

# UNITED PEOPLE IN CHRIST, INC.

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December 13, 2001

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## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

### The Art of Giving

True Christian life is manifested not only by merely attending church every Sunday morning, but on the willingness of taking a costly stand for Christ. A True Christian can never stand still watching his brothers and sisters in Christ endure injustice. Paul said, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10 Notice Paul saying "especially for them who are of the household of faith". Simply put, these are your brothers and sisters in Christ. When Jesus died on the cross on our behalf, he demonstrated to us true love. The Bible exalts us to show the same love toward the persecuted. "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." 1 John 3:1

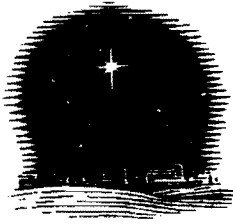
When we see evil spreading all over the land, we must not think that God doesn't care. We must not despair. The Bible says "If you seize the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter, for he that is higher than the highest regards, and there be higher than they." Ecclesiastes 5:8 Isaiah tells us "Learn to do well, seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." Isaiah 1:17

Everything you have comes from the Lord, and you can only give what is His (1 Chronicles 29:14) God is love and God is the giver. If you want to be a great lover, you have got to learn to be a great giver, because love and giving go together. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. The scriptures say "if a brother or a sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled, notwithstanding you give them not these things which are needful to the body, what does it profit?" James 2:15-16 Consider this: You know that your brothers and sisters in Christ are in need of food, clothing and medicine. You don't want to "look bad" or be troubled by your conscience, yet you consider the cost and/or the commitment of your time. Many may resort to offering good wishes and/or offering to pray for them. Now don't get me wrong, prayer is powerful. But in this instance, Christ expects action on our part. Our duty as Christians is to show our feelings towards the persecuted, the poor and the needy in a practical way, not just with good wishes, as talk is cheap. "My little children, let's not love in word, neither in tongue, but indeed in truth." 1 John 3:18

The story of the scattering of the early church believers and the apostles staying in Jerusalem was a mere beginning. The Bible tells us that those who ran away from persecution, settled in new places where they prospered. However, they did not forget those who remained in Jerusalem to suffer hunger and poverty. The Bible says that they sent to the church in Jerusalem financial support to help alleviate the impact of their ordeal. The

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## Why Support This Charity?



*"The number of Christians in Bethlehem DECREASES every year soon to be nonexistent."*

Throughout my life, I have heard the phrase, "These are interesting times in which we live." Nothing could be more truthful. As some of you know, I am a supporter of UPC and a member of the Board of Directors. I am not of Arab descent, in one manner, and I have never been to the Middle East. But I am a Christian, and that is being part of a larger family. So ask, "Why support this charity?" first, as a Christian I firmly believe that our Lord Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem. Ah, Bethlehem. During the Christmas season we sing songs and build manger scenes to recreate the image of Christ's birth in Bethlehem. Through my tenure with UPC I have learned an alarming fact: The number of Christians in Bethlehem DECREASES

every year soon to be nonexistent. There are many reasons for this and none of them are good. Let's consider an analogy. How would we react as Americans if there were dwindling numbers of American citizens in Washington D.C., soon to be nonexistent? Why do we as Christians not EXPECT a large thriving Christian population at the site where our salvation originated?

Secondly, Christianity was once described to me as not so much of a noun but more of a verb. A very influential Priest, Father Richard Teale, used to constantly say, "there by the Grace of God Goeth I." He tried to teach us that we are indeed blessed and this blessing comes from the Lord. As such we must ACTIVELY assist others who

are not as fortunate. This is the action or the "verb" part of being a Christian.

So we are back to the question, "Why support this charity?" My answer: United People in Christ helps needy Christians in an area of the world not friendly to our faith. Every single person we help is a blessing. I can just imagine hearing Father Teale ask, "What would Jesus think about the small Christian population in his hometown, and what are we going to do about it?"

By: Dr. Mikel Tuten

### *And He Shall Be Called...*

Adam 1 Co 1:45 Advocate 1 Jn 2:1 Almighty Rev 1:8

Alpha and Omega Rev 1:8 Amen Rev 3:14

Author and Finisher of our Faith He 12:2 Bread of Life Jn 6:35

Corner-stone Ps 118:22 Counselor Is 9:6 Dayspring Lk 1:78

Deliverer Ro 11:26 Everlasting Father Is 9:6 First and Last Rev 1:17 God Is 40:3

Good Shepherd Jn 10:11 Great High Priest He 4:14 Head of the Church Eph 1:22

Heir of all Things He 1:2 Holy One Ac 3:14

I Am Jn 8:58 Immanuel Is 7:14 Jehovah Is 26:4 Jesus of Nazareth Mt 21:11

Judge of Israel Mic 5:1 Just One Ac 7:52 King of the Ages 1 Ti 1:17

King of the Jews Mt 2:2 King of Kings 1 Ti 6:15 Lamb of God Jn 1:29 Light of the World Jn 8:12

