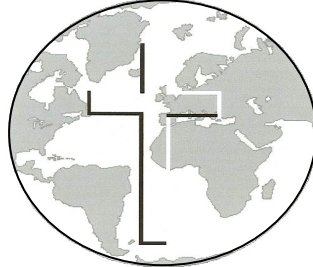


United People in Christ, Inc.

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

Fran Brown

Dolores Devine

Nina Georgi

Aida Hourani

Hanna Layous

Vera Layous

Bassam Mnayarji

Dr. Mikel Tuten

WEBMASTER

Julia Elzinga

SYRIA'S REFUGEE CRISIS

Since the beginning of the Arabic Spring (blood bath) in Syria in March 2011, more than 16 million Syrians have fled their homes, representing almost 70% of the country's population and almost 25% of the refugees worldwide. Close to 8 million have been internally displaced within Syria, another 8 million have fled to neighboring countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq), Europe and other countries around the world.

Lebanon received 1-1/2 million refugees making 1/3 of Lebanon's population, Jordan received another 1-1/2 million making 25% of the country's population. One quarter of a million fled to Iraq and there is 2-1/2 million registered refugees in Turkey as of December 31, 2015. Another 2-1/2 million have fled to Europe and 40 other countries around the world (The Syrian Diaspora).

For 5 years, Turkey opened its gates to terrorists from all over the world, to cross its border to Syria funded and trained by the "Friends of Syria" and to the Syrian refugees to cross to Turkey, and by early 2015 the number of refugees exceeded 2 million. Spending almost 8 billion dollars of its own money to feed and house these refugees and fearing demographic changes in the country, Turkey opened its gates and shores for the Syrian refugee to flee to Europe. On September 3, 2015, the whole world woke up to see a shocking picture of a Syrian refugee child, Aylan Al-Kurdi smuggled with his family, his boat overturned in high waves, he drowned and later washed up on the Turkish beach, and with this iconic picture of Aylan seen all over the world, Turkey decided to open its gates and beaches widely to the refugees to flee to Europe, with 1 million Syrian refugees reaching Europe by the end of December 2015. It was a good opportunity to Islamize Europe with the EU continuing to block Turkey's admission to the European Union for years and years, getting rid of many terrorists, sending them to Europe with estimates reporting that 5-10% of the refugees are either terrorists or Isis members. The Turks used the refugee as an extortion and blackmail tool to get more money out of the EU, securing 3 billion Euros to Turkey in late 2015 from the EU, to stop or slow down the flow of refugees to Europe. The flow of refugees, however, accelerated tremendously after September 30, when Russia decided to intervene in the Syrian war and the Russian planes started bombing the terrorists and their bases in Syria. The downing of the Russian plane in October was an attempt by Turkey to drag the EU and NATO into war with Russia, the plan did not work, however, it did increase the influx of Syrian refugees to Europe. At the time of the writing of this letter, I heard on the news that Turkey will agree to stop the flow of Syrian refugees to Europe and even "take some of

Continued on page 5



WHAT HAVE WE DONE WITH YOUR MONEY?

This past November, United People in Christ celebrated its 17th Birthday, helping our needy brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East.

Since its inception in 1998, and as of December 31, 2015 your Donations have totaled **\$551,696.07** of which we have distributed **\$511,828.00** 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 the year ending December 31, 2014 totaled **\$64,303.00**.

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 years 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 have 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 2015 WERE AS FOLLOWS:

EGYPT:	Via Light for the Orphans	\$2,000.00	
	Via Bishop Tadros for the poor & needy Christians in Port Saaid	3,000.00	
	Via H..O.P.E.	2,500.00	
	Archangel Michael Coptic Care	<u>2,500.00</u>	
	Total		\$10,000.00
IRAQ:	Via St. Peter & Paul Good Samaritan Relief Fund (Father Edward Hanna)	2,000.00	
	Via St. Thomas the Apostle Church (Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim)	2,000.00	
	Total		\$4,000.00
LEBANON:	St, Jude Catholic Church	\$2,000.00	
	Convent of our Lady of Kaftoon	1,000.00	
	House of the Elders	1,000.00	
	Chaldean Christian for Iraqi refugees in Lebanon	<u>4,000.00</u>	
	Via Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim		
	Total		\$8,000.00
PALESTINE: (WEST BANK)	Via Bethlehem Association	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	
	Total		\$3,000.00
SUDAN:	Via Light for Orphan	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	
	Total		\$2,000.00
SYRIA:	Via International Christian Outreach Fund	<u>\$34,000.00</u>	
	Total		\$34000.00

