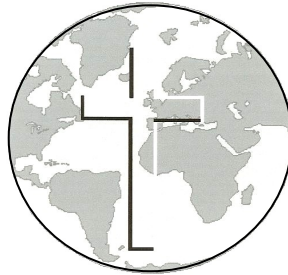


United People in Christ, Inc.

Business Address:
789 Douglas Ave., Suite 137
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 162601
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716-2601



Phone: 407-862-0107

FAX: 407-862-1283

Email: ahabibmdpec@gmail.com

Website: unitedpeopleinchrist.org

A registered and licensed non-profit organization

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amid Habib, M.D.
Founder, President

Trish Zugelder
Vice-President

A. Mushahwar, M.D.
Secretary

Dr. Olfat Mansour
Treasurer

ADVISORY BOARD

Richard Brooks

Dolores Devine

Aida Hourani

Hanna Layous

Vera Layous

Jacqueline Little

Bassam Mnayarji

Edie Powell

Dr. Mikel Tuten

WEBMASTER

Christian Andrew

PRAY FOR SYRIA

Syria was the cradle of civilization and of Christianity. The first written language was discovered in Ugarit, Syria. Christianity to the Jews started from Jerusalem, but Christianity to the Gentile took off from Damascus, Syria, the land where St. Paul began his Evangelical mission to the World after the Lord appeared to him on his way to Damascus and where the followers of Jesus Christ were called Christian for the first time in history in Antioch of Syria (Acts 11:26). In the year 1000, the Christians in Syria made 90% of the population. In 1927 the population of the Christian in Syria was at 30%. These days, the Christians of Syria make 10% of the total Syrian population of 23,000,000. Christians in Syria have had a long history of coexistence with the Muslim majority and have greatly contributed to the development of Arab science and literature. Most Syrians pride themselves by having religious tolerance and freedom of worship, which is very important for the Christians to survive. The same cannot be said about other Arab countries with strict Islamic laws under which the practice of Christianity is outlawed. Syria is the only Arab country where the religion of the individual is not listed on his passport or I.D.

The recent tragic turmoil in Syria has led to the emergence of a group of fanatic Sunni Muslims who are not tolerant of other religions. They are heavily armed and do not hesitate to use their weapons to vanquish those whom they consider as their enemies. This has frightened the majority of the Christian population in Syria. The former have already shown their brutality by savagely killing innocent civilians who refuse their call for destruction and mayhem. They have also planted bombs that killed and mutilated scores of people.

The more recent events in Syria have shown more menacing signs regarding the Christians. On January 25 of this year, an Orthodox Christian Priest, Fr. Basilios Nassar from the Antiochian Orthodox Arch Diocese in Hama, Syria, was gunned down by Islamic terrorists while he was trying to help one of his parishioners who had already been shot. Three days later the Convent of the Lady of Sainenaya in the suburbs of Damascus was targeted by Islamic terrorists. It was reported that it had been hit by a missile that damaged the dormitory that housed young orphans. Miraculously no one was injured or killed, as the children were having lunch in the dining room at the time. Sainenaya is the second holiest Christian place after the Church of the Holy Sepulchare in Jerusalem. It contains an icon of The Virgin Mary and the child Jesus believed to have been painted by St. Luke the Apostle. Because of this icon, Sainenaya is visited by many pilgrims from all over the world, and many miracles were reported to have occurred there. A few days later, the Church of Om-alzinnar in Homs and one of the oldest churches in the country was bombed. Targeting places like that is beyond belief and difficult to fathom.

Continued on Page 5

WHAT HAVE WE DONE WITH YOUR MONEY?



This past November, United People in Christ celebrated its 13th Birthday, helping Our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East.

Since its inception in 1998 your donations have totaled \$357,015.07 as of December 30, 2011, of which we have distributed \$308,428.27 to help our needy brothers and sisters in Christ living in Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria. We continue to spend less than 10% of your donations on administrative operations. Your donations for year ending December 31, 2011 totaled \$57,940.00

At this time, I want to thank the United People in Christ Board members who continue to donate their time, money and talent to help me through the years. I want to give, however, special thanks to YOU, each and everyone of you who donated money through The year, helping us to help our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East. I want to thank a very special couple, Esther and Jonathan Phelps who continue to donate \$1,000.00 per month to UPIC and has done so faithfully for many years. May the Lord Bless them both and their family and give them of his abundance.

