

The Bunge Bulletin

ALL SCRIPTURE IS BREATHED OUT BY GOD AND PROFITABLE FOR
TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION,
AND FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

December 2020



Chaldean December Updated

Christmas for Chaldeans in the Detroit area will probably be much more subdued this year. Salim reports that Chaldeans in Detroit are staying away from worshipping because of fear of catching Covid-19. COVID concerns have repeatedly altered the wedding plans of Salim's son, Fadi. The ceremony was to take place this past Spring. Now it will happen in May of 2021.

Chaldeans in Iraq experience less COVID interference. According to *reliefweb*, the daily number of COVID cases across the country is decreasing. During the past weeks, the Government of Iraq has continued to maintain a lax approach towards COVID-19 restriction measures, with no major actions announced since easing restrictions in September. The political climate in Iraq is not as relaxed, as Salim says there are disturbances in the streets.

Chaldean Church History

In 1846, after years of mounting tension between the Kurdish and Assyrian communities, the Kurds invaded from the north and massacred 10,000 of the Assyrian Christians, one fifth of their population. As a result of this event, as well as the realization that they were surrounded by hostile neighbours, the Nestorian Patriarch (known by the hereditary title "Mar Shimun") began to appeal to both England and Russia for help. Conflict with the Kurds continued into the next century, when the Patriarch was murdered in 1917. Following World War I, having given up hope of an independent homeland, the Assyrians were relocated to the British Mandate in Iraq. When the Mandate expired in 1935, the Patriarch and many others from his community emigrated to the USA as refugees. Others went to Europe, Canada and Australia. The current Patriarch resides in the USA. Today, the Church of the East has a membership of about 500,000. It accepts the ecumenical Councils of Nicea (325) and Constantinople (381).

[.http://www.syriacstudies.com/2012/10/05/the-church-of-the-east-mark-dickens/](http://www.syriacstudies.com/2012/10/05/the-church-of-the-east-mark-dickens/)

Prayer and Praise:

- **Pray for additional workers to assist in translating and recording.**
- **Pray for additional funding sources for Aramaic Bible Translators.**
- **Pray for good health amid continuing corona virus concerns.**

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