



Market in Sulaymaniyah

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE US!

The cosmopolitan city of Sulaymaniyah, in the central portion of Iraqi Kurdistan near the border with Iran, has been a Kurdish center of influence and culture since its founding in 1784. Little did Ibrahim Pasha Baban know that the city he named in honor of his father Sulaiman would become the birthplace of numerous famous Kurdish poets, writers, historians, politicians, scholars and singers.

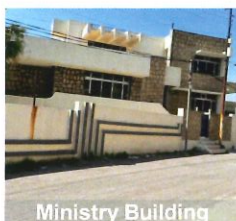
A decade ago, Dr. Edgar Feghaly and Iraqi pastor Maher Douad tried to spearhead a project to translate the Bible into Kurdish (Sorani) and to establish a Kurdish church, but they could not find an educationally astute, doctrinally sound Kurdish Christian to implement the project.

The situation has changed. On a recent trip to the Kurdistan region, Dr. Feghaly and Pastor Maher met with DK, a born-again Christian who was previously a high-ranking officer in the Kurdish army. While serving in Turkey, a group of Arabic-speaking Christians witnessed

to DK, led him to faith in Jesus, and discipled him for one year. Because of his faith in Jesus, DK was separated from the army and a price was placed on his head. Miraculously the Lord has spared his life.

"I could have gone to Belgium or the U.S. for my safety," DK explained to Dr. Feghaly, "but I chose to stay in Kurdistan because my people are going to hell, and I need to find a way to reach them! If I live the normal eighty years, then half of my life is already passed. I want to use the rest of my life in the service of the Lord!"

Within a short time, Brother DK assembled a team which has completed an accurate translation of the Sorani (Kurdish) New Testament and sent it for final revisions before printing. "The Bible is not complete without the Old Testament!" DK decided. "I have two team members who read and write Hebrew, one Iranian, and several qualified Kurdish translators. We need the Old Testament translated," DK declared passionately. DK's second vision is the establishment of a church



Ministry Building

WE'RE REACHING THE WORLD!

and a Christian radio station in the Kurdish-controlled city of Sulaymaniyah (population 1.5 million). DK has a nucleus of 30-40 Kurds who have accepted Christ as their Savior, but the Kurdish government has denied their request to establish a church in the city. Not to be stymied, DK has rented a 5,000-square foot, three-story building in a rural location for a mere \$650 per month. This site will be the base for the church, radio station, and translation center. Pastor Maher from Baghdad will be the figurehead.

Although the preparations seem to be falling in line, this endeavor is not without great danger. The Catholic church tried to start a school in Sulaymaniyah a few years ago. When the principal witnessed to the students, he was shot to death by a student who then took his own life. Another brave female principal of an Islamic Kurdish school and her husband, a teacher, have been carefully taking advantage of their positions by cautiously introducing Christ to their students, but their boldness is very risky.

Brother DK has assured our ministry partners that he understands the danger involved in witnessing for Jesus, but he feels that he has an advantage because he is a Kurd. CRI partners believe that God has opened this door but... **WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS!**

Pastor DK's final plea still rings in our ears. "Brother Feghaly, we need your help and the help of all your partners in order to reach Kurdistan with the Word of God. **PLEASE DON'T LEAVE US!**"



Pastor of the Kurds, Pastor Maher Douad, Dr. Edgar Feghaly

EDITOR'S NOTE

CRI partners are actively pursuing the unfolding opportunity in Sulaymaniyah. We will need funds, but our budget is not yet finalized. Please pray for the Kurdish work. We already have radio stations in three Kurdish areas (Erbil, Dohuk, and Kirkuk), but they are broadcasting in Arabic. Kurdish will be a new language for CRI, and the work to provide enough programming for a 24-hour day will be enormous.

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Christmas outreach to Muslims in Marawi City

PHILIPPINES *Marawi City*, Testimony from Honeyvie

My name is Honeyvie. I am fourth-year student at Iloilo Baptist College, but I was born in a staunch Muslim community in Malawi City, Mindanao. I recently went to my hometown for a Christmas mission outreach which was sponsored by our Christian radio station. When I learned that my sister's Muslim friend was very ill, I decided to visit his home to witness to him. To gain courage, I reminded myself of the following missionary motto: "Let's not die from sickness or accidents... let's die in the mission field." I was shaking in fear as I hid with the friend and his mother in an upstairs room where I shared the gospel of Jesus. When they prayed "in Jesus' name" I cried. The mom thanked me for sharing Jesus and said, "Maybe now God will hear my prayer and heal my son!"



Jerry Wyatt and radio staffmember

TANZANIA *Morogoro*, Testimony by Missionary Jerry Wyatt

A listener recently contacted the station. "I am just calling because I do not understand eternal life at all." Our staff member was able to share the gospel, and the caller trusted Jesus.

We are working to produce more gospel presentations using different staff members' voices, so that anyone who listens to *Voice of Life* radio will hear the gospel many times per day.