



You Make All the Difference!

The mission of Stand with Iraqi Christians (SWIC) is to support, through friendship and material aid, the right of Christians and their communities in Iraq to survive and thrive. We cannot do this without you!

Message from the Executive Director

Over the past several months I have spent time talking to Stand with Iraqi Christians' friends in northern Iraq. As they return to their homelands they describe the need for

- water wells,
- after school programs, and
- a place to shop for food.

These are all things we take for granted here, but not in Iraq. As Christian families work to rebuild their lives, they have hope for the future. However they cannot achieve that future without assistance.



Deb Parker

My message is simple. I ask you to do what you can to contribute to our projects up on the Nineveh Plains, or to support the opening of a new school at St. George's Church in Baghdad. Imagine the future Iraq, where Christian and Muslim girls and boys go to elementary school together. This is the dream of many parents and together we can help make it happen.

So please make SWIC one of your year-end donations:

<http://standwithiraqichristians.org/donate/#paypal>

You can also visit **www.StandwithIraqiChristians.org** and click the red donate button, or send a check to *Stand with Iraqi Christians*, 400 King of Prussia Road, Radnor, PA 19087.

DONATE NOW

Message from the Founder

Dear Friends of SWIC,

2017 has been a year of anxiety, uncertainty and hope for Iraq's Christians. With Da'esh (ISIS) driven militarily from the north this fall, displaced Christians and others were encouraged to return to their homes on the Nineveh Plains. But enormous challenges face them. A central question has always been whether Christianity has a future in Iraq. It is not for those of us outside Iraq to give our views on the right road for them, but we are called to offer our friendship, strength and spirit to our Iraqi friends who are showing the faith, energy and determination to remain in their historic homeland. Stand with Iraqi Christians (SWIC) will continue to walk hand-in-hand with these friends-wherever the path forward leads-and it's a good path guided by God's spirit and the faith of Iraq's people.



St. George's Church,
Baghdad

As our good friend Archdeacon Bill Schwartz of the Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf wrote recently, "Christianity's chances of survival in Iraq rest on whether Christians are willing and able to return to their homelands."

SWIC is deeply committed to accompanying these Christians on that journey. In November, we were saddened that our planned mission trip to Baghdad and the Nineveh Plains had to be postponed due to Iraqi, Turkish and Iranian anger over the Kurds' referendum on independence which caused the closure of the Erbil airport. However, we are moving full steam ahead on funding projects with our friends at St. George's Church (Baghdad) and in the destroyed Nineveh Plains city of Qaraqosh (also known as Bahkdida) in the northern Kurdish portion of Iraq. We plan to visit Iraq this spring.

In his recent report on the Anglican Communion's commitment to the ministries of the Middle East, Bishop Michael Lewis writes, "For me, [witnessing Christian rebuilding efforts] is a deep reminder of the power of celebration in uniting and building the community in a strongly future orientation."

SWIC understands that the future of Christians in Iraq is tied inextricably with the reforming of the community relationships in the whole of Iraq-ethnic, sectarian, political and cultural. For now it is essential that SWIC participates in addressing the ongoing crisis and rebuilding efforts, but we are also in it for the long-haul.

2018 will be crucial for the Christians in Iraq.

Our long-time friend and collaborator Sinan now works with Fr. Faiz at St. George's, and both of these extraordinary people are becoming important voices in the growing ecumenical and interfaith dialogue occurring among all the faith communities in Baghdad and throughout the country.

Sinan told me on the phone just the other day, "It's fantastic that we are all doing mission projects to deal with this crisis, but simply helping Iraqis materially is not a long term solution. The future is integrating Christians in Iraq as full and participating people in its society."

In this Season of Advent, where we await the coming of the Christ child among us, I wish God's blessing upon you all and thank you for your faithful commitment to SWIC. I pray that 2018 is a year of growth in grace and spirit for all of us. We can move forward confident in the knowledge that we can, and will, make a difference for our sisters and brothers in Iraq, all with God's help!



Peace and blessings,
Fr. Chris Bishop

Message from the Treasurer

One of the joys I receive from my work with Stand with Iraqi Christians (SWIC) is my interaction with donors and, hopefully, future donors. Whether it is participating at a screening of our film ***Where is Our Place?***, corresponding through e-mails or just talking with people, I love answering questions or speaking about our mission, but more importantly, I relish listening to others and watching as their interest and enthusiasm develops. Forming relationships is one of the cornerstones of the Stand with Iraqi Christians' mission both domestically and in Iraq. We have been blessed by people's generosity and especially now, we are truly grateful to our generous patron who agreed to match all donations made between August 15th and December 15th up to \$5,000. We wouldn't be in the position to raise \$10,000 before the end of the year without this family. And, the great news is that we have done it! Thank you to all of our contributors who rose to this challenge and got us over the top.



Pam Faber

Our work continues, though, and we still have much to do. We will be helping to fund much needed water wells in Northern Iraq and assisting in the construction of the new school at St. George's Church in Baghdad. Please consider making a tax deductible donation today through our website (www.standwithiraqichristians.org). No amount is too small, and the recurring donation option allows you to pick an amount which will automatically be donated every month.

Every dollar counts, and your gift will make a real difference in the lives of our Iraqi brothers and sisters.

DONATE NOW

STAY CONNECTED:



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