



December 2014



THE LIAISON

**Echoes from Erbil**

*Northern Iraq* - John and I walked carefully up the stairs of the unfinished shopping mall avoiding puddles of water on uneven concrete floors. Temporary thin walls had been hurriedly erected three weeks earlier with one to two families living in each room. We were in the area for two weeks last month visiting refugee camps and spending time with our national teams.



A hall in an unfinished shopping mall with doors to rooms families live in. Center, little girl who has juvenile diabetes and needs medical care. Right, older woman telling us how her brother and family abandoned her as they were fleeing ISIS; she hadn't eaten in three days and had no way to cook.

Approximately 5,000 refugees have found shelter here, one of the several camps throughout northern Iraq and Jordan our ministry has been sending aid to because you have been giving and praying. Earlier, we sat in front of a pastor who desperately asked John for help getting new housing for these refugees; the mall's owner was evicting the refugees in days. The cost would be \$220,000. I felt the beat of Philip and Andrew's heart in mine (Mark 6), and it was awful. Numbers were the same...need same...resources...in God's hands. Two floors below, a team of young people from a local church sang and shared their testimonies encouraging a large group. Their voices echoed and were absorbed by crying babies, dripping water, laughter, and arguing.

Later John and I were taken to a Kurdish refugee camp in an area with beautiful rolling hills. Children poured out of unfinished homes to greet our van. It was apparent from all the similar carpets laid on the gravel floors, mattresses, stoves, and blankets, that there was a unified effort to care for them.

Pastor Subri and Nahala and their team have invested much time and effort into this group with relief aid, doors, windows, carpets, clothing and the Gospel. We are proud to partner with them on this project and many others. Hearts are responding to the love of Jesus.

John and two local pastors and several in church leadership left the next day to visit a remote Yazidi camp about 5 miles from ISIS front lines. With a water crisis in full swing in the camp, and because of a generous donation from a US businessman, the ministry was able to donate 20, 100 gallon water containers.



We are fully engaged now as a ministry to continue to assist in this crisis. As of Nov 15 our ministry has had to put into place our standard 15% admin fee to cover mounting expenses.

- Dee A. Cook



Above, left, John and Dee with a family at a school turned refugee camp that you have helped with aid. Above, right, John and Yazidi leaders and Pastor Subri discuss the water tanks (lower picture).

## Year End Giving



Thank you for your heart for the Lord, that we have felt as never before this year, though your passion for the Lord and His Harvest! As a result, we've been able to expand and reach more lives for Christ.

As we close out this year, we are asking the Lord for \$50,000 for the year end giving goal. Please consider a generous gift to help us end the year in the black and be sure to mark on your check "Year End Gift." Thank you so much.

## Sustainable Relief; How We're Helping Refugees Settle

**Phase Three Program** - Several Iraqi and Jordanian pastors and churches have joined with us in formulating a three month plan to assimilate families into local churches. This three month plan will assist families and help them settle down; get in out of the elements and just calm down.

The **Phase Three Program** includes funds to rent an apartment (there will be 3 to 4 families per apartment), clothing and other basic needs such as mattresses, blankets, stove, cooking gas for a cost of \$2,000 per family. The pastors and congregation will:

- **Share the Gospel** with these families as supplies are given out
- **Enfold them into the local church** with fellowship and discipleship
- **Assist them secure jobs** or other outside financial aid for sustainability

As we give the gift of this three month program for these families, the benefits are very strong both ways - for the families and the local church. To date, 100% of families already enrolled in this process are either renewing their faith from being nominal Christians, or the majority are brand new Believers! **This is an amazing opportunity for us to reach many with the Gospel** in the Middle East.

## Israel Tour May 11 - 22, 2015



Join John and Dee Cook for a tour of Israel May 11-22, 2015. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the Holy Land. We are also offering a special three day optional tour into Jordan at the end of the time in Israel that will include Petra, Mount Nebo and Jesus' Baptism sight. For complete itinerary go to [www.http://indigenousministries.org/#/adventure-with-us/israel-tour](http://indigenousministries.org/#/adventure-with-us/israel-tour). Please contact our office and let us know if you are interested in going as soon as possible. \$300 reserves your place.

**JORDAN** - Our ministry in Jordan desperately needs a 12-15 passenger van. We are looking for a donation of a van less than seven years old (import laws). Even with shipping and tax added, it is much less than the cost of purchasing a used van in Jordan. Please email John at [jcook@IndigenousMinistries.org](mailto:jcook@IndigenousMinistries.org) or call the office at 719-302-3028. Just think...your van in ministry in Jordan!



## Global Church Planting Initiative



**Iraq** - Recently, we helped start a church plant where there is a great need, as most Christians have left the area. The pastor has reported a very good response from a number of new Believers as well as some who have been looking for a Body of Believers to fellowship with. A number of Muslims, disillusioned with Islam, have asked for help and information about the Bible. **Please pray** for this new church plant.

**Jordan** - We reported earlier that in August the Lord provided \$5,000 which we directed to plant a new church in Jordan, specifically to meet needs of Syrian and Iraqi refugees. Just three weeks later, the Jordanian government issued 15,000 entry visa for Iraqis, with 5,000 moving into the village this new church plant is now in. Talk about timing.

The Lord has allowed us to provide salaries for two pastors as they minister to thousands of refugees. However, the funds will only last a few more months, and they have asked if we are able to continue to support and make this a permanent church. **We are asking for your partnership** with prayers and finances for this vital new church to continue.

**Other areas open to church planting through Indigenous Ministries' Global Church Planting Initiative:**  
**India \* Egypt \* Turkey \* Myanmar \* Iraq**

Your gift of \$100 per month will go towards the salary of a national church planter

## Relief Update - Jordan



In Jordan, our two church plants are receiving new refugee families every day and are asking for continued help. They assist 10 families at a time with basic needs of: gas stoves, gas bottles and heaters, mattresses, food packets and a heavy blanket (see pic). Brother Raed's email sent 12/6/14 says it best (and sounds a lot like Acts):

*"I would like to share this fact: that we are receiving more families than we expected. Our village is starting to be a "center" to all the Christian refugees. People are so very happy for they are so welcomed among us. God gave us the Grace to show all the love of Christ. They are all now members in our Church, serving with us. God is using us. One main thing to share is that when you talk to them (the Iraqi refugees), you will hear and see the Joy of the Lord in their mouths. One of the families who writes a daily journal of his life, mentioned how much he was grateful to the Church for welcoming him and his family and the other Iraqis.*

*As for the stories that they carry with them, they all had their own jobs there in Mosul, but they were compulsory kicked out without carrying even a shovel. They only had their clothes on. When they remember the life they used to live and what ISIS did to them, they go back with memories and what has happened...some cry, some give the glory to the Lord and some start to understand that this was from God for them to get to know him as their Savior. Another thing, Brother, God has started to touch the hearts of local members in the church to help either by giving some small items to help a family settle and start the life here or by visiting. We do need all the help available."*

Financial gifts given to the "Iraqi Relief Fund" will assist our team in Jordan as they help the flood of refugees pouring into their village. As you read above, they are sharing the love of the Lord and people are responding. **Thank you for giving.**



**CLOTHING FOR IRAQI REFUGEES UPDATE:** On November 18, we loaded up a truck in Colorado Springs with clothing for Iraqi refugees and books for the Grace Bible College library in India. Chase Ward and son, Van (in the pic, left, with Dr. Cook) drove from Colorado Springs to Red Bluff, California where they dropped off the books and picked up clothing, drove to Santa Rosa, picked up a lot more clothing and bounced down to the dock in Los Angeles. Chase oversaw the packing of the 40' shipping container

which is now on its way to Iraq via Turkey! Thank you to so many who jumped in and donated to this worthwhile project to clothe Iraqi refugees with warm clothing this winter! We'll keep you posted. God Bless you.





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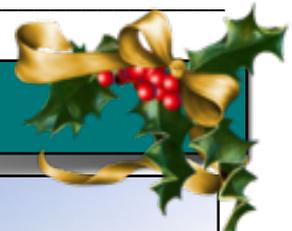
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**Grace Bible College, India**



This is what the GBC Memorial Chapel, India, looks like as of December 1st. Isn't it beautiful? The next phase of building will be floor tiles laid down on and miscellaneous finish work completed. The dedication will be the end of February. If you are interested in attending this and the GBC graduation ceremonies let us know; we'd love to have you join us! Cost is \$3,600.



**GBC SHIPPING CONTAINER DORMS:**



In response to the need to get our boys' dormitories and library built soon, we are going to have them constructed out of shipping containers. For much less cost than building a cement block building, they will be insulated, electrified and re-roofed. Each container is 8'x40' and can be arranged in a number of ways, including stacked (as in this example photo) and two joined together. We will be able to put the rental monies of \$1,000 per month

into more projects on the property for the campus. So far, we've seen \$2,820 come in to this project. We have a goal of \$50,000 - please consider donating to this exciting project.

**Response Card**

\_\_\_ Yes, I'd like to donate \$\_\_\_ to the Iraqi Relief Fund  
\_\_\_ I'd like to donate \$\_\_\_ to the year end giving  
\_\_\_ Put this gift to the GBC Dorms and Library \$\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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