

January 2017

THE LIAISON

## A Challenge for the New Year



Dr. John and Dee Cook

As 2017 has arrived, we are excited about the path the Lord is directing. Personally, God has seen fit to keep us healthy, for which we are extremely grateful. Our family of four children, with spouses and six grandchildren, is doing well and thriving.

Daily news headlines give us all pause to wonder if anything is going well, but we know God is at work:

In **2016** IM's **India** ministry highlights include the expansion of the Grace Bible College campus, the addition of more GBC students as well as multiple church planting by GBC graduates. Many tribal groups are being reached with the Gospel. More children are being reached in our India Children's Home.

In **Egypt**, a newly-purchased home will soon facilitate one of our flourishing church plants and our Child Sponsorship Program with 30 precious children is doing very well. We've assisted impoverished women and families with micro business opportunities and their children are doing well in their studies as a result of regular mentoring. Their hearts continue to transform as the Gospel is shared through love in action.

In **Jordan**, women and children are able to use a women's community center in conjunction with a medical clinic in which we are collaborating. In **Iraq**, we've helped thousands with aid and have added another church plant. (cont'd on Page 2)

## Walking Through ISIS Rubble

*Dr. John and Dee ministered in Iraq in November 2016. This is a continuation from December's issue of John's visit into recently liberated Qaraqosh and Karamles.*

People were walking behind me as I stood staring at the enormous, burned and desecrated church. I turned to see two Nineveh Protection Unit (NPU) soldiers.

The NPU is made of exiled Christians who have volunteered to serve under the Peshmerga Fighters. Under the guidance of Iraqi police, they have been able to push ISIS, or Daesh, forces out of Karamles.

The two men were from Qamishli, Syria (I ministered in Qamishli in 2011). When it was announced that any Christian could volunteer for the NPU, they were both tired of running and decided to join the unit. As Christians, they went to Iraq to find protection from ISIS in Syria. They and their families settled in Qaraqosh and felt reasonably secure. However, ISIS entered their city, and again they had to flee to Erbil for safety, along with 60,000 other Christians from the Nineveh Plain.

I saw a cross hanging from one soldier's ammo pouch. I took the men in my arms and prayed. Walking to the command center, I found two generals from the NPU. They shared amazing stories, stating if the Lord had not been with them, they would have been overrun by a superior force. They seized weapons from ISIS, and in just a few hours moved as a unit clearing streets, tunnels, houses and cisterns of hidden ISIS fighters. (con't on Page 2)



Dr. John with Nineveh Protection Unit soldiers. These Christian men fled ISIS, along with 60,000 other Christians.

## A Challenge for the New Year (cont'd from page 1)

We've seen national pastors receive encouragement and training through our Pastors' Conferences, and women receiving Scriptural and personal training in our Women's Conferences in India, Egypt and Iraq.

Our faithful **US and international staff** and ministry partners impact thousands of lives each month for the Kingdom and are an incredible blessing to us. This year we've joyfully welcomed new US staff; our newest Ambassadors, Dennis and Vicki Snyder, Jan Hogan, our Office Manager, and Dee's Executive Assistant, Jennifer Cunningham.

What has left an impact on our hearts surpassing everything else, however, is Iraq and Syria and the contrast between devastation and opportunity. With **8.3 million** displaced Iraqi and Syrian souls, this is an unprecedented field of harvest. Being in Iraq in November 2016 left an imprint on us that is still difficult to describe. However, we are launching new ministry initiatives this year that will impact thousands of women, children and communities with help and hope in Christ.

It is because of **God's faithfulness and power**, together with your **prayers and generous financial gifts**, that together we are able to impact lives for the global Kingdom. The words of the Lord ring in our ears, "feed My sheep." Our "lunch box" may be small and the need overwhelming, yet the Lord never allowed the need to define His reaction, nor should it ours. **Thank you** from the bottom of our hearts; we are working in His Harvest fields with you. - [Dr. John and Dee Cook](#)

## Walking Through ISIS Rubble (cont'd from page 1)

Unfortunately, ISIS fighters rigged many homes with tires fashioned into explosive booby traps, leaving streets filled with the acrid smell of burning rubber. What amazed me was hearing the general speak with genuine humility that not one of his NPU soldiers was killed in the fighting. Some were wounded, but no one was killed. He said Jesus Christ was watching over each of them in the battle, and God strengthened their hand to overcome those who sought to destroy Christians in this city and other cities on the Nineveh Plain.

The goal of Daeesh forces has been to wipe every Christian from Iraq and build their "caliphate" upon the seized wealth of homes and businesses. I could not help but think of the work Indigenous Ministries has done to help these Christians through protection, encouragement, food and daily needs. I thank God for your prayers and gifts to bring them aid relief.

Many of our supporters have asked, "What can we do about ISIS?" There are several things to understand as we look at this crisis. You have helped in a very real way to battle ISIS by caring for the people they sought to destroy. It gave people time to think of what is truly valuable and many have put their trust in Jesus Christ. They were Christian, but now many know the true Christ. Please hear me when I tell you we have overcome evil with good, just like the Lord told us to. Next month we will explore how the church will rise from the rubble in Iraq. - [Dr. John Cook](#)

Demolished homes and businesses in Qaraqosh and Karamles, Iraq



## Egypt Child Sponsorship Program



Three new additions to the Egypt Child Sponsorship Program

Because of extreme poverty present in the villages where we work, many children have lost at least one parent. We have been ministering the love for Christ to these children and families through our Child Sponsorship Program. It is designed to provide for the needs of the child, as well as lighten the burden for the surviving parent. Our program provides for the daily needs of each child and places a strong emphasis on consistent Bible exposure. ***Our team reports the children's grades are improving and they love memorizing Bible verses!*** Through our micro business opportunities available to their mothers, our team also reports an increase in the mothers' openness to receive the message of the Gospel. - [Sarah Rieger](#)

**Look for more details on how you can sponsor a child on Page 4**



Children enjoy a healthy breakfast through a partnership with Promise Land Christian School of Payatas in The Philippines.

