Americas. Less than 250,000 Arab Christians are remaining in Israel and Palestine combined. By the beginning of the 21st century and between 2003 and 2013, 90% of the 2 million Christian Iraqi left the country with only 200,000 remaining. In Syria, and in less than 4 years, the Christian population has dropped from 2.2 million to 1.2 million. One million have been killed, left the country or are refugees around the world. 400,000 out of 500,000 Christian Syrians have left the city of Aleppo. Cities such as Homs, Malula, Sadad and Kasab are currently totally empty from its Christian inhabitants. In Homs they forced 80,000 Christians out of the city and destroyed 20 churches. In Sadad they forced its inhabitants of 15,000 Christians out and destroyed its 14 churches. In Malula they forced its 10,000 Christian inhabitants out and destroyed its 40 churches and monasteries. In Kasab they forced its 6000 Christians (mostly Armenian Syrians) out and destroyed or burned all the town's churches. So far, they have burned over 100 churches in Syria alone.

In Iraq, and on July 10 of this year, in the city of Mousel, they forced all of its 200,000 Christian Iraqi out of the city and burned most of the churches which date back to the 2nd century. One "nice neighbor" connected with the thugs, of course, gave 1200 Christian families a 24 hour notice to leave their homes and ordered them not to take anything with them except the clothes on their backs, they obliged. On August 7, 2014, they forced 150,000 Iraqi Christians out of the city of Karakoush and burned all of the town's churches.

This is a worldwide war on Christianity by Satan and his agents, the "children of disobedience". It has been going on for centuries, as I mentioned, but in these "latter years" it is not going to be limited only to the Middle East to wipe out the followers of Jesus Christ (Christians) from his birthplace (the great Syria) but to wipe them out from the entire world, while what is called the "international community" is standing by, not only watching or caring less, but aiding and helping the children of the disobedience to complete the work of their fathers.

Two thousand years ago, they rejected and conspired to kill the Holy One (Jesus Christ) and now in these "latter years" they are killing and conspiring to kill and wipe out his followers (Christians). "Why do the nations conspire and the people plot in vain? The Kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his anointed one. Let us break their chains they say, and "throw off their fetters". (Psalms 2:1-3). What a pity, they do not know or deny that the Christ rose on the 3rd day after his crucifixion 2,000 years ago prophesied by the Prophets and currently sitting on the right hand of The Father and will be returning soon to judge the dead and the living. The Prophet David continues; "The one enthroned in Heaven laughs, the Lord scoffs at them, then he rebukes them in his anger, and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, "I have installed my King on Zion, My Holy Hill". I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, "you are my Son, today I have become your Father. Ask of Me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession, you will rule them with an iron scepter: you will dash them to pieces like pottery". Therefore, you Kings be wise, be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flair up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him". (Psalms 2:4-12).

Forgive my impatience asking you till when O'Lord? But you do know that my soul is sad, my heart is bleeding and my eyes are weeping for what is happening to my brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East and to all the people of the Middle East. I do know that you have forewarned that we will be persecuted for the sake of Your Name and that all men will hate us because of You. You told us that "they will hand us over to the local councils and flog us in their synagogues. On your account we will be brought before governors and kings and bear witnesses to the Jews and to the Gentiles, and all men will hate us because of You (Matthew 10:17-22). You told us "then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death and you will be hated by all nations because of Me. (Matthew 24:9-10). You told us that "in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God". (John 16:2) (Read also John 15:18-21, John 17:15, Luke 21:12-18, Luke 6:22-23 and Mark 13:9-13).

We Christians (the Israel of God, Gallatians 6:16) need to be awakened up with little judgment because of our sins and transgressions, the same way the Lord did to "Israel of the flesh", giving them to the hands of their enemies and into captivity (Ezekiel 39:23-28). Is it, O'Lord that you are angry with us for not loving each other, the way you loved us, and asked us to do? Or are you testing us to see whether we will remain firm in our faith and love toward You? You did tell us to stand firm to the end and we will be saved (Matthew 10:22).

