

United People in Christ, Inc.

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A Message From Our Founder

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November 2002 marked the fourth birthday of United People in Christ, Inc.! It has been eight months since I wrote to you back in April of this year and I hope these lines find you and your family well and in good health. UPIC sponsored two picnics this year; one in April which generated \$4,153.00 and the other one in October assisted our mission with \$3,500.00. The UPIC garage sale facilitated by Olga Shearer this past May produced \$758.10. Individual donations given to UPIC equals \$ 4,750.45, making the total donations received \$13,161.55 as of December 1, 2002. Please read the exciting news about where part of the monies collected were able to be distributed to by UPIC so far this year on page two of this newsletter.

Board of Directors

- **Bassam H. Mnayarji**
President
- **Joe Mitri**
Vice President
- **Dr. Mikel Tuten**
Secretary
- **Dr. Amid Habib**
Founder & Treasurer

Advisory Board

- **Julie Cairns**
Web Master
- **Gladys Awaad**
- **Jacquie Blum**
- **Richard Brooks**
- **Hana Layous**
- **Edde Powell**
- **Brad Sargeant**
- **Olga Shearer**

I am grateful to the many and I have to take this and gratitude to at least a Layous, his wife, Marcel food for our April and donating all the drinks her Garage Sale this past Lisa, who have been my ever prepared for or members, Bassam Richard Brooks, ask the Lord to and much, much more in the next for what they have given to our mission.



Merry Christmas !

people that have assisted me this year opportunity to express my deepest thanks portion of them. In particular: Hanna and son, Amer for donating all of the October picnics. Abboud Mnayarji for for both 2002 picnics. Olga Shearer for May. Dr. Mikel Tuten and his wife, right and left arms for every UPIC event presented. Mercy James, our board Mnayarji, Joe Mitri, Julie Cairns, Gladys Awaad, and Edde Powell. I reward them 1,000 times in this life and much, much more in the next for what they have given to our mission.

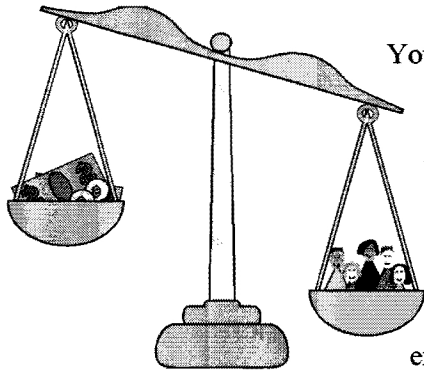
(See Habib on page 3)

Join Us in Our Ongoing Fund Raiser

by Julie Cairns

UPIC successfully launched a new & simple fund raiser that will be ongoing. Please join us by saving your spare change during the year in a UPIC piggy bank & perhaps taking the opportunity to teach your children another Christian act of giving. Just think, a challenge to save just 50 cents a day (the price of a soda or cup of coffee that would be healthier to do without) to bless so many! The average bank collected at the Fall Picnic held \$15 to \$20.00 each; that would equal \$5,000 if every bank returned (300 total) contains the average! Banks can be picked up & dropped off at the above business address, or at UPIC events: Garage Sales or Bi-annual Picnics. Thank you!

What Have We Done With Your Money?



Your donations for 2002 totaled \$13,161.55.

Experts say the way to tell whether a charity is a good one is to look at the amount of contributions that go to administrative expenses (10% is considered exceptionally low) and the commitment of the Board of Directors.

Only **\$381.00** of your donations this year went to administrative expenses, that's **only 2.9%** of the total funds received. The Board of Directors and Advisory Board members contributed an additional **\$3,000.00+** for other expenses and fees.

The distribution of funds in 2002 were as follows:

Syria:

- \$1,000.00 The *St. Vincent de Paul* in Damascus, to be distributed to the poor and needy.
- \$1,000.00 The *St. Vincent de Paul* in Hasake, to be distributed to the poor and needy.
- \$1,000.00 To complete buying a minivan to transport handicapped children back and forth to school.
- \$3,000.00**

Lebanon:

- \$3,000.00 Catholic charity of Lebanon who take care of the poor, homeless and ill.
- 250.00 The Society to Eradicate Leprosy in Beirut, Lebanon.
- \$3250.00**

Palestine:

- \$2,000.00 Needy Christians of Betjala, Bethlehem and Betsahour in the West Bank.
- 500.00 Repair the roof and windows of the Baptist Church in Gaza which was hit by an Israeli missile.
- \$2,500.00**

Egypt:

- \$250.00** To the Coptic Orphans Organization.

Sudan:

- \$500.00** To the Christians via The Voice of the Martyrs.

Total distribution in 2002: \$9,500.00

PLEASE HELP UPIC THIS CHRISTMAS!

As you can see, UPIC puts money where it counts — in the hands of our needy Christian Brothers and Sisters in the Middle East...

This Christmas we need YOUR help! Please use the enclosed envelope and send your tax-deductible donation, not to help us, but to help THEM! What better way to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas than to help a needy Christian you don't even know!

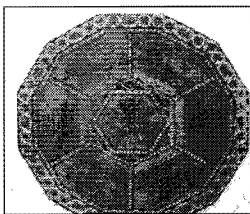
God Bless You! Have a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!



(Habib continued from page 1)

May the Lord, the Christ whose birth we are celebrating be with you, bless you and protect you from evil.