TOTAL DISTRIBUTION IN 2015— \$61,000.00

**UNITED PEOPLE IN CHRIST
2016 SPRING PICNIC**

P I C N I C

TO BENEFIT NEEDY CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

WHEN: SUNDAY APRIL 17, 2016 FROM 1:30 TO 6 p.m.

**WHERE: SANLANDO PARK
401 Highland Street
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714**

Great Food

Wonderful Music

D.J.

Raffles and Door Prizes

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

ADULT: \$20.00 (\$15.00 with reservation before April 10, 2016)

CHILD: \$10.00 (\$8.00 with reservation before April 10, 2016)

CHILDREN UNDER 5: FREE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND/OR TICKETS CONTACT:

Dr. Amid Habib @ 321-356-6247

Dr. Olfat Mansour @ 407-648-2247

YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST IN THE MIDDLE EAST , ESPECIALLY SYRIA AND IRAQ ARE NOT ONLY ENDURING PERSECUTION, BUT ALSO VERY HARD AND HARSH ECONOMICAL TIMES. THIS EASTER SEASON I AM ASKING YOU NOT ONLY TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR PICNIC NEXT MONTH, BUT ALSO TO SEND YOUR GENEROUS TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION IN THE ENCLOSED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO HELP US IN HELPING THEM. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS!

• ... **You can now read this newsletter**
 • .. **and our previous newsletters by**
 • . **visiting our website:**
 • **unitedpeopleinchrist.org**

I am indebted to Janet Williamson for the typing and editing of this Newsletter.

(cut).....

**UNITED PEOPLE IN CHRIST
 SPRING PICNIC**

SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2016 1:30 p.m. SANLANDO PARK, ALTAMONTE SPRINGS

TICKET ORDER FORM: NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE: _____

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

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

Easter donation to UPICF Mission _____

TOTAL \$ _____

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

Tickets will be mailed to your address above. **ALL TICKET ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 10, 2016.**

We have a special need: If you have any items that you could donate for our raffles or door prizes, **please check this box** () and we will contact you. All donations are tax deductible. UPIC thanks those who have already donated items as wine sets, gift certificates, paintings and other treasures. For more information call Dr. Habib at 321-356-6247.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Continued from Page 1

them back” in exchange EU will give Turkey an additional 3 billion Euros and admit the Turks to Europe without visas. Blackmail does work, gives us more money and admits our Turks to the EU without visas, or we will send you more and more refugees.

Almost 10,000 children have vanished among the Syrian refugees fleeing to Europe. Four thousand refugees drowned crossing the Aegean Sea to Greece. In Turkey, there is a flourishing smuggling market for refugees charging anywhere between \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 per refugee to be smuggled to Europe, fake Syrian passports market and fake safety jacket market.

Early in 2016 a factory producing life jackets for refugees wanting to cross the Aegean Sea to Greece was discovered in Turkey. Police seized more than 1,200 fake life jackets in the factory in Izmir. Police arrested 4 workers making the jackets, including two young Syrian girls. The raid came in the same week that the bodies of more than 30 people washed up on the Turkish beaches, having drowned in their attempt to reach Greece. After the agreement of the 3 billion Euro deal between the EU and Turkey, Turkish police have slightly increased their operation against people involved in the booming refugee smuggling business. In 2015, fake Syrian passports were being used by non-Syrians in the hope of fraudulently gaining legal residency in Europe, according to the EU border agency, Frontex, trafficking in fake Syrian passports increased. In September 2015 German custom officers seized packages containing fake Syrian passports which police suspected were being sold illegally to those who wanted to gain entry into the country.

