



RCO Ministries

in the Holy Land

August 2014

**Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven,....
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Dear Friends,

It is hard to write this letter without thinking of all the ongoing violence in the Middle East. **Matthew 6: 9-10**

- Our hearts are broken over Gaza, as we see picture after picture of children injured and dying.
- We are also saddened over the Jewish soldiers who were killed and the rockets that have landed in Israel.
- We feel threatened as we read about the ISIS (DAESH) militia controlling part of Syria and part of Iraq with its goal of eliminating Christians from the Middle East (**see second page for more details**).



Dr. Kakish along with the church elders, praying over the Lord's Table, in a visit to the church in Gaza a few months ago.

NEVER HAVE WE BEEN SO CONCERNED ABOUT THE EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS WE ARE NOW.  **Please pray for the Middle East: the people of Syria, and Iraq and for both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict who have been hurting much.**

As for ourselves and our beloved people in Ramallah, Ramla and those in Gaza that are a part of the church there, we have all been safe. The children from the Home of New Life are safe, and we are hoping the situation will quiet down by the time school starts at the end of August.

Pastor Munir will be flying to New York to attend special meetings including a prayer meeting organized by the World Evangelical Alliance that takes place on August 11th –15th. This will involve meeting delegates from the UN. Pastor Kakish will be sharing with them about

the situation in the Middle East.  **Pray that the UN will sense the urgency to help resolve the Middle Eastern crises.**

We are ready to start our two-year Biblical Studies program which is open to the congregation as well as the community in Ramla and Ramallah this September. Dr. Kakish also hopes to share his pastoral experience with seminary students in the city of Netanya, as he has been invited to teach a Masters level course there.

Because He lives,  **Please pray for these teaching opportunities to bear much fruit.**

Munir Kakish

Dr. Munir & Sharon Kakish

along with Michael & Jackie Kakish

**Thank you for your support and prayers.
Please continue to pray for the Middle East.**

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FACED WITH THE MOST VIOLENT TERRORIST GROUPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A huge part of the Middle East is in total turmoil, and it is threatening to the Christians living there. There are approximately 13 million Christians in the Middle East and there are some groups whose goal is **to eliminate all Christians in this area**. The following gives a little synopsis of the groups, and their goals and methods.

As you may know, there are two major divisions of Islam, Sunni and Shia. In Iraq, the southern portion is Shia, the northern is Sunni and the militias there are fighting and killing one another along with civilians. There are a lot of Sunni offshoots. In the West Bank, for example, Fatah is a Sunni offshoot but it is more moderate and tolerant than its counterpart, Hamas. **SOME SUNNI GROUPS, HOWEVER ARE EXTREMELY VIOLENT, MORE SO THAN AL-QAEDA AND INTEND TO WIPE OUT CHRISTIANITY.**

Hamas, the one most heard of in Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is an offshoot of the Moslem Brotherhood in Egypt and is Sunni. The Hamas group in Gaza is more of a political group than a religious one. It wants Israel to withdraw the ground forces and soldiers as part of a ceasefire and Israel does not want to. As a result the Arab residents of Gaza, who are as desperate as the Israelis for the shelling to stop, have been caught in this ongoing disaster! The children and families are left with no electricity, little food, constant shelling and death all around. **THE WORLD MUST STOP BOTH SIDES! WE MUST STOP ISRAELI FAMILIES FROM LOSING LOVED ONES AND ARAB FAMILIES FROM LOSING LOVED ONES!**

THE GROUP THAT PRESENTS THE GREATEST DANGER TO CHRISTIANS TODAY IS CALLED **ISIS, IS OR DAESH**. It is related to the Salafists, an ultra religious Sunni Moslem group. ISIS is so extreme that al-Qaeda will not associate with them. They have already gained control of part of Syria and part of Iraq as shown in the map. They forced Christians in the town of Mosul (near Biblical Nineveh) to either convert, pay a \$250-\$450 monthly fine, die, or leave the country. They confiscated all their property and the residents were allowed to leave with only their clothes. There were beheadings in public and rampant rape. Women are stoned and beaten for not dressing “properly.” Their goal is to establish a Moslem Empire that includes Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, and Saudi Arabia.

Salafists are also found in Qatar, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia. There is a VERY great danger that if the fighting spreads in the Middle East, these other Salafists will join with ISIS and cause a war involving all the countries in the Middle East.

The ISIS soldiers gun down Christians on sight, destroy churches, destroy crosses on churches, and line up Christians and soldiers from other groups and shoot them in mass graves.

You must contact anyone you know to help these Christians. You must get the UN and USA to force these criminals in ISIS to stop their actions. **IT IS IMPERATIVE TO STOP THEM.**

Please unite with us in prayers, Lord, “Your Kingdom Come Your Will be Done on Earth (including the Middle East) as it is in Heaven!” Amen—Come Lord Jesus!