Wishing each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous 2003!
Amid Habib, M.D.



The Seven Secrets of Life Mosaic

Handmade in Damascus, these beautiful pieces of art are still available for \$40.00 each.

Please use the contact information on the heading of this letter to purchase these plates.

Important UPIC Membership/Mail Distribution Notice

Please help us to update our records and minimize our administrative costs so that we can direct even more of your donations to the needy Christians in the Middle East... For the past four years, I have insisted on keeping administrative costs below 10% of the donations to UPIC. Only 2.9% was used this year! The Board Members and I continue to donate our time and talents however, we would rather use the 90 to 95% of the additional total cost we having been contributing on UPIC's mission: to send aid to hungry, suffering Christians in the Middle East.

As you know, postal rates have gone up, the labor and printing costs have risen to the point where we are spending \$500.00 to \$600.00 each time we send out a newsletter. Also, quite a few people on our mailing list have not contributed to our mission by attending one of our fund-raising events or sending a donation so we are asking for everyone's help in reducing this cost. We will however, continue to send newsletters to those who can't make a donation at this time and we welcome any new contacts you send to us; if they want to receive the newsletter and will support UPIC's mission.

Please complete (check all that apply to you), cut off and mail the bottom portion of this page in the enclosed self-addressed envelope even if you not making a donation at this time. UPIC's 2003 mailing list will be based only on the forms that are returned to us. Thank you and May God Bless You!

- YOUR MAILING/CONTACT INFO. WILL BE DELETED IF THIS FORM IS NOT RETURNED TO UPIC -

[] Yes, I want to continue to receive the UPIC newsletter via: (choose one)

◆ Paper Mailing [] or

◆ Email Notice (Preferred) [] An email reminder that new info. or a newsletter is on the web site.

[] I am enclosing a tax-deductible Love Gift for UPIC's mission or

[] No, I can not enclose a donation for UPIC's mission at this time but, wish to continue to receive the UPIC newsletter via the delivery method chosen above or

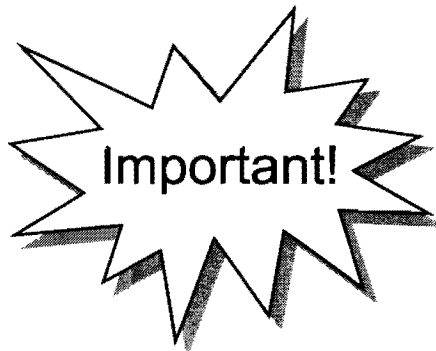
[] No, I do not want to continue to receive the UPIC newsletter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: ____ (____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____



A Message From Our New 2003 President

This Thanksgiving I recall a passage from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians, "Do not be anxious about a thing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7) This Thanksgiving, please count your blessings one by one and by the time you finish counting, you will realize that there is nothing to worry about. Everything comes from the Lord and by the time you finish counting what he has given to you, you will know that his hand is with you. Thank you Jesus Christ, the reason for the season which a lot of people have forgotten. Without him, we can't do anything and nothing in this life or the next has any value. This holiday season, I am thankful to God for you and ask you to put Christ back into Christmas and help your Brothers and Sisters in him. Wishing you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving, Christmas and Prosperous New Year!

Yours in Christ,
Bassam Mnayarji, UPIC President

A Message From Our 2003 Secretary

While America continues to heal from the attacks on September 11, 2001, terror among Pakistani Christians continues to escalate. Radical Muslims, not satisfied with attacks on churches, have now targeted Christian schools and hospitals.

It is often quoted in restricted nations that "faith comes with a cost." For those in countries like Pakistan, Indonesia and Nigeria their choice to live for Jesus often comes with dire consequences not only for themselves, but also for their family members.

Our willingness to fellowship in their sufferings comes with a choice. The church in the free world can easily ignore the sufferings of the persecuted. They remain, for the time being, far away from our shores. But for those determined to obey Scripture, the choice is clear. The Bible instructs us to remember them in bonds and those who are ill-tempered for the sake of the gospel. (Hebrews 13:3)

Dr. Mikel Tuten, UPIC Secretary

Excerpts of this article are from The Voice of the Martyrs, November 2002

Did You Know...

- ◆ The Arabic language today is the language of the Christian Arabs. They were the pioneers of the 18, 19, and 20th centuries of Arabic literature.
- ◆ The first Arab printing machine in the Arab world was created in Saint John Choueir convent in Lebanon in 1735 by a Christian Syrian, Abdallah Zakher.
- ◆ The first college in the Arab world was opened in 1789 in Ain Waraka, Lebanon by the Maronite monks.
- ◆ The first universities in the Arab world were the American University and the Catholic University of St. Joseph. Both are located in Beirut, Lebanon.
- ◆ The famous Egyptian news paper Al-Ahram was founded in Alexandria in 1825, and in Cairo in 1895 by two Lebanese Christians brothers, Salim and Bechara Takla.

Lots to be found inside...

- ◆ Our Christmas messages to you!
- ◆ Welcome the 2003 UPIC Board Members.
- ◆ How is your money making a difference for Christians in the Middle East?
- ◆ UPIC plates and t-shirts for sale!

For Everyone receiving this mailing...

- ◆ **An Important Notice that requires your response -or- your contact and mailing information will be deleted from UPIC's list...**

Check out our web site at: <http://upic.faihw.com>



**Celebrate the True Meaning
of Christmas!**