

United People In Christ, Inc.

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

THANKSGIVING NEWSLETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The horrific events that took place on September 11, 2001, will remain forever ingrained in our nation's consciousness. In their aftermath, our thoughts and our prayers remain with the victims of this senseless tragedy, their families and friends. It is also with deep gratitude that we acknowledge the heroic efforts of the men and women involved in the rescue efforts and in defending our nation.

The board members of United People in Christ condemn the radical Islamic terrorist attack on America. This is one nation made from many, a melting pot of every ethnic background, color, creed and faith. What makes the U.S.A. a great nation is its freedom. We need to understand that the majority of the Arabs in this country are Christian, not Muslim and that the majority of the Muslims in the world (and in this country) are not Arabs. We must realize that the majority of the Muslims who live in this country are law abiding citizens and we should harbor no animosity or hatred toward them, yet pray for their salvation.

As Christians, we wonder about how the recent events will impact the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle and Far East. Their plight is difficult in the Middle East (especially in Egypt, Iran and Sudan) and in the Far Eastern nations of Indonesia and Pakistan. We pray that it will not deteriorate from bad to worse.

This month we celebrate the third birthday of United People in Christ. We continue to be humbled with the efforts of UPC and the effect it has on the lives of the people that God has allowed us to assist. With the Lord's guidance, we will strive to do more. It is unfortunate that our fall picnic (scheduled for November 11) and our New Year's Eve Party have been canceled because of the September 11 tragedy. However, we are planning our third annual picnic for April or May 2002.

The proceeds of the May 20, 2001 picnic at the Turkey Lake Park were \$2,975.53, much less than was expected. This year, I have met with Archbishop Paul Borkosh of the Catholic Diocese of Horan in Syria, and contributed \$5,250 to the purchase of five cows, for five families. These families care for these animals, which provide them with milk to drink, and they sell the excess milk, fertilizer and newborn calves for income. I met with Khalil Ifram, the regional head of St. Vincent de Paul Charity in Beirut, Lebanon, and contributed \$3,000 to the families of imprisoned Christians in South Lebanon (\$1,500 to the Maronites and \$1,500 to the Catholics). We contributed an additional \$1,750 to several small charities in Damascus, \$200 to the Al-Safina, an organization that cares for the mentally and physically handicapped Christians, \$220 to the Order of Mother Teresa Nuns that cares for the homeless, \$1,000 to St. Vincent de Paul in Damascus, to be distributed to the poor, \$200 for the Maronite charity in Damascus to assist the poor, and \$130 to St. Gregorio's Orthodox orphanage for boys. We also contributed to \$1,000 to Samir Kuri, who have an organization that cares for the Christian poor in Jerusalem, and we also contributed \$1,000 to the September 11 Fund. I also delivered sixty pounds of medications to St. Vincent de Paul charity, to be distributed to the poor in Damascus.

As of this writing, your donations for this year have totaled \$ 7629.90, which is much less than we expected. For 2001, UPC has contributed \$12,400.00 to our needy Brothers and Sisters in Christ, in the Middle East.

Olga Shearer had a garage sale this past June that generated \$504.37, which she donated to UPC. Over the year, Olga and I collect our change and it totaled \$400. This was distributed as follows: \$100 given to a poor family with a mentally ill husband; \$100 to help a poor man with open heart surgery; \$100 to several poor families in Houran, Southern Syria; \$100 to several poor families in Latakia, Northwest Syria. **Please note that Olga is having another garage sale to benefit UPC on November 16 and 17.** (Further information is located on Page 4 of this newsletter.)

Many people have helped me this year and I want to express my deepest gratitude to them. In particular, Dr. Tuten and his two daughters, Ashley and Melissa; Aboud Mnayarji, who donated all the drinks and beer for our May picnic; Olga Shearer, for donating all the proceeds from her garage sale to UPC and also for collecting and donating her change, the Orlando Arabic Band of Joe Ghannoum, George Warra, Camil Antouri and Khalil Maalouf, Alice and Charlie Camden, Maha Mnayarji, Mercy James, Patty Perez, Carolina Nourick, Eddi Powell, Lorain Roblee, Barbra, Agnis, Edward Jacobs, and last, but not least, our Board members.

Dixie Bunn is helping us to design a new web page and brochure, these will hopefully be completed soon. Joni Meyers and Pat Hall are helping us in writing and obtaining grants from charitable organizations, and we are very grateful and thankful for them.

We need your help and cannot do it by ourselves. We need someone who can spend two or three hours per week to help us link and connect with other charitable organizations. We need new people to serve on the board and help with other UPC activities. **We also need your generous donations to continue to help our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East.**

Once again, our hearts go out to our American brothers and sisters who were killed on September 11. The Christian Arab community in the United States, as well as United People in Christ offer condolences to the families of all the victims, asking our Lord Jesus Christ to give these families calm and peace for their lost ones.

I ask the Lord to bless you, give you abundantly, keep His right hand with you, and protect you from evil.

Wishing all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and the peace of our Lord.

Sincerely,

Amid Habib, M.D.

Visit the UPC Website at: www.here.is/upinchrist

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

(Editors Note: 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 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. 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. These are the Christians. You find them in every city of the world. The soul lives in the body, but is not part of the body. The Christians 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.

(Editors Note: 1781 years later, things are no different. The more things change, the more they stay the same!)

UPC Announcements

Olga Shearer's Garage Sale: Friday & Saturday, November 16 & 17, 2001, from 8 AM to 4 PM. **All proceeds to benefit UPC.** Location: 625 Truesdell Avenue, Altamonte Springs. Call for directions if necessary. (407 767-5624) Items for sale include furniture, grill, computer desk, new screen door, carpet cleaner, clothes, jewelry and more. **You can help UPC by attending this sale AND by donating goods for sale.** All donations are tax deductible. Donations can be dropped off at Dr. Habib's office (Phone: 407 862-0107) or with Olga Shearer (Phone: 407 767-5624).

Visit the UPC Website at: www.here.is/upinchrist

We encourage all supporters of UPC to assist in our Christian efforts. You may wish to save your daily change and/or host a garage sale with proceeds benefiting UPC. All donations are APPRECIATED, large or small. All donations are tax deductible. If you wish to host a garage sale, please call Dr. Habib (407 862-0107) and will we gladly help publicize this effort.

Thanksgiving Donation: We have enclosed a donation envelope. PLEASE consider making a contribution to UPC during this special holiday!

May the Blessings of our **Lord, Jesus Christ** be with each and every one of you.

Amid Habib, M.D.
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To: