

# United People in Christ, Inc.

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

## AFTER THREE DAYS I WILL RISE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Amid Habib, M.D.**  
President, Founder

When the Pharisees asked the Lord Jesus to perform a miracle so that they might believe in him, he answered them saying: "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign: and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the Prophet Jonas. For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12:39-40).

**Joe Mitri**  
Vice-President

Christ spoke to his disciples about the three days and three nights on many occasions before his crucifixion.

**Bassam Mnayarji**  
Secretary

"The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the Elders and Chief Priests and Scribes and be killed, and be raised the third day." (Luke 9:22).

**Olga Shearer**  
Treasurer

"Behold we are going up to Jerusalem and all things that are written by the Prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished." (Luke 18:32).

"Now Jesus, going to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, behold we are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the Chief Priests and the Scribes and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day he will rise again." (Matthew 20:17-19).

### ADVISORY BOARD

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**Richard Brooks**  
**Marsha Childs**  
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**Hanna Layous**  
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"Now, while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, the Son of Man is about to be betrayed in to the hands of man, and they will kill him and the third day he will be raised up." (Matthew 17:22-23).

"And he began to teach them how the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the Elders and Chief Priests and Scribes, and be killed and after three days rise again." (Mark 8:31).

"For he taught his disciples and said to them: the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of man and they will kill him. And after he is killed, he will rise the third day." (Mark:31-32).

"Behold we are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the Chief Priests and the Scribes and they will condemn him to death and deliver him to the gentiles, and they will mock him and scourge him and spit on him and kill him and on the third day he will rise again." (Mark 10:33-34).

### WEB MASTER

**William Erdman**

(Continued on Page 4)

# WHAT HAVE WE DONE WITH YOUR MONEY?



Since its inception 6 years ago in November 1998, United People in Christ have collected \$98,908.62 and distributed \$82,789.88 of it so far to our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East.

Experts say that the way to tell whether a Charity is a good one or not, is to look at the amount of contributions that go to administrative expenses and the commitment of the board of Directors. For the past 6 years, only 8.7% of your donations went to administrative expenses

Your total donations for 2004 have totaled \$24,054.50.

VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE

[Uplc.falthweb.com](http://Uplc.falthweb.com)

The distribution of funds in 2004 were as follows:

## SYRIA:

\$7,257.92

St. Vincent de Paul in Damascus to be distributed to 25 families @ 1000-1500 Syrian pounds per month, per family..

\$1,517.50

The Catholic Diocese in Damascus.

\$3,112.84

Catholic, Maronite and Orthodox charities in Damascus who take care of the poor and needy.

\$11,888.27

## LEBANON:

\$4,400.00

St. Vincent dePaul in Beirut to be distributed to the poor and needy.

\$1,600.00

The Society to Eradicate Leprosy in Beirut, Lebanon.

\$1,000.00

St. George Church, Batroun.

\$7,000.00

## PALESTINE:

\$3,000.00

Via the Bethlehem Association to the poor and needy in Bethlehem, BethJala and BethSahour.

## ISRAEL:

\$ 500.00

The House of Grace, Haifa.

## IRAQ:

\$2,500.00

To be distributed to the poor and needy via the Good Samaritan Fund of Iraq.

1,000.00

To be distributed to the poor and needy via St. Thomas Syriac Church

\$3,500.00

## SUDAN:

\$1,000.00

To take care of the Sudanese orphans via Voice of The Martyrs.

\$1,500.00

To take care of the Sudanese orphans via World Mission.

\$2,500.00

## EGYPT:

\$ 250.00

Archangel Michael Coptic Care.

\$ 250.00

Coptic Orphans

\$ 500.00

**TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS, in 2004, \$28,888.27.**


This Easter, we need your help! Please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope and send your tax-deductible donation, not to help us, but to help your needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East. What a better way to celebrate the real meaning of Easter, than to help a needy Christian that you do not even know.

God bless you all, and have a Happy 2005 Easter



**UPIC T-shirts**

Great t-shirts with the UPIC logo are available for only \$10.00

To Order, please call Dr. Habib's office at 407-862-0107.  Sizes M, L, or XL.

All proceeds go to UPIC

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOLY LAND

My name is Bassam Bannoura. I am a Palestinian Christian, and I am pastoring a small church in my town of Beit Sahour or The Shepards Field. Beit Sahour is located less than a half a mile to the east of Bethlehem and it is the historical scene of the fields of Boaz (refer to the book of Ruth) and the Shepherd (refer to the Christmas story in Luke 2). We know that we are the children of the first Church, which was established in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. My family has been living here for centuries and we are trying to serve our Lord in this land, which our Lord chose to be the site of his incarnation. As Palestinian Christians we love both the two great nations living in this country, i.e. the Israeli Jews and the Palestinian Arabs, and we are trying our best to be a vehicle of reconciliation between them.

For the last four and a half years we have been witnessing a new phase of bloody conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians in the Holy Land. There are two nations living in the historical land of the Bible. 6 million Israeli Jews and 5 million Palestinian Arabs. Every nation claims the land to be theirs, and the enmity between them is deeply rooted in history and hearts. The Christians in the Holy Land are a very small minority, and somehow they are rejected and persecuted, we still love the Jew and the Muslim, and we want to serve them and to tell them the Good News of God's love for them. I believe that God has put me here to show people there is a way out of this bloody conflict, and it is the way of the Cross.

Palestinian Christians these days are in need for God's people to pray for them. Living in the Holy Land is becoming more and more dangerous, and we are in constant need for God's protection and provisions. Only 167,500 Christian Palestinians are left in the Holy Land, 120,000 in Israel, 45,000 in The West Bank and 2,500 in the Gaza Strip. Very little aid has been sent to the Christian community in the Holy Land.

As a result of the conflict, the latest number of those who have been killed almost 5,000 Palestinians and 1,000 Israelis. In addition to this, there have been more than 60,000 people injured; many of them will have permanent disabilities. Israel has put almost every Palestinian village and city under strict siege

whereby a person cannot travel from one location to another. This means that the majority of the people are now jobless and there is so much suffering as a result of that. In the Bethlehem area many people are employed directly through tourism, and because of the ongoing fighting it is now a rare occasion to even see a tourist. I have personally seen women selling their own personal gold jewelry, in order to buy food for the family. Many people called me or even visited our home asking for help. In other words, there is too much pain and suffering and any kind of help for these souls would be a real blessing. Unemployment in the Bethlehem area has jumped to more than 65%. People don't have money to buy the basic needs for their own children during this time of conflict.

In our church, the Shepherds Field Evangelical Church, we have literally 15 families where the main breadwinner is without any income. This situation is becoming a recipe for the emigration of many Christian families. I am afraid that one day most of the churches in the land of Jesus will convert to museums. Just imagine that! In the very land where Christian history began there may be very few followers of Jesus. May God save us!

I wonder if Christian Arabs in the United States, or even American Christians will help us in raising funds and contact churches, in order to help the Christian Community of the Holy Land. I believe that if we do help them, we will be a source of blessing to them, and we will gain a new credibility in the eyes of our people.

## IMPORTANT – MAIL DISTRIBUTION

As you know, postal rates have gone up, the labor and printing costs have risen to the point where we are spending between \$500 to \$600 each time we send out the newsletter, which we continue to distribute free of charge.

Please help us to update our records and help us to minimize our administrative costs, so that we can direct more of your donations to our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East. If you have moved, changed your address, passed away to be with the Lord or you do not want to receive our newsletter, please let us know.

## "ليس هو هاهنا لأنه قام"

(Continued from Page 1)

Jesus also addressed the Jews with the same confirmation of the three days and three nights when they spoke about the temple in Jerusalem, and the gospel states that he was referring to his body.

"Jesus answered and said to them, "destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."  
(John 2:18-21),

"On the next day which followed the day of preparation, the Chief Priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate saying: Sir, we remember while he was still alive how that deceiver said after three days I will rise", therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest his Disciples come by night and steal him away and say to the people he was risen from the dead". Matthew 27:62-66).

If you visit his grave don't look for his body over there, he is risen, ascended and sits on the right side of the Father and will come back in great glory to judge the dead and the living.

Wishing every and each one of you a very happy and Healthy resurrection day.

Sincerely,

*A. H. Habib, M.D.*

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

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU, TO:

Esther Phelps, who has contributed \$9,000.00 to United People in Christ in 2004. May the Lord Bless You abundantly and give you 1000 times what you have given to the needy.

### HEAD OF CHRIST PLAQUE

What the Romans wrote.

What the Jews replied.

\$25.00 each

To order please call Dr. Habib's office at  
407-862-0107

All proceeds go to UPIC

\* وأخذ ( يسوع ) الإثني عشر وقال لهم : " ها نحن صاعدون إلى أورشليم ، وسيتم كل ما هو مكتوب بالأنبياء عن ابن الإنسان ، لأنه يسلم إلى الأمم ، ويستهزا به ، ويشتتم ويتكل عليه ، ويجلدونه ، ويقتلونه ، وفي اليوم الثالث يقوم ."  
( إنجيل لوقا 18 : 31 - 33 )

\* أجاب يسوع : " انقضوا هذا الهيكل وفي ثلاثة أيام أقيمه . فقال اليهود : في ست وأربعين سنة بني هذا الهيكل ، أفانت في ثلاثة أيام تقيمه ؟ أما هو فكان يقول عن هيكل جسده . فلما قام من الأموات ، تذكر تلاميذه أنه قال هذا ، فأملوا بالكتاب والكلام الذي قاله يسوع "  
( إنجيل يوحنا 2 : 19 - 22 )

\* تم قال لتوما : هات إصبعك إلى هنا وابصر يدي ، وهات يدك وضعها في جنبي ، ولا تكن غير مؤمن بل مؤمنا . أجاب توما : ربي وإلهي . قال له يسوع : لألك رأيتني يا توما أمنت ا طوبى للذين آمنوا ولم يروا "  
( إنجيل يوحنا 2 : 27 - 29 )

\* ليس هو ههنا ، لأنه قام كما قال . هلمّا انظروا الموضع الذي كان الرب مضطجعا فيه "  
( إنجيل متى 28 : 6 )

\* وقال لهم : هكذا قد كتب . وهكذا كان لابد أن يتالم المسيح ويقوم من بين الأموات ، وأن يبتشر باسمه بالتوبة وغفران الخطايا في جميع الأمم انطلاقا من أورشليم "  
( إنجيل لوقا 24 : 46 - 48 )

\* فإبني سلمت إليكم في الأول ما قبلته أنا أيضا : أن المسيح مات من أجل خطايانا حسب الكتب ، وأنه دفن ، وأنه قام في اليوم الثالث حسب الكتب (رسالة بولس الأولى أهل كورنثوس 3:15 - 4).

كل الآباء والبطاركة والأنبياء ماتوا ورفاتهم مازالت في قبورهم ، أما المسيح فإلك لن ترى رفاته في قبره ، القبر فارغ ، لقد قام وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الله الأب ، وسيعود قريبا في مجد عظيم ليدين الأحياء والأموات .  
د. عميد حبيب