

Dear Friend in Christ:

Two weeks ago, an Iraqi Christian Relief Council member and I visited a mother with her daughter who had fled Iraq under the most horrifying circumstances. **Joaneh Benjamin**, a Christian woman who speaks Aramaic (language of Christ) has endured a terrible pain, a pain a mother should never have to experience. Joaneh, 58 years old, who looks 78, lost three of her young daughters. **Ebtisam** and **Enas Uraham** were murdered while coming home from work. Muslim extremists, stopped their taxi, and shot Ebtisam 4 times in her head and 7 times in her back, while Enas was shot 4 times in the back of her head, simply because they were Christian. The Muslim taxi driver's life was spared.

On the 40th day of mourning, their father, Mr. Uraham died of a heart attack, leaving the family even more grief stricken. On the day of their father's funeral, the third sister, **Susan** was captured by a group of Muslim extremists and was beaten to death for also being a Christian. When one thinks things cannot get worse for this family, the mother starts receiving several death threat phone calls and a letter stating her last surviving daughter in her household will be killed next. They escaped Iraq first to Syria, then to Turkey and became refugees. They arrived in Chicago in 2009 and are currently trying to adapt to a new culture while still grieving.

During our visit, Joaneh wept uncontrollably. She held me in her arms and said to hold her tight as she was feeling her daughters through me. We asked how we can help. She requested for prayers for the soul of her daughters who are now Christian Martyrs. She asked for prayers for her and her young daughter to have the strength to go on. She said: "All I want is to rebuild my life for **Mariam** (her youngest daughter).

My dear friend, this is only one of many heartbreaking stories I have witnessed over the last three years. The need is great. Iraqi Christians have been tormented for following Christ since 2003. There are over 1 million who are refugees in Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Turkey. They are in need of emergency food, shelter, medicine.

The Iraqi Christian Relief Council, a **501(c)(3)** organization, in coordination with entities and organizations in the United States of America, are responsible for educating the Americans of the religious and ethnic cleansing being inflicted on Christians in Iraq. Our objective in raising awareness among the Americans is asking for their prayers, raising, and delivering financial assistance for the Iraqi Christians affected by these atrocities.

With your **\$25.00 donation**, we are able to purchase 1 food parcel which feeds a family of four for up to 1 week. Each food parcel contains flour, rice, milk, eggs, and oil.

In the coming year, let us remember the Body of Christ in Iraq who is suffering in the name of **our Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ**. Please remember those who have become martyrs in His name.

To help your brothers and sisters in Christ, please visit **www.iraqichristianrelief.org** and make your donation online. You may also send your check or money order to **Iraqi Christian Relief Council at P.O. Box 3021 Glenview, IL. 60025**. We pray that our Lord keeps you and your loved ones safe during these holy days.

All contributions are deductible for computing income and estate taxes.

Sincerely,

Juliana Taimoorazy
Founder and President