The distribution of funds in 2011 were as follows:

EGYPT:

Coptic Care	\$2,500.00
Bishop Tadros, Port Saaid	\$1,000.00
St. Mary & Arch Angel Michael Coptic Church	\$2,000.00
Arch Angel Michael Coptic Care	\$ 500.00
H.O.P.E., Maspiro Copts Fund	\$3,000.00
Int. Baptist Church, Pastor Nabeel Ramsey	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$10,000.00

IRAQ:

St. Peter & Paul Good Samaritan Relief Fund	
Father Edward Hanna	\$3,000.00
St. Thomas the Apostle Church	
Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim	<u>3,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$6,000.00

ISRAEL:

House of Grace—Haifa	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,000.00

LEBANON:

Convent of our Lady of Kaftoun	\$1,000.00
Convent of our Lady of Annunciation	\$1,000.00
Auxilia of Becharri	\$1,000.00
Saidet Al Maounat Church	\$1,000.00
La-Nansa Association	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$5,000.00

PALESTINE (WEST BANK):

Bethlehem Association	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,000.00

SYRIA:

St. Vincent DePaul-Al-Hasaka	\$5,000.00
Syriac Orthodox Orphanage, Homes	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$6,000.00

SUDAN:

Via the Voice of the Marytrs	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2,000.00

TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS IN 2011 - \$33,000.00

You can now read this UPIC Newsletter and our previous newsletters by visiting our new Website: unitedpeopleinchrist.org.

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

The Spring Picnic in April 2011 generated \$4,310.00, the food was donated by Hanna & Marseil Layous and Amer & Savil Bitar. The Fall dinner in October generated \$5,460.00, the food was donated by Bassam Georgi of the Black Angus Restaurant. Many thanks to all who donated and helped to make these two events a success!

**UNITED PEOPLE IN CHRIST, INC.
2012 SPRING**

PICNIC

**TO BENEFIT NEEDY CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE
EAST**

WHEN: SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2012 FROM 1:30 PM TO 6 PM

WHERE: SANDLANDO PARK

**401 Highland Street
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714**

Great Food

Wonderful Music

Raffles and Door Prizes

Cotton Candy Machine

**COME
ENJOY**

**COME
ENJOY**

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

ADULT: \$20.00 (\$15.00 with reservation before April 18, 2012)

CHILD: \$10.00 (\$8.00 with reservation before April 18, 2012)

CHILDREN UNDER 5: FREE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND/OR TICKETS CONTACT:

**Dr. Amid Habib 407-862-0107
Dr. Olfat Mansour 407-648-2247
Aida Hourani 407-580-6743**

**UNITED PEOPLE IN CHRIST
 SPRING PICNIC
 SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2012 1:30 P.M. SANLANDO PARK, ALTAMONTE SPRINGS**

TICKET ORDER FORM: Name _____ **Phone:** _____
Address _____

Enter number of Adult Tickets: _____ @ \$15.00 ea = _____ (\$20.00 at gate)

Enter number of Child Tickets: _____ @ \$ 8.00 ea = _____ (\$10.00 at gate)

Gif to UPIC Mission _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Send TOTAL amount to United People in Christ at 789 Douglas Avenue, Suite 137, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714.

Tickets will be mailed to your address above. **ALL TICKET ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 18, 2012.**

We have a special need: If you have any items that you could donate for our auction and raffle, **please check this box ()** and we will contact you. All donations are tax deductible. UPIC thanks those who have already donated such items as wine sets, gift certificates, painting and other treasures. For further information call Dr. Habib at 407-862-0107.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

------(cut)-----

LET HOPE ARISE

By Dolores Devine

As we watch the world news, we are utterly aware that Christ is our only Hope. In what the media has dubbed The Arab Spring, we witness destruction, misery and death. Yet as we prepare to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection, we are assured that if we are willing to die to the *old man of flesh* with Him, then we become a New Creation *in* Him. We have the hope of eternal life, and *that* hope, becomes a thing of the present. The *'born again'* life of the risen Christ is made manifest in us, here and now.

"I am crucified with Christ and yet I live. Yet not I, but Christ does live in me.....who loved me and gave his life for me. (Gal 2:20).

Those who die to the old way of life *with* with Him, arise in Him, and He arises in them.

In the midst of wars and chaos all around, let us determine together to **let hope arise in us** and let Christ be manifested to us and *through* us to a dying world.

