

# United People in Christ, Inc.

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**A registered and licensed non-profit organization**

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## The POWER OF THE CROSS

During my visit to Syria last year, I met a relative of mine, Elaias in Zab-dani, a small town about 35 miles west of Damascus, and the birthplace of my late father. I have not seen Elaias in years, as he has been working as a teacher in the United Arab Emirate (Al-Sharka) for over 20 years. He told me a true story that happened the year before.

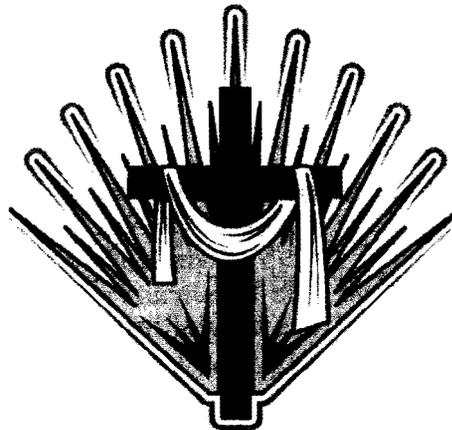
Elaias and his family left Al-Sharka on June 30, heading to Syria to spend the summer months. Prior to their departure with his wife and children, their neighbor asked if it was possible to send a small gift with them to her sister in Zab-dani. She told them the gift is a wooden clock made in the Philippines packed in a box.

When they arrived at the Saudi border, Officer Ahmad came to inspect their car and their luggage. He opened the box with the wooden clock and found that it had a cross on the top. He picked up the clock and informed the

family that the cross cannot go through Saudi Arabia, and it has to be confiscated and destroyed.

Elaias told Officer Ahmad that their destination is Syria and they are only passing through Saudi Arabia and Jordan to continue their trip to Syria. Officer Ahmad replied, that is impossible, this cross cannot pass through the Saudi land. Elaias asked, "Why don't

you keep it with you until we come back from Syria and then we will pick it up?" The answer was still No. "We have to destroy this cross", he replied. He asked him to call his Superior, the answer was the same.



When Elaias figured out their choices, to cancel their trip and go back or leave the clock with the cross to be destroyed (after they had already driven 4 hours and were detained for 6 hours more), they decided to leave the clock behind and continue on their journey. Before leaving, Elaias asked

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Officer Ahmad not to destroy the cross as the person who was crucified on this cross is very jealous and knows how to defend himself. They left the cross and clock behind, and they continued their journey across Saudi Arabia, Jordan and then to Syria. They spent 2-1/2 months vacation and they drove back to their workplace, Al-Sharka.

Arriving at the Saudi Arabia-Emirate border, Elaias's wife asked him to see if he could see Officer Ahmad. Maybe he has changed his mind, did not destroy the cross and kept it for us. We can pick it up and take it back to our neighbor and apologize to her for not being able to deliver it to her sister.

The borders officer asked, what was Officer Ahmad's last name? Elaias told him his last name, he replied, "he left to the mercy of Allah". Elias answered, I'm sorry, when did he pass away to go to Allah? The officer answered, the evening of June 30<sup>th</sup>. Elaias

looked at his wife and whispered, he destroyed the cross after we left that day and the owner of the cross called for him.

Elaias was right! He had warned Officer Ahmad that the owner of this cross knows how to defend himself. It's a pity that Officer Ahmad did not believe him. Most likely he did not know who the man was who was crucified or hung on the cross 2009 years ago.

He is not dead, like all the people and the prophets before him and after him, HE IS ALIVE! He rose from the dead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day following his crucifixion, ascended into Heaven and sat and is still sitting on the right hand of the Mighty Father and will be coming back soon to judge the dead and the living.

Wishing each and everyone of you a very blessed 2009 Resurrection.

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

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## Thank you!

I am deeply grateful for all of our friends who helped support our cause last year.

The 2008 UPIC Picnic generated \$3,317.00 and the October Dinner generated \$7,880.00.

Your donations for 2008 totaled \$33,042.00 and we distributed \$27,978.26 to help our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East.

If you need a copy of our financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2008, please stop by our office to pick one up or call us to mail or fax one to you.

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

### Make a Difference This Easter

Your donations this Easter season will be forwarded to our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the West Bank, Lebanon and Iraq. They are in desperate need of your help and assistance.

Support them by your deeds as well as your prayers.

### HEAD OF CHRIST PLAQUE

What the Romans wrote



What the Jews replied

Call Dr. Habib's office to order at 407-862-0107  
All proceeds go to UPIC

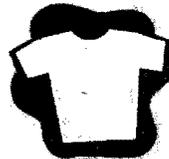
\$25.00

I am indebted to Janet Williamson and Linda McAleer for the preparation and editing of this newsletter.

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If your address has changed, if you would like us to correct the spelling of your name, if you would like us to mail our newsletter to any of your friends or relatives, or if you are receiving more than one of this newsletter at the same address, please call us, write to us, or send your note by fax. We thank you and ask the Lord to bless you always.