

Wahid and Laila Wahba

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## Iraq: Peace That Passeth Understanding?

***“Your peace surpasses understanding, your peace will never vanish, whatever the enemy says, you fill our hearts with peace”.***

These were the worship words of the song sung on the second day of the conference.

Wahid had tears in his eyes, listening to those words coming from people in a war torn country. Many of those singing have lost their homes, most of them have lost at least one loved one, other have seen loved ones killed in front of their own eyes.

As we were teaching ‘The Testing of Your Faith’ we could see the pain and the courage on their faces; there were 71 Iraqis attending.

We met Raymond- a 25 year old man-who was kidnapped by ISIS.

ISIS asked for a very big ransom to return him. and although his father is not a rich man, he gave everything he owned to get him back.

Raymond’s relationship to his dad was never good, but when he saw what his dad did, and how much he paid his last farthing to bring him back he is now so grateful. He understand now what Jesus did for him.

Pray for the dad who, though he knows he did the right thing is now in dire need for the basics for his family. He is struggling to keep his family alive, and has a hard time putting food on the table.

***“..That in much testing of trouble, the overflowing of their joy, and the depth of their poverty, abounded to the riches of their generosity. For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability; they gave willingly”.*** 2 Cor 8:2,3

Ashti, a leader from Duhok and his wife Jacqueline, were among the leaders at the conference. They brought a big group with them to the conference, along with many children.

MELTI had informed them that children will need to pay 50% of the adult fees.

At the end of the conference, Ashti, paid 100% for the children as well as \$1500 donation for MELTI. It reminded us of the Church in Macedonia in 2 Cor 8:2,3.

Like the woman who gave her all.

Ashti and his wife have a shelter that hosts refugees fleeing from ISIS.

They told us about many European girls who come to their church, pregnant from ISIS men. They are so traumatized that they cannot think straight and cannot go back to their countries. The Iraq church ministers to these women, loving on them and pray for them that God will release and save them from their bondages.

The main need in Iraq is discipleship, so we decided to go back every quarter.

***We are planning to go every quarter to Iraq. The needs are too many to ignore. Your prayer and support will be crucial. “If you say, Behold, we did not know; does not He who searches the heart consider it? And the Keeper of your soul, does He know?” Prov 24.12***