**Arise, oh Holy One
 Arise, oh Righteous Son
 Arise, and dwell in me
 And lead me to my destiny.**

**Arise, and teach Your way
 Arise, and say You'll stay
 Arise, become my all
 I will fulfill the Father's call.**

**Arise, and take Your place
 Arise, I've made the space
 Arise, and fill my heart
 I trust and pray You'll not depart.**

**Arise, in all Your might
 Arise, and shine Your light
 Arise, and life me up
 I long to share Your Loving Cup.**

**Arise, and take the lead
 Arise, You're all I need
 Arise, renew my mind
 Give sight to eyes which once were blind.**

**Arise, and bring new life
 Arise, and end all strife
 Arise, and be my peace
 As faith and hope and joy increase!**

DOLORES DEVINE

"Speaking the truth in love"

P.O. Box 4323 Winter Park FL 32793-4323 USA Tel (407) 830-4311
 Copyright ©2012 Dolores Devine All international Rights reserved.

The history of violence against the Christians in the Middle East is still vivid in the minds of Syrian Christians. In 1860, more than 10,000 Christians were slaughtered in Damascus alone by fanatic Islamists when Syria was under the rule of the automan empire, who used religion to subdue the people. Between 1914-1920 more than 2 million Armenians, Assyrians and Chaldees were slaughter in Turkey. More recently, Iraqi Christians were attacked, their churches burned and religious leaders murdered and as a result, more than half of the Christian population in Iraq has fled the country, mainly to Syria escaping with their lives and only with the clothes on their back. Back in December of 2008, I reported in the UPIC Newsletter entitled "The Christians of the Middle East are Evaporating" that 2000 Christian Iraqi families were forced out of their homes in the city of Mosel (Nineveh) in northern Iraq to become refugees among the Kurds in Kurdistan, Iraq or in neighboring Syria. In Egypt the Coptic Christians have been attacked and killed, their churches burned, their teenage girls kidnapped and converted to Islam and their fate under the new Egyptian regime is uncertain as the Islamists are getting the upper hand in the Parliament. This past month and this month, more than 1000 Christian families were either forced to leave or left their homes in Homs, the third largest city in Syria.

Christians in Syria are particularly vulnerable because they have no one to speak for them and have no protection should they be targeted. Many people in the west do not even know that there are Christians in Syria. They are sometimes called the Invisible Christians. Syria is the last refuge of Christians in the Middle East, if however, the situation deteriorates further, then their mere existence in Syria will be seriously undermined.

With the West continuing to supply the Islamists rebels with weapons, the East providing more weapons to the Syrian government, and the petro dollar counties providing money to the terrorists, there is no question that civil war eventually will engulf the country and bring its demise. This civil war will not be limited to Syria and will spread eventually to all the surrounding countries including Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Israel and most likely to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. The Syrian government has indicated a willingness to talk, the opposition inside of the country have agreed to talk also, but unfortunately, the opposition outside of Syria refused any talks.

Christian Syrians are against all forms of violence and strongly believe that any escalation in the present situation can be catastrophic not only to Syria but for the entire Middle East. There is an urgent need to stop the spiraling violence in Syria, but this should only happen peacefully and through direct talks between the warring factions.

Please pray with me for all the warring parties to come to their senses and sit down for a peaceful dialogue to resolve the problems in Syria without further shedding of blood and without any foreign intervention.

This Easter season, I am asking each and every one of you to pray for the safety and the protection for the people called by His name, **Christians** in the Middle East, especially in Syria, Egypt, and Iraq. The Christians over there are having a lot of fears, uncertainty and tremendous economical hardship and I am appealing and asking you to help, we need not forget these brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to show them love and compassion, not only in words, but also by deeds.

Wishing every and each one of you a peaceful, happy 2012 Resurrection! **The Lord is Risen! Indeed he has Risen!**

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

YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ESPECIALLY IN SYRIA, IRAQ, EGYPT, SOUTH SUDAN AND THE WEST BANK ARE NOT ONLY ENDURING PERSECUTION, BUT ALSO A VERY HARD AND HARSH ECONOMICAL TIME. THIS EASTER SEASON, I AM ASKING YOU TO HELP US, IN HELPING THEM, BY SENDING YOUR GENEROUS TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS IN THE SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE AND MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU ALWAYS!



A registered and licensed non-profit organization

Amid Habib, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.A.C.E.
789 Douglas Ave., Suite 137
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

UPIC Picnic and Annual Banquet

The Spring UPIC Picnic

will take place on Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 1:30 P.M.
SanLando Park, Altamonte Springs, FL

The Fall UPIC Banquet

Will take place on Saturday, October 20, 2012
Location to be announced later.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

All donations are tax deductible and all proceeds from the UPIC picnics and banquets will go to help our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East. We are no longer, unfortunately, accepting any used clothing, shoes, household items, furniture etc. to ship to our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East, due to objections by these countries governments. If you have any items, gift certificates that you would like to donate to be auctioned or given as door or raffle prizes at our picnic or banquet, please contact Dr. Habib's office at 407-862-0107.