## Education Alleviates Poverty

This month we continue the story of the Payatas Dumpsite from December's The Liaison issue. The Lord invited Resty and Mel Enguerra to participate with Him in the transformation of lives through Promise Land Christian Church. The church has been ministering in Payatas since 1988 through the leadership of Pastor Erlindo and wife, Esterly Ganiban. Their initial involvement was, and still is, in providing scholarships to scavenger elementary school children at Promise Land Christian School (PLCS).

Through this program, the children not only receive better/excellent academic education, but most importantly, learn and internalize Godly Christian values. The family is exposed to the Good News through the church. Eventually the children and families come to the saving knowledge of Christ and become positive influences in the church and secular community.

Our Philippine partner, PLCS of Payatas, currently has 250 students enrolled in Kindergarten through 6th grade, with eight teachers and five classrooms. Since 2015, 50 of these students are in the Scholarship Program. Tuition, school uniforms, shoes, books and breakfast are paid for. The students stay with their families. The cost/student is \$35 per month or \$420 per school year.

Sponsorship of these children will be available in April. To support the ministry in Payatas, please visit [www.IndigenousMinistries.org](http://www.IndigenousMinistries.org) and click on Southeast Asia in the donation drop-down menu.

### Shopping on Amazon can help IM

When you shop on Amazon, choosing to make one small click before you make your purchase is a painless way to contribute to reaching nationals with the Gospel.

Simply go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), select Indigenous Ministries as your designated nonprofit and the ministry will receive a portion of your purchase. It costs you nothing! Every amount counts and impacts lives worldwide.



We will share communion together outside the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem

### Israel is Calling You!

You are warmly invited to join John and Dee Cook in Israel May 1-12, 2017. This is a great opportunity to walk in Jesus' footsteps and experience the culture and beauty of Israel for yourself. You will also share a meal and worship with the Living Stones, or the Believers. The cost is \$4395, which includes travel, hotels and daily breakfast and dinner.

**Register and find the itinerary at [www.IndigenousMinistries.org](http://www.IndigenousMinistries.org) on the right side bar.**

## Beautiful International Ministry Events

Dee will be leading women's conferences in India, Egypt and Iraq in February and March. Each conference provides an opportunity for education, encouragement, fellowship and creativity. Special craft kits, which the women really enjoy, have been assembled that will provide a meaningful memento of the event.

For the first time, we are making these kits available so you can experience the joy of crafting and participate with the women in thought and prayer. For a donation of \$25 or more, you receive a kit, just like the ones being made across the globe. Quantities are limited.

Thank you for your continued prayers and gifts. Please visit our new website, [BeautifulInternational.org](http://BeautifulInternational.org), for more information. We would be honored for you to join us and become a vital Beautiful Partner in 2017 with your prayers and financial gifts.



This refugee attended our Beautiful Int'l April 2016 Iraq conference and loved creating her bracelet.

### 2016 Tax Donation Statements

If you have donated to Indigenous Ministries and/or Beautiful International in 2016, your tax donation statement will be mailed to you by the end of January. If you have any questions, please call our office at 719-302-3028 and ask for Penny in our finance department. You may also email her at [penny@IndigenousMinistries.org](mailto:penny@IndigenousMinistries.org).

**Thank you for your financial partnership in the ministry; have a blessed 2017!**



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 Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
[www.IndigenousMinistries.org](http://www.IndigenousMinistries.org)  
 719.302.3028

Indigenous Ministries is a 501(c)(3), all gifts are tax deductible as allowed under IRS regulations. You may donate online at our website or mail a check to the address above.



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**Giving a Gift of Love**

There is an urgent need for child sponsors. For just \$35/month or \$420/year, you can bring love, joy and hope to a precious child across the globe.

Below are two children in our Egypt program we'd like to introduce. Please prayerfully consider blessing one or more needy children with hope and eternal life in Christ. To donate, visit [www.IndigenousMinistries.org](http://www.IndigenousMinistries.org) and choose "Child Sponsorships" in the dropdown menu.



Youssef is nine years old and lives at home with his widowed mother and two sisters. He is hard-working and enjoys reading, music and playing. His best subject is reading/writing. Youssef's favorite verse is Psalm 23:1. He would like to be a doctor.



Mariam lives with her mother, two brothers and three sisters. Her mother is a widow and unemployed. Mariam is hard-working and her best subject is social studies. She has an ongoing minor heart problem. When she grows up, she would like to be teacher.

**Upcoming Calendar of Events**

Jan 8-13 - The Cooks teach at Ecola Bible School, Cannon Beach, OR  
 Jan 15-28 - GBC Library Book Project, Red Bluff, CA  
 February - March - IM ministry in India, Egypt and Iraq with ministry teams holding National Pastors' and Beautiful Women's Conferences, training students, working with church plants and expanding ministry to refugees.

Please pray for safe travels and that hearts would be transformed by the Word of God.

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