

# United People in Christ, Inc.

## Business Address:

789 Douglas Ave.  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

## Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 162601  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716-2601



Phone: 407-862-0107

FAX: 407-862-1283

Email: iupic@aol.com

Website: upic.faithweb.com

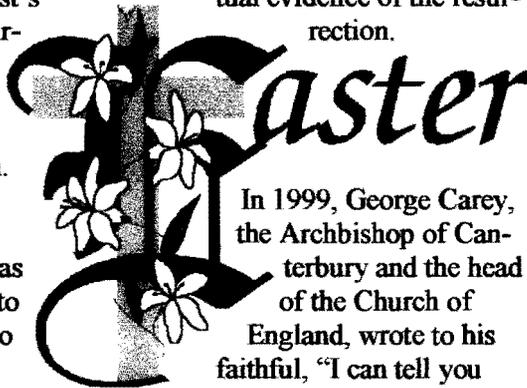
**A registered and licensed non-profit organization**

## CHRIST IS RISEN, INDEED HE IS RISEN

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the greatest event in the history of man. Christ, himself spoke of it before and after His crucifixion. The Psalms and the prophets of the Old Testament foretold of it 1,000

years earlier. The 11 Disciples of Christ and more than 500 individuals witnessed Christ's presence during the 40 days following His resurrection. He also appeared to a man who was on his way to Damascus to persecute Jews who had found the way, the truth and the life. This man became known as the Apos-

tle Paul. There is indisputable historic, archaeological, spiritual and intellectual evidence of the resurrection.



In 1999, George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the head of the Church of England, wrote to his faithful, "I can tell you frankly that while we can be absolutely sure that Jesus lived and that he was certainly crucified on the

cross, we cannot, with the same certainty, say that we know that he was raised by God from the dead." The statement made by the Archbishop is not new. Two thousand years before him, the Apostle Paul addressed the issue of the resurrection with the inhabitants of Corinth.

In his first letter to the Corinthians (I Corinthians 15) he carried the good news about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. "For I delivered unto you first of all

*(See Habib on page 3)*

### Board of Directors

- **Amid Habib, M.D.**  
*Founder, President, Director*
- **Bassam H. Mnayarji**  
*Vice President, Director*
- **Joe Mitri**  
*Treasurer, Director*
- **Alice Camden**  
*Secretary*
- **Hana Layous**  
*Director*
- **Issa Baroudi, M.D.**  
*Director*
- **Fouad Hajjar, M.D.**  
*Director*
- **Dr. Mikel Tuten**  
*Director*
- **Dixie Bunn**  
*Director*
- **Dr. Issa Batarshe**  
*Director*

### Join Us for Our Upcoming Fund Raisers

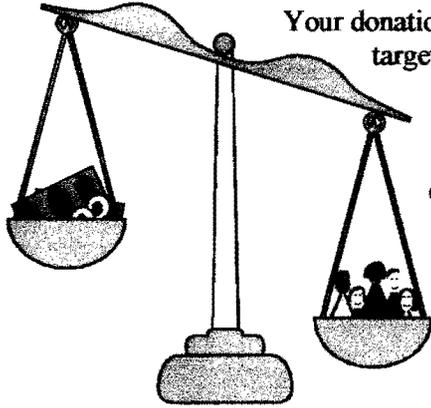
**3rd annual Spring Picnic**  
*April 21, 2002 from 2-6 P.M.*

The picnic will be held at Sanlando Park, Altamonte Springs. We will be featuring Khalil Maalouf and the Arabic music band of Joe Ghannoum, George Warra, Kamil Antoury and Ayed Nshewat. There will also be Middle Eastern food, entertainment and activities. Donations are tax deductible and all the proceeds will benefit the needy Christians of the Middle East. Bring your family and join us for a fun afternoon. **Please display our picnic flyer.**

**Spring Garage Sale**  
*May 17 and 18, 2002.*

Our garage sale this year is being run by Olga Shearer and Richard Brooks. It will be held at Olga's residence at 626 Truedale Drive, Altamonte Springs. Again, all items donated to the garage sale are tax deductible and the proceeds will go to UPC. If you have items you would like to donate, please contact Dr. Habib's office (407-862-0107) or Olga Shearer (407-767-5624).

# What Have We Done With Your Money?



Your donations for 2001 totaled \$11, 683.12. This amount is much less than our anticipated target of \$20,000.00.

Experts say the way to tell whether a charity is a good one is to look at the amount of contributions that go to administrative expenses (10% is considered exceptionally low) and the commitment of the Board of Directors.

Only \$386.84 of your donations last year went to administrative expenses, 3.3% of the total funds received. The Board of Directors contributed an additional \$3,689.00 for other expenses and fees.

## The distribution of funds in 2001 were as follows:

### Syria:

- \$5,250. To purchase 5 cows for 5 families who will care for these animals. This will provide the family with milk to drink, excess milk to sell, fertilizer and newborn calves for additional income.
- \$ 200. To *Alsafina Charity* which cares for the mentally and physically handicapped.
- \$ 220. To the *Order of Mother Teresa Nuns* who care for the homeless.
- \$1,000. The *St. Vincent de Paul* in Damascus, who care for the poor and needy.
- \$ 200. For the *Maronite Catholic Charity* in Damascus, who care for the poor.
- \$ 130. To *St. Gregorio's Orthodox Orphanage for Boys*.
- \$7,000.

### Lebanon:

- \$3,000. To the *Christians of Lebanon* contributed to the families of imprisoned Christians in South Lebanon.

### Israel:

- \$1,000. To an organization that cares for the Christian poor in Jerusalem.

### September 11 Fund:

- \$1,000. For families of New York City Firefighters

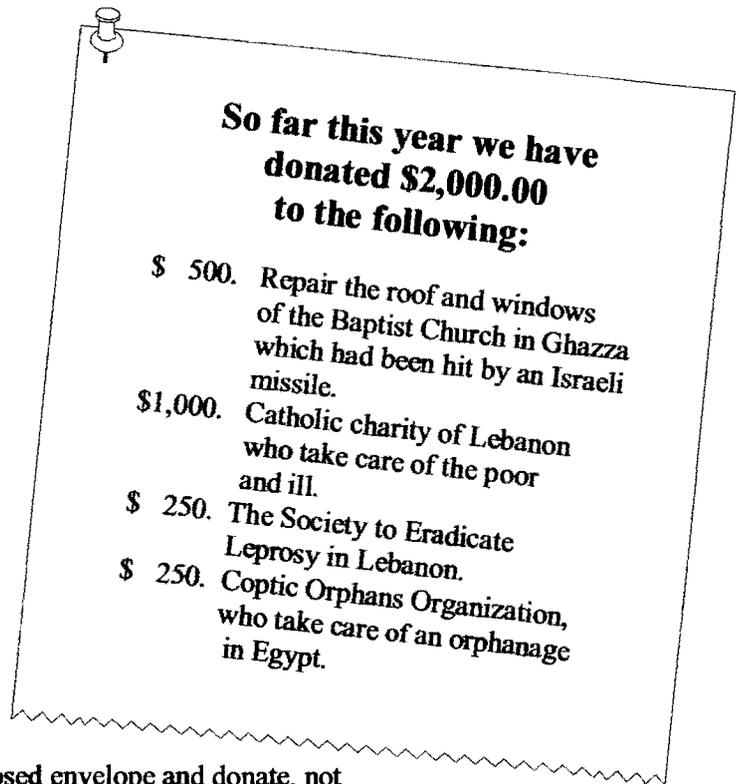
**Total distribution in 2001: \$12,000**

## PLEASE HELP UPC THIS EASTER!

As you can see, UPC puts money where it counts — in the hands of our needy Christian Brothers and Sisters in the Middle East.

This Easter we need YOUR help! Please use the enclosed envelope and donate, not to help us, but to help THEM! What better way to celebrate the real meaning of Easter than to help a needy Christian you don't even know!

**God Bless**



(Habib continued from page 1)

that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins, according to the scripture, and that he was buried, and that he rose again, the third day, according to the scripture.” He emphasized that the resurrection of Christ is a fact beyond any doubt, testifying himself, “And last of all, he was seen by me, also as one born out of due time.” Paul continues to say, “And if Christ be not risen, then our preaching is vain and your faith is vain.”

I think the Archbishop of Canterbury has preached himself out of a job. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a fact beyond any doubt, and it is the cornerstone of our Christian faith. Christians do not die, they go to sleep, take a nap, but later on there is no question and no doubt they will rise from the dead as their master Christ rose from the dead, and will be with him forever. Christ has abolished death, and has brought life and immortality to light (2 Timothy 1:10).

Wishing each and every one of you a very happy and blessed Easter.

Amid Habib, M.D.

# Easter and When Did God Start?

By Dr. Mikel Tuten

When I agreed to write this article for our Easter Newsletter, I had no clue what I would write. Obviously, it had to have something to do with Easter, so I asked myself, Is Easter a beginning or an ending? A bit of both maybe? It indeed was the “end” of the “human” life of Christ, or was it? Did he not rise again on the third day? Sure he did! And certainly that can’t be an ending. Somewhat perplexing to logic, yet crystal clear through faith.

This reminded me of another perplexing question. Many years ago (I was sixteen, I think), I attended a multi-denomination religion class. One of my classmates posed the question, When did God start? A young Baptist minister was leading the discussion that day and instead of getting flustered, he calmly took a deep breath and went to the chalkboard.

On that board he drew a perfect cir-

cle but concealed from us what he was drawing until he was finished. He then asked; Where does this circle start and where does it end? We could not answer. He then posed another question. Since we cannot determine where the circle starts and where it ends, does that mean it is not possible for it to be there? We all agreed that the circle was there.

He then told us that the perfect circle is analogous to God, for as humans we cannot understand many things, like the origin of God. But just like the circle, God is real. (God is also visible through the eyes of faith!)

Please enjoy this Easter season, call a family member or friend that you have not had contact with in a while.

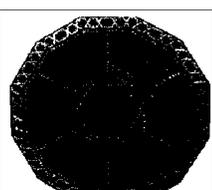
Make Easter a (NEW) beginning!

**NEW!**  
**Beautiful T-Shirts**  
**with the UPC**  
**Logo are now available**  
**for \$10.00 each.**



**All proceeds will go directly to UPC.**

**The Seven Secrets of Life Mosaic**



Handmade in Damascus, these beautiful pieces of art are still available for \$40.00 each.

All proceeds from the sale of the mosaics will go to **UPC.**

**Did You Know...**

- ◆ The Arabic language today is the language of the Christian Arabs. They were the pioneers of the 18, 19, and 20th centuries of Arabic literature.
- ◆ The first Arab printing machine in the Arab world was created in Saint John Choueir convent in Lebanon in 1735 by a Christian Syrian, Abdallah Zakher.
- ◆ The first college in the Arab world was opened in 1789 in Ain Waraka, Lebanon by the Maronite monks.
- ◆ The first universities in the Arab world were the American University and the Catholic University of St. Joseph. Both are located in Beirut, Lebanon.
- ◆ The famous Egyptian news paper Al-Ahram was founded in Alexandria in 1825, and in Cairo in 1895 by two Lebanese Christians brothers, Salim and Bechara Takla.

*Have you seen our website?*  
**Check it out at: [upic.faithweb.com](http://upic.faithweb.com)**



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

**789 Douglas Ave., Suite 137  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714**

# Celebrate Easter!

## **Lots to be found inside....**

- ◆ Our Easter messages to you
- ◆ How is your money making a difference for  
Christians in the Middle East?
- ◆ News about our Spring Picnic: April 21, 2-6 PM
- ◆ How to Contribute to the Spring Garage Sale: May 17,18
- ◆ New UPC T-Shirts are now available

**Check out our great website at:**

*[upic.faithweb.com](http://upic.faithweb.com)*

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**Fax:** 407-862-1283

**Email:** iupic@aol.com

**Website:** <http://upic.faithweb.com>

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## A Message From Our Founder

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November 2002 marked the fourth birthday of United People in Christ, Inc.! It has been eight months since I wrote to you back in April of this year and I hope these lines find you and your family well and in good health. UPIC sponsored two picnics this year; one in April which generated \$4,153.00 and the other one in October assisted our mission with \$3,500.00. The UPIC garage sale facilitated by Olga Shearer this past May produced \$758.10. Individual donations given to UPIC equals \$ 4,750.45, making the total donations received \$13,161.55 as of December 1, 2002. Please read the exciting news about where part of the monies collected were able to be distributed to by UPIC so far this year on page two of this newsletter.

### Board of Directors

- **Bassam H. Mnayarji**  
*President*
- **Joe Mitri**  
*Vice President*
- **Dr. Mikel Tuten**  
*Secretary*
- **Dr. Amid Habib**  
*Founder & Treasurer*

### Advisory Board

- **Julie Cairns**  
*Web Master*
- **Gladys Awaad**
- **Jacque Blum**
- **Richard Brooks**
- **Hana Layous**
- **Edde Powell**
- **Brad Sargeant**
- **Olga Shearer**

I am grateful to the many and I have to take this and gratitude to at least a Layous, his wife, Marcel food for our April and donating all the drinks her Garage Sale this past Lisa, who have been my ever prepared for or members, Bassam Richard Brooks, ask the Lord to



Merry Christmas!

people that have assisted me this year opportunity to express my deepest thanks portion of them. In particular: Hanna and son, Amer for donating all of the October picnics. Abboud Mnayarji for for both 2002 picnics. Olga Shearer for May. Dr. Mikel Tuten and his wife, right and left arms for every UPIC event presented. Mercy James, our board Mnayarji, Joe Mitri, Julie Cairns, Gladys Awaad, and Edde Powell. I reward them 1,000 times in this life and much, much more in the next for what they have given to our mission.

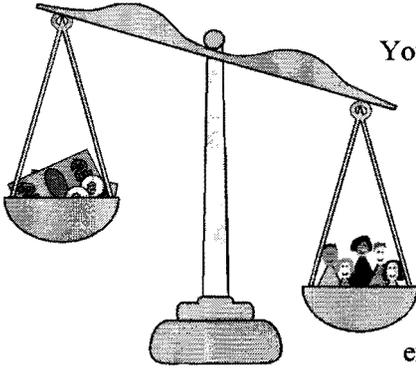
*(See Habib on page 3)*

## Join Us in Our Ongoing Fund Raiser

**by Julie Cairns**

UPIC successfully launched a new & simple fund raiser that will be ongoing. Please join us by saving your spare change during the year in a UPIC piggy bank & perhaps taking the opportunity to teach your children another Christian act of giving. Just think, a challenge to save just 50 cents a day (the price of a soda or cup of coffee that would be healthier to do without) to bless so many! The average bank collected at the Fall Picnic held \$15 to \$20.00 each; that would equal \$5,000 if every bank returned (300 total) contains the average! Banks can be picked up & dropped off at the above business address, or at UPIC events: Garage Sales or Bi-annual Picnics. Thank you!

# What Have We Done With Your Money?



Your donations for 2002 totaled **\$13,161.55**.

Experts say the way to tell whether a charity is a good one is to look at the amount of contributions that go to administrative expenses (10% is considered exceptionally low) and the commitment of the Board of Directors.

Only **\$381.00** of your donations this year went to administrative expenses, that's **only 2.9%** of the total funds received. The Board of Directors and Advisory Board members contributed an additional **\$3,000.00+** for other expenses and fees.

## The distribution of funds in 2002 were as follows:

### Syria:

- \$1,000.00 The *St. Vincent de Paul* in Damascus, to be distributed to the poor and needy.
- \$1,000.00 The *St. Vincent de Paul* in Hasake, to be distributed to the poor and needy.
- \$1,000.00 To complete buying a minivan to transport handicapped children back and forth to school.
- \$3,000.00**

### Lebanon:

- \$3,000.00 Catholic charity of Lebanon who take care of the poor, homeless and ill.
- 250.00 The Society to Eradicate Leprosy in Beirut, Lebanon.
- \$3250.00**

### Palestine:

- \$2,000.00 Needy Christians of Betjala, Bethlehem and Betsahour in the West Bank.
- 500.00 Repair the roof and windows of the Baptist Church in Gaza which was hit by an Israeli missile.
- \$2,500.00**

### Egypt:

- \$250.00** To the Coptic Orphans Organization.

### Sudan:

- \$500.00** To the Christians via The Voice of the Martyrs.

**Total distribution in 2002: \$9,500.00**

## PLEASE HELP UPIC THIS CHRISTMAS!

As you can see, UPIC puts money where it counts — in the hands of our needy Christian Brothers and Sisters in the Middle East...

This Christmas we need YOUR help! Please use the enclosed envelope and send your tax-deductible donation, not to help us, but to help THEM! What better way to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas than to help a needy Christian you don't even know!

**God Bless You! Have a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!**



## **A Message From Our New 2003 President**

This Thanksgiving I recall a passage from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians, "Do not be anxious about a thing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7) This Thanksgiving, please count your blessings one by one and by the time you finish counting, you will realize that there is nothing to worry about. Everything comes from the Lord and by the time you finish counting what he has given to you, you will know that his hand is with you. Thank you Jesus Christ, the reason for the season which a lot of people have forgotten. Without him, we can't do anything and nothing in this life or the next has any value. This holiday season, I am thankful to God for you and ask you to put Christ back into Christmas and help your Brothers and Sisters in him. Wishing you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving, Christmas and Prosperous New Year!

Yours in Christ,  
Bassam Mnayariji, UPIC President

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## **A Message From Our 2003 Secretary**

While America continues to heal from the attacks on September 11, 2001, terror among Pakistani Christians continues to escalate. Radical Muslims, not satisfied with attacks on churches, have now targeted Christian schools and hospitals.

It is often quoted in restricted nations that "faith comes with a cost." For those in countries like Pakistan, Indonesia and Nigeria their choice to live for Jesus often comes with dire consequences not only for themselves, but also for their family members.

Our willingness to fellowship in their sufferings comes with a choice. The church in the free world can easily ignore the sufferings of the persecuted. They remain, for the time being, far away from our shores. But for those determined to obey Scripture, the choice is clear. The Bible instructs us to remember them in bonds and those who are ill-tempered for the sake of the gospel. (Hebrews 13:3)

Dr. Mikel Tuten, UPIC Secretary

Excerpts of this article are from The Voice of the Martyrs, November 2002

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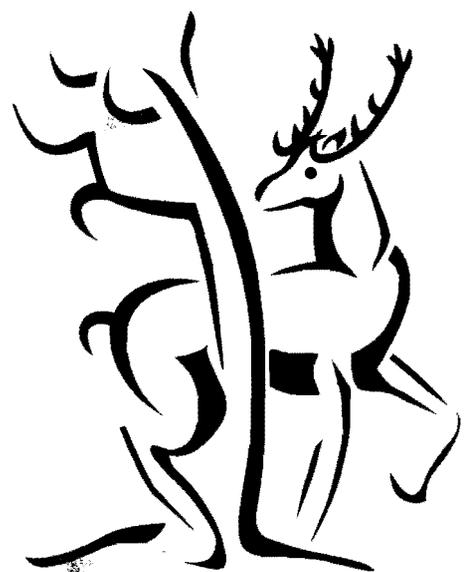
### **Lots to be found inside...**

- ◆ Our Christmas messages to you!
- ◆ Welcome the 2003 UPIC Board Members.
- ◆ How is your money making a difference for Christians in the Middle East?
- ◆ UPIC plates and t-shirts for sale!

### **For Everyone receiving this mailing...**

- ◆ **An Important Notice that requires your response -or- your contact and mailing information will be deleted from UPIC's list...**

Check out our web site at: <http://upic.faithweb.com>



**Celebrate the True Meaning  
of Christmas!**