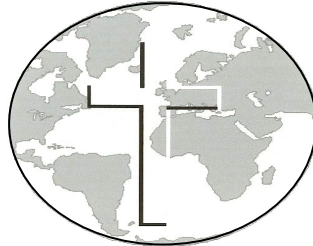


# United People in Christ, Inc.

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**A Registered and Licensed Non-Profit Organization**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Dr. Mikel Tuten**

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**Julia Elzinga**

## **WORLD REMAINS SILENT ABOUT THE TWO BISHOPS KIDNAPPED IN SYRIA FOUR YEARS AGO**

On April 22, 2013, both the Greek Orthodox Bishop Boulos Yazigi and the Syriac Orthodox Arch Bishop Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim were kidnapped in Syria near the Turkish border by Islamic terrorists. Their driver, Deacon Fatha' Allah Kabboud was killed.

The two Bishops were abducted on their way back to Aleppo from the Turkish border where they were negotiating the release of two priests, Father Mikel Kayyal and Father Maher Mahfouz who had been kidnapped in February 2013.

Four years later the Bishops remain missing, though for a time it has been rumored that only one of them is still alive. The two Bishops are only two of thousands of kidnapped victims of the "bloody spring" of Syria, which is now entering its 7th year. The war has claimed the lives of more than 500 thousand people, maimed 300 thousand. Left 6 million Syrian refugees in nearby countries, in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, another 2 million are scattered all over the world and an additional 8 million Syrian people are believed to have been internally displaced inside Syria itself. Syrian refugees make now almost 25% of refugees world wide.

Arch Bishop Ibrahim had written a book in Arabic in 2006 called "Accepting the Other". At that time, before the start of the war, Syrians of different religions lived together in peace. The book was translated into English. Bishop Boulos Yazigi is the brother of Patriarch John X of Antioch.

Four years later the International Community, remain silent and shows indifference about the fate of the two Bishops. Nobody has provided physical evidence whether the Bishops are dead or alive or demanded a ransom.

In April 2015 and in a joint statement recognizing the 2nd Anniversary of the Bishops kidnappings, Patriarch John X of Antioch and Syriac Patriarch Ignatius Aphrim II of Antioch said "Our Middle East has become an open arena for all evils and the aim of the atrocities in the region is to demolish life in its cradle, shatter civilization, displace man, destroy history and disfigure the identity.



This past November, United People in Christ celebrated its 19th Birthday, helping our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East.

Since its inception in 1998, and as of December 31, 2016, your donations have totaled **\$591,499.07** of which we have distributed **\$561,028.00** to help our needy brothers and sisters in Christ living in Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria. We continue to spend less than 10% of your donations on administrative operations. Your donations for the year ending December 31, 2016 Totaled **\$39,803.00**

At this time, I want to thank the United People in Christ board members who continue to donate their time, money and talent to help me through the years. I want to give, however, special thanks to **YOU**, each and everyone of you who donated money through the years helping us to help our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East. I want to thank a very special couple, **Esther and Jonathan Phelps** who continue to donate \$1,000.00 per month to UPIC and have done so faithfully for many years, May the Lord Bless them both and their family and give them of his abundance.

### THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS IN 2016 WERE AS FOLLOWS:

<b>EGYPT:</b>	Coptic Care	\$ 3,000.00		
	H.O.P.E.	3,000/00		
	Bishop Tadros	2,000.00		
	Light for Orphans	3,000.00		
	St. Anthony's Coptic Church	2,,000.00		
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,000.00</b>
<b>IRAQ;</b>	Adopt a Refugee	\$1,200.00		
	Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim	2,000.00		
	Sta. Peter & Paul Good Samaritan Fund	2,000.00		
				<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>LEBANON:</b>	House of the Elders, Duma	\$4,000.00		
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>
<b>PALESTINE (WEST BANK)</b>		\$3,000.00		
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>
<b>SUDAN:</b>	Light for Orphans	\$2,000.00		
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
<b>SYRIA:</b>	Sts. Peter & Paul Good Samaritan Fund	\$22,000.00		
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,000.00</b>

**TOTAL DISTRIBUTION IN 2016—\$49,200.00**

Continued from Page 1

of God. They added, “your word Is our word, your pain is our pain, your tears are our tears and your tears are our tears and your life is our life.”

For Christians persecution is not new, it started from day one and currently is on the rise and according to the Open Door USA website, each month 322 Christians are killed for their faith, 204 churches an Christian properties are destroyed and 772 forms of violence such as beatings, abduction, rape, arrests and forced marriages are committed against Christians.

Oh Lord, I have nobody to call or write to except you! What is called “International Community” is deaf, blind and silent and could care less for the fate of the 2 Bishops, Priests and many other kidnapped victims in Syria and Iraq.

Please pray with me this Easter Season asking the Lord to deliver the 2 kidnapped Bishops safely from their ordeal. If they have been slaughtered by the butchers, I have no fear for them because I’m certain they are in the company of the Lord in His Kingdom.

Wishing each and everyone of you a very Blessed and Happy 2017 Resurrection!

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

**YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ESPECIALLY IN SYRIA AND IRAQ ARE NOT ONLY ENDURING PERSECUTION, BUT ALSO VERY HARD AND HARSH ECONOMICAL TIMES. THIS EASTER SEASON I AM ASKING YOU NOT ONLY TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR PICNIC NEXT MONTH BUT ALSO TO SEND YOUR GENEROUS TAX DEDUCTIBL DONATION IN THE ENCLOSED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO HELP US IN HELPING THEM. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS!**

**The UPIC Spring Picnic held April 17, 2016 and the Fall Dinner held October 23, 2016 were both a great success.**

**The April picnic generated \$1,880.00 and the October dinner generated \$8,533.00 for a grand total Of \$10, 233.00. All the money was distributed to our needy bothers and sisters in Christ .**

**THANKS TO EVEYONE WHO DONATED AND WORKED TO MAKE THESE TWO EVENTS A REAL SUCCESS.**

**YOU CAN NOW READ THIS NEWSLETTER AND OUR PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE.**

**[unitedpeopleinchrist.org](http://unitedpeopleinchrist.org)**

**I am indebted to JANET Williamson for typing and editing this Newsletter**

**UNITED PEOPLE IN CHRIST  
2017 SPRING**

**P I C N I C**

**TO BENEFIT NEEDY CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST**

**WHEN: SUNDAY APRIL 30, 2017 FROM 1:30 TO 6 p.m.**

**WHERE: SANDLANDO PARK  
401 Highland Street  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714**

**GREAT FOOD**

**WONDERFUL MUSIC**

**D.J.**

**RAFFLES AND DOOR PRIZES**

**ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

**ADULT: \$20.00 (\$15.00) with reservation before April 15, 2017**

**CHILD: \$10.00 (\$8.00) with reservation before April 15, 2017**

**CHILDREN UNDER 5 FREE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND/OR TICKETS CONTACT:**

**Dr. Amid Habib @ 321-356-6247  
Dr. Olfat Mansour @ 407-648-2247  
Wael Rumman @ 407-927-5266**

**UNITED PEOPLE IN CHRIST  
SPRING PICNIC**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017 1:30 p.m. SANLANDO PARK, ALTAMONTE SPRINGS**

**TICKET ORDER FORM:**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Enter number of Adult tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$15.00 ea=** \_\_\_\_\_ **(\$20.00 at gate)**

**Enter number of Child tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$ 8.00 ea=** \_\_\_\_\_ **(\$10.00 at gate)**

**Enter donation to UPIC Mission** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Send TOTAL amount to United People in Christ at 789 Douglas Ave., Suite 137 , Altamonte Springs, Fl 32714**

**Tickets will be mailed to your address above. ALL TICKET ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 15, 2017.**

**We have a special need:** If you have any items that you could donate for our raffles or door prizes, **please check this box** (  ) and we will contact you. All donations are tax deductible. UPIC thanks those who have already donated items as wine sets, gift certificates, paintings and other treasures. For more information: Call Dr. Habib at 321-356-6247.

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**



A registered and licensed non-profit organization

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# **UPIC Picnic and Annual Banquet**

## **The Spring UPIC Picnic**

Will take place on April 30, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.  
At Sanlando Park in Altamonte Springs, Florida  
, Please mark your calendar

## **The Fall UPIC Banquet**

Will take place on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.  
At **WESTMONT** Civic Center –Altamonte Springs, Florida  
Please mark your calendar

**ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**