Lion of the Tribe of Judah Rev 5:5 Lord of All Ac 10:36

Lord of Lords 1 Ti 6:15 Man of Sorrows Is 53:3 Mediator 1 Ti 2:5

Messiah Dn 9:25 Mighty God Is 9:6 Mighty One Is 60:16 Morning Star Rev 22:16

Nazarene Mt 2:23 Only Begotten Son Jn 1:18 Prince of Peace Is 9:6

Redeemer Job 19:25 Resurrection and Life Jn 11:25 Rock 1 Co 10:14

Rose of Sharon Sos 2:1 Savior Lk 2:11 Son of David Mt 8:20 Son of God Mt 2:15

Son of Man Mt 8:20 True Light Jn 1:9 True Vine Jn 15:1 Truth Jn 1:14 Word Jn 1:1 Word of God Rev 19:13



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## The Art of Giving (cont'd from Page 1)

apostle Paul says "but now I go into Jerusalem to minister to the saints, For it has pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. It has pleased them verily, and their debtors they are." Romans 15:25-27 Yes, I'm going to say it loud and clear. The Christian in America, Europe and throughout the Earth are indebted to the Christians of the Middle East who preserved and kept the faith. Consider this: Many of us, just like the aforementioned early believers, immigrated to new lands. Those believers that stayed behind endure daily challenges of which we do not. Persecution, financial difficulties and an uncertain future, just to name a few, and these difficulties are major factors for the weak in the faith to abandon Christianity. Many of us that immigrated to the United States or other countries, enjoy the abundance and the freedom that is denied to our brethren. Have we forgotten where we came from? This is not what Christianity is all about.

I need your donation and I need it from each and every brother and sister in Christ in this country. A one-time donation is appreciated, but it will never help as many families, orphans, elderly and mentally ill as we would like to help. Your commitment to send whatever you can weekly, monthly or on a regular basis, is very much appreciated. The Board Members of this small entity cannot do it by themselves. We ask you to show compassion in word, thought and deed.

Wishing each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy and prosperous New Year, and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.

Amid Habib, M.D.

### Updates:

Our newsletters are now available on line at our website: [upic.faithweb.com](http://upic.faithweb.com). This provides tremendous savings for UPC in printing and postage. If you want the newsletter mailed to you via regular mail, please indicate that on the form provided with this newsletter. If you prefer email, there is also a place to indicate that.

Our finances to date (Dec. 3): Total donations: \$9,737.32, Total admin. Expense: \$389.84 (3.9%). This means 96% of all monies collected go directly for distribution. Please note that the board members paid in excess of \$2000 additional administration expenses, as we are committed to sending as much money as possible directly to our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. As always our books are open for your inspection during business hours at the address on the back of this newsletter. We would like to double the amount of donations for this year before December 31. Yes, this is a high goal, but with your help, we can accomplish it!

Reports state that charities may be affected by the numerous donations given for the September 11 disaster relief, but let us prove them wrong. Let us continue to donate for your brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East.

We encourage you to do or host garage sales, donating the proceeds to UPC. Also, save your change in a jar to donate at the end of the year (or any other time). It is amazing how much these small efforts can help our cause. And of course the real winners are our needy brothers and sisters in the Middle East.

*"The Christians in America, Europe and throughout the Earth are indebted to the Christians of the Middle East who preserved and kept the faith."*



All the darkness of the world cannot put out the light of one small candle.

# United People In Christ, Inc.

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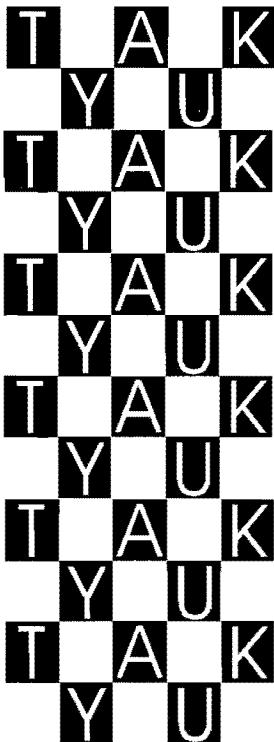
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The next UPC Garage Sale will be held in the Spring. Any items that you would like to donate may be dropped off at Dr. Habib's office during normal business hours. All items are tax deductible, and all proceeds will go to help our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. What better reason to clean out those attics and garages!!!



## Special Thanks



As in any organization, UPC has several people who work very hard behind the scenes to make a difference. We would like to take this moment to recognize the following people who have put forth a special effort in the past twelve months:

Olga Shearer who held a garage sale for UPC, and was able to donate \$355.95 as a result of this. Many hours of hard work went into this endeavor, and we truly appreciate it.

To Olga's friend Richard Brooks whose sales skills are unequaled, Richard could "sell a refrigerator to an Eskimo" and certainly did his best not only with his sales skills, but also in assisting Olga with the garage sale.

Debbie Andrisani, who has put in many hours connecting us with churches around the central Florida area, and will be extending this to include the United States, also for her help on the web site.

To Dixie Bunn, designer and webmaster for our website. This is a time consuming effort, as the site is ever-changing. Take a moment to see her work and please sign our guest book while you are there.

And, last but certainly not least, to Dr. Mikel Tuten, for editing the newsletter, an exhausting effort at times, and only one of the things Dr. Tuten does for us.

We at UPC sincerely appreciate your efforts in furthering our ability to help our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you.