Forgive me O'Lord for being impatient asking you again, "how long, Sovereign Lord, Holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood"? (Revelations 6:9-10). Your answer comes that we "have to wait a little longer

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PRAYER FOR SYRIA

By Sadik Wardeh, Prof. of foreign languages at UCF & Valencia Colleges

The war continues in Syria for the fourth year. I hate to see my country in ruins. I am originally Syrian, born and raised in a Christian home in **Lattakia** on the Mediterranean Sea just about 45 miles from **Antioch** where the followers of Christ were called “Christian” first among nations. As the war worsens, attacks on Christians are becoming more common and more brazen. According to Dr. John Eibner (head of Christian Solidarity International) who recently visited Syria. Reported that Al Qaida-backed rebels were storming every little Christian town in Syria. For example, the residents who lived in the ancient Christian village of **Maalula**, where they still speak Aramaic, the language of Christ were horrified. After seizing the town, the terrorists ordered all the Christian residents to leave. While our political leaders do not want to speak about it, the reality cannot be denied. As the Archbishop of Canterbury recently said, :”It’s absolutely clear that Christians in Syria are being persecuted.” Dr. Eibner was able to speak to many survivors of anti-Christian terror in Syria. One man told him. We lived in an Armenian neighborhood in Aleppo, Rebels took over the neighborhood next to ours, and cut the throats of some Christians living there. I saw a man trying to throw a hand grenade at a kindergarten with forty children in it. The grenade blew up on his hand in the last second. More than 450,000 Christians have now fled their homes to Lebanon to escape war and religious cleansing and are now homeless and jobless.

Pray for Syria and for the Christians of Syria. May God inspire our political leaders to figure out a peaceful solution to this conflict, respecting the wishes of the Syrian people, who do not want their country destroyed. Our Heavenly Father, we place Syria in Your Hands. Father, I want to remind you that Paul traveled to Damascus. Father, the Gospel was preached in Damascus. Damascus, Damascus. And, Father, we pray for the canopy of the Living Blood of Jesus over the Christians in Syria. We speak to the persecuted Christians in Syria, we speak to the born again believers in Syria and we say to you, do not fear, and do not lose heart, but be strong and of good courage. The future of Syria should only be determined by the wishes of the Syrian people and not by the Islamic terrorists who infiltrated to Syria from 83 foreign countries. These are the same terrorists who attacked the WTC and killed 3000 Americans. Let us here at South Lake Presbyterian Church in Clermont, Florida pray for the Christians in Syria, the 100 churches burned by the rebels and the millions of refugees who live a miserable life in the countries neighboring Syria. Imagine that the medical supplies and the foods sent to the refugees by the United Nations were all confiscated by these rebels that caused hundreds to die. Syria has a constitution that guarantees equal protection of citizens. This is essential where Christians are a minority and are not protected. The radicals in Syria want an Islamic constitution based on Sharia law. I know very well that the Christians have lived in Syria since the time of Christ. The Apostle Paul was on the road to Damascus when he met Christ. Christians in Syria know that if the radicals overthrow Assad, there will be widespread persecution and slaughter of Christians. In my opinion, our president and his attorney generals have turned their backs on God and on the Syrian Christians. This is shameful. The world used to look to America for moral leadership. But those days are long gone. The Bible says that one day, “all nations will be gathered before God” (Matthew 25:34) for judgment and that “ at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. (Philippians 2:10). Please pray for Syria.

THE JOY OF THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH

By Dolores Devine

It is challenging to be constantly barraged by reports and images of war, death and destruction without feeling depressed or discouraged. Yet the Lord has sovereignly willed that each of us be on earth “for a time such as this”. (Esther 4:14).

The prophet Isaiah warns us that “darkness will cover the earth and gross darkness the people”. (Is 60:2). Yet Jesus said because He is the “Light of the world:(Jn 8:12), that IN Him, we Christians are to bear His light/ We are to be witnesses too His victory over the present dire circumstances on earth. “In the world you shall be tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”. (Jn 16:33)

Recently, I was feeling helpless and almost hopeless while observing the advancement of unfathomable evil in the Middle East and here at home. Turning to the Lord in prayer, He replied. The following is a brief excerpt of His gracious exhortation.

Unless you keep your thoughts “above”
In place of peace and perfect love,
You’ll suffer torture mentally,
So keep your focus fixed on Me.

The road is difficult, it’s true.
but Holy Spirit counsels you.
Receive his wisdom, lean on Him,
Be fortified by Christ within.

You often think you’ve lost your joy,
Yet if you would My word employ,
Your joy and strength would soon return;
It is for *this* you truly yearn.

The battle’s fierce, but you’re prepared,
as revelation I have shared.
Keep close, with ear attuned to Me’
In My Protection, you will be.

So, beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, since we are still **in** this world, we know that we have an assignment, a call and a destiny to complete. Let us united **in** Him, as the people of God—one Body of Christ, one voice, to proclaim His truth and shine His light to a darkened world. Let us remember to daily declare His word and receive his blessings.

“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices; and with my song I will praise Him:. (Ps 28:7).

“The JOY of the Lord is my strength:. (Neh 8:10) ALLELUIA

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until the number of our fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed, as they have been was completed". (Revelations 6:11) And that "you have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen that you must bring them also, they too will listen to your voice and there shall be one flock and one shepherd". (John 10:16).

Please hear me O'Lord as I shout and pray with your Prophet David "O'Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, in your faithfulness and righteousness comes to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment for no one living is righteous before you. The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground, he makes me dwell in darkness like those long dead. So my spirit grows faint within me, my heart within me is dismayed. I remember the days of long ago, I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done. I spread out my hands to you, my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Answer me quickly O'Lord, my spirit fails, do not hide your face from me or I will be like those who go down in the pit. Let the morning bring my word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Rescue me from my enemies, O'Lord, for I hide myself in You. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God, may your good spirit lead me on level ground. For your Name's sake, O'Lord preserve my life, in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble. In your unfailing love, silence my enemies, destroy all of my foes, for I am your servant. (Psalm 143:1-12)

Please pray for Syria and Iraq and for all of our suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ all over the World.

Wishing each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Amid Habib, M.D., .F.A.A.P., F.A.C.E.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past November, United People in Christ celebrated its 16th birthday in service of our Lord, helping our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East. The board members and myself admit that we could not have done what we did without your assistance and help.

Up to September 30, 2013 your donations have totaled \$452,046.07 of which we have distributed \$425,828.27 to our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East and we still have around \$20,000.00 to be distributed before the end of the year. We have kept our administration costs at 10% or less per year and for the past 16 years. All of this work was done by volunteers, whose purpose is only to glorify the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ and to help the people called by his name in need in the Middle East.

I am deeply grateful for all of my friends who helped and continue to help our cause this year and all the years. If you need a copy of our financial statement please stop by our office after January 31, 2015 to pick up one or call us and we will mail it to you.

If your address has changed, if you would like us to correct the spelling of your name, if you would like us to mail our free newsletter to any of your relatives or friends, if you are receiving more than one copy of this newsletter at the same address, or you want to remove your name from our mailing list, please call us, write us or send your note by fax. We thank you and ask the Lord to Bless you always.

Your brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East, especially in Syria, Iraq, Egypt and the West Bank, are not only enduring persecution but also a very hard and harsh economical time. This Christmas season, I am asking you to help us in helping them by sending your generous tax deductible donations in the enclosed self-addressed envelope and May the Lord Bless you Always!

The UPIC Spring Picnic in May 4, 2014 and the Fall Dinner on October 18, 2014 were both a great success and everyone had a good time.

The May Picnic generated \$3,212.00 and the October Dinner generated \$8,927.00 for a total of \$12,139.00.

Thanks to everyone who donated and worked to make these two events a real success.

We need volunteers to serve on our Advisory Board. If you are interested, please call Dr. Habib at 407-862-0107.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A great big THANK YOU to Hanna & Marsiel Layous and Amer & Sabil Bitar for donating the food for the April picnic. To Bassam Georgi of the Black Angus Steak House for donating the food for the October dinner, Dr. Olfat Mansour for donating the drinks, Vera Layous for the centerpieces, and gifts for the raffle and door prizes, Fran Brown and Vicky Trovillion for donating gifts & certificates and all who donated money, gifts and helped.. Special thanks to all who continue to donate monthly, especially Esther and Jonathan Phelps who continue to donate \$1,000.00 monthly to United People in Christ. We ask the Lord to reward them 100 times what they give.

I am indebted to Janet Williamson for the preparation and editing of this newsletter

You can now read this UPIC newsletter and our previous newsletters by visiting our Website:
Unitedpeopleinchrist.org.



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UPIC Picnic and Annual Banquet

The Spring UPIC Picnic

will take place on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 1:30 P.M.
Sanlando Park, Altamonte, Springs FL.

The Fall UPIC Banquet

will take place on Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.
Location to be announced later.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

All donations are tax deductible and all proceeds will go to help our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East.