

For I Am Convinced

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. ~Romans 8:38-39

Josh and Donna are Middle East strategists for Reach the Rest. They are working and living in the Kurdistan region of Northern Iraq with their three blonde-haired preschoolers. Life with young children is challenging enough. But as you can imagine, packing up your family and possessions and moving to a politically unsettled region is monumental.

Josh and Donna are quick to give all praise to God for continual confirmation and leading in what He has called them to do. They understand the risks as it is becoming increasingly difficult to access areas in which they were previously able to minister. They also recognize that though the possibility of working in Iraq was considered unlikely, God has opened the door. Josh shares, "We know that

Prayer Points

- Please pray for divine boldness and courage in the lives of new believers.
- Pray for wisdom and strength for the workers that currently serve in this region.
- Pray that the spirit of war and violence in the Middle East will be overturned with hope and peace that comes from our Lord.
- Pray for open doors and unrestricted access into areas and among people who need to hear the Good News.
- Pray for Josh, Donna, and their family as they settle into life and ministry in Kurdistan. Pray for an additional family that will be joining them in this region beginning next year.



nothing is impossible with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords."

Much has been in the news over the last several weeks concerning the millions of Kurds living throughout the Middle East who are striving for recognition and autonomy. Indigenous to a mountain region in the northern regions of the Middle East, the Kurds are the largest stateless nation in the world. These are some of the very people Josh and Donna live with and serve each day.

A week after Josh and Donna arrived back in Kurdistan, the Iraqi Kurds held a very controversial referendum for independence from Iraq. This was despite the counsel of the United States and a major portion of the international community. Josh reports that no one is totally sure what will happen with the heightened regional tensions...but they are convinced of one thing, God knows!

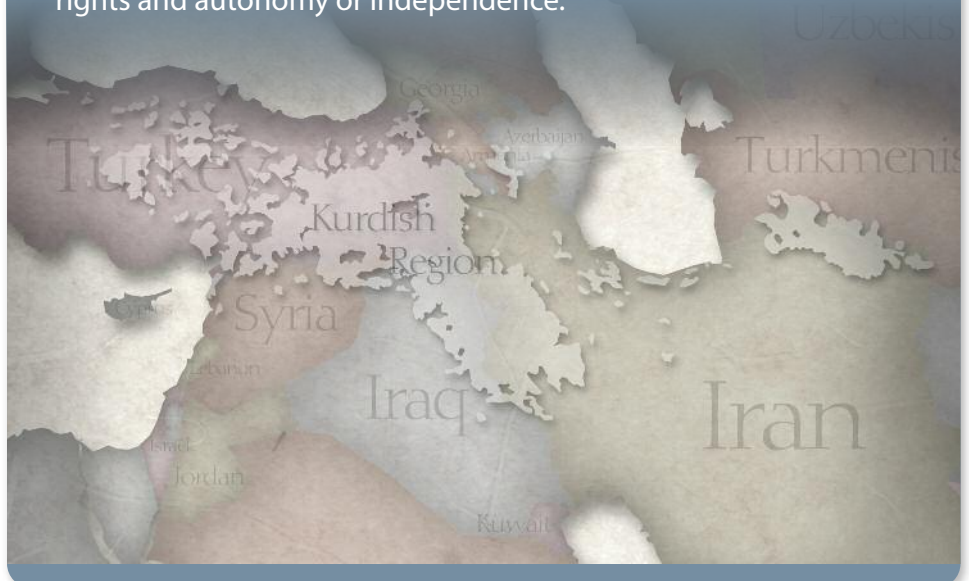
In the midst of moving into their new home and the latest political upheaval, Josh and Donna were able to conduct training with nineteen Kurdish believers. Some of whom had come to faith in Christ since the previous training held just two months earlier.

During this latest training, believers were taught to share their personal testimony, as well as the Gospel story from Scripture. They were also instructed to make a list of five to ten individuals who didn't know the Lord and pray for their salvation and the opportunity to share the Good News. Those in attendance wholeheartedly joined hearts and hands together — confident that this was God's plan.

One of the brothers from the

Who and Where Are the Kurds?

An estimated 25–30 million Kurds live in Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran. The Kurds, who are mostly Sunni Muslim, do not have an official homeland and continue to seek recognition, political rights and autonomy or independence.



group later testified that he was confident God would work through his obedience. One of the five with whom he shared the Gospel, fully embraced Jesus as his Savior. In turn, that man shared his newfound faith with his cousin. Both are now followers of Jesus.

New believers in Northern Iraq report incidences of oppression and persecution when they embrace Christ. The testimony of one Kurdish believer, who has been treated very harshly, confidently stated that "fear (of persecution) would not be the deciding factor" to move him away from the region. He was determined that only the Spirit of God would move him!

The work of God and His Kingdom continues in ways that are unprecedented for this area of the world. It is a tremendous time of remembrance for those who live,

serve, and lead in the Middle East among the Kurds — remembering God's promises and remembering that He is sovereign.

Upon their recent return to Kurdistan, Josh and Donna were blessed with the approval of their visas for one year, vehicles to drive, and a home to rent. God's Word serves as a reminder that nothing can impede the plan of God for His people.



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