The Syrian refugee crisis is the worst humanitarian disaster in our time, and nobody gave a hoot about the problem until the crisis reached Europe, when what is called the “International Community” woke up to its magnitude. The United Nations High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) reported in 2014 that the total number of refugees worldwide exceeded 50 million for the first time since World War II. Now, these days, the number is up to almost 60 million with the recent increase due to the increased number of Syrian and Yemeni refugees.

The crossing of more than 1 million refugees into Europe in 2015 sparked a crisis as European countries struggled to cope with the influx of refugees, creating a division in the EU over how best to deal with the refugee problem. The total for land and sea for people reaching Europe, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reached 1.6 million refugees on December 31, 2015. The vast majority arrived by sea, and an additional 130,000 refugees have arrived in Europe during the months of January and February of 2016. The majority of these refugees to Europe are from Syria, but there is a small number coming from Iraq, Libya, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

There is no question that Germany has received the Syrian and other refugees with open arms and have accepted, so far, 800,000 Syrian refugees, among them 6,000 physicians and 7,000 engineers. Sweden has also been very hospitable to the Syrian refugee and in September 2014 Sweden migration authorities ruled that all Syrian asylum seekers will be granted permanent residency in light of the worsening conflict in Syria. Sweden is the first EU country to make this offer. Brazil is the first country in the Americas region to offer humanitarian visas to Syrian refugees.

Contrary to the action of Germany, Sweden and Brazil, some European countries took shameful position towards the Syrian refugee, forgetting their humanitarian, legal and political obligation to assist these people. France went as far as suggesting to bomb and drown the ships carrying refugees in the sea, when the 4th paragraph of the Geneva Convention mandates the acceptance of refugees and paragraph II of the European Rights of Life obliged the receiving country to help them. Other countries such as Macedonia, Bologna, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia and Poland, have decided to close their borders in the face of the refugees. Transit countries such as Greece will soon have an explosive problem with the economy of the country almost bankrupt. 13,000 Syrian refugees are stuck these days between the borders of Greece and Macedonia, with no place to go after crossing the Aegean Sea coming from Turkey.

For the Syrian Christians, the situation is simply an ethnic cleansing, a genocide. Since March 2011, over 1 million Syrian Christians, half of Syria’s Christian population, have left or forced to leave the country, and there is no end in sight for their exodus. Many Christian towns are now totally empty from its Christian inhabitants, more than 100 churches and monasteries have been burned or destroyed, Christian areas in Damascus, Homs and Aleppo are shelled on a daily basis by mortars. Cars filled with explosive, are left to explode all over the cities, especially in Christian neighborhoods. Killing, massacres, abduction and attacks on places of worship is rampant. The writing is on the wall, they want to extinguish Christianity in the Middle East, the question is not if, but how soon.

After 5 years of the blood bath, the “International Community” decided it is time to bring peace to Syria. They forced and passed through the Security Council of the United Nations a resolution to “stop hostility” effective February 27, 2015. I personally think it is temporary and will not last very long. They have not finished destroying the country yet, have not agreed among each other how to divide the rich pie (Syria), who is going to take what piece, and who is going to build what when the destruction is completed.

Please pray for Syria! Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East, especially in Syria and Iraq. Christ is risen, indeed he is risen. Wishing each and every one of you a happy 2016 Resurrection!

Amid Habib, M.D.



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 17, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.
at Sanlando Park in Altamonte Springs, Florida.
Please mark your calendar.

The Fall UPIC Banquet

will take place on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.
At Eastmont Community Center
Please mark your calendar.

Your brothers and sisters in Christ in the Middle East, especially in Syria, Iraq, Egypt and the West Bank., are not only enduring persecution but also a very bad and harsh economical times. This Easter season, I am asking you to help us in helping them by sending your generous tax deductible donations in the enclosed self-addressed envelope and May the Lord Bless you Always!

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE