

### Missionary goal

Baptists are missionary people. Their primary mission is to go into all the world, preach the Gospel and make disciples (Matthew 28,19-20). Church planting is a natural way to enable this to happen.

EBF-supported indigenous missionaries are starting new churches and the Indigenous Mission Project is seeing significant fruit in changed lives and transformed communities.

The experience of IMP confirms that indigenