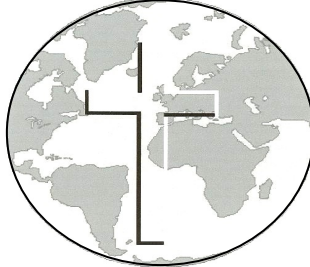


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A registered and licensed nonprofit organization

WHY ARE YOU PERSECUTING ME?

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Reading from the book of Acts. “Meanwhile Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the High Priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that he found any there who belonged to the Way whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from Heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “**Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?**” “Who are you Lord? Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.” he replied. “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” (Acts 9:1-6).

Notice that the terrorist Saul was going to Damascus to gather and arrest and bring back to Jerusalem, the Jews who belonged to “The Way” (became Christians) to stand trial and put to death. Notice that the Lord did not ask Saul why are you persecuting my people? Why are you persecuting my followers? Why are you persecuting my Disciples? Rather, he asked him why are you persecuting me? The same story is repeated by Paul himself in Acts, Chapter 22 under the defense before the Jews. (Acts 22:1-24).

ADVISORY BOARD

Dolores Devine

Aida Hourani

Hanna Layous

Vera Layous

Bassam Mnayarji

Dr. Mikel Tuten

In Mathew we read. “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, he will separate the people one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, come, you are blessed by my father, take your inheritance the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you give me something to eat, I was thirsty and you give me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him, Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needed clothes and clothed you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? The King will reply, **I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine you did for me.** Then He will say to those on his left, depart from me, you are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you give me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you give me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me. They will also answer, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, or a stranger, or needing clothes or sick or in prison and did not help you? He will reply, **I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of least of these you did not do for me.** Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life”. (Mathew 25:31-46)

Continued on Page Two

WEBMASTER

Julia Elzinga

Notice here a couple of very interesting observations. The first, that the judgment is based on what you have done to your fellow man, the second is that when offering food to a hungry person , giving a drink to a thirsty one, clothing a naked person, or you visit a sick person in a hospital or in a prison you do not do these acts of mercy for these people, you do it for the Lord himself and when you don't do it for these people, you do not do it for the Lord himself, and this is what Paul (previously the terrorist Saul) writes in Clossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men".

Christian persecution is not new. It started with Christ's Disciples who were terrified after his arrest and crucifixion that they ran away and scattered all over the places, but they got their confidence and faith after his resurrection and preached in His name giving their lives, for his sake.

I am certain that if Christ was among us today that they will persecute Him and crucify him again, but as they cannot lay hands on Him these days, they persecute His followers and whoever believes in His name, not knowing intentionally or unintentionally that persecuting his followers is counted as persecuting Him. These days the followers of Christ are being killed, slaughtered , burned and hanged on crosses all over the world, especially in Syria and Iraq and what is called the "International Community" is watching. But the man will be back soon to judge the dead and the living. The persecutors and the watchers will be on their knees, they will be asked, Why have you persecuted me?

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

Wishing every one 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 17th 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.

Since its inception back in 1998 and up to September 30, 2015 your donations have totaled \$511,098.00 of which we have distributed \$471,822.00 to our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East and we still have around \$25,000.00 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 17 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 my friends who helped and continue to help our cause this year and thru the past 17 years. If you need a copy of our financial statement please stop by our office after January 31, 2016 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 and 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 on April 26, 2015 and the Fall Dinner on October 24, 2015 were both a great success and everyone had a good time. The April Picnic generated \$2,730.00, the Fall Dinner generated \$8,450.00 for a total of \$11,180.00 generated to help our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East. Thanks to everyone who donated and worked to make these two events a real success.

A SPECIAL THANKS!

For the October 24 dinner, the food was donated by Bassam Georgi and his family of the Black Angus Restaurant, the drinks and Humus was donated by Amer Birar, the desserts by Marsiel Layous and the center-pieces were donated by Vera Layous. Khalil Almaalooof and Joe Ghannoum donated their musical talent and entertainment. All the door prizes and raffle items were also donated.

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

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

You can read this UPIC newsletter and our previous Newsletters by visiting our Website at:

unitedpeopleinchrist.org



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UPIC Picnic and Annual Banquet

The Spring UPIC Picnic

will take place on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.
Sanlando Park, Altamonte, Springs FL.

The Fall UPIC Banquet

will take place on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 6:30 P.M.
Location to be announced later.

PLEASE MARK THESE TWO DATES ON 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.