



The History of the Kurdistan Partnership Daniel Lewis & Adriana Pariz

The Kurdistan Partnership has its roots in a few PCA churches in the American urban Northeast. God placed vision and desire in the hearts of elders and pastors to promote a church planting movement among unreached peoples. In November of 2022, a number of these men traveled to the Middle East on a vision trip to further discern the Lord's calling; where and what shape the venture might take.

They chose the Middle East intentionally. This region is home to numerous peoples with little to no access to the gospel, many living within cultures that are nearly 100% Muslim. This vision trip featured Beirut, Lebanon; Erbil and Duhok in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq; and Baku, Azerbaijan.



At each stop, they met face-to-face with teams of kingdom workers laboring on the ground. Among these different regions, the need for Reformed, Bible-preaching churches in the Kurdish language (particularly in Dohuk) stood out clearly. After returning, they prayed and sought the Lord's guidance, which led the vision team to establish the Kurdistan Partnership in early 2023.

In April of 2024, another group of leaders returned to Kurdistan to further discern how best to serve the region in church planting. They spent most of their time in Duhok, meeting church leaders, recent converts, Bible translators, workers, and visiting Yazidi refugee camps.

They learned that there are no reformed churches in Kurdish in the city of Duhok. While there are churches in English and Arabic, none exist in the heart language of these people.

The sense of the Lord's call was confirmed when a Kurdish person, asked 'would you please come plant churches among us.' Additionally, the group saw how difficult it is for Kurdish believers to remain in the region after conversion due to persecution. The team learned that shortly before their arrival, a Kurdish believer was murdered by his family in an 'honor killing' for his faith in Jesus, leaving behind a widow and several children.

Despite these challenges, however, the Kurdistan Partnership saw clear evidence of God’s work among the Kurds and confirmation that He was indeed calling them to plant churches in Kurdistan.

So, where are we now?

Duhok needs a Reformed, Kurdish-speaking church. The Lord has already provided connections who desire to see this work established. And now, we move forward patiently and prayerfully. Our near-term objective is to place a Kurdish-speaking team in Dohuk to grow the first such church and to train indigenous church planters. We invite you to pray with us —for the Father to send workers and build up a Dohuk team, that Christ the King would grant conversions and protect new believers, and for the Spirit to establish faithful churches in this city and across Greater Kurdistan. To God be the glory.



HOW YOU CAN PRAY

- That God would raise up a team in Dohuk
- For wisdom as we pursue relationships with local churches
- For protection for those serving in Dohuk
- For the Gospel to transform many in Kurdistan
- For converts to be protected and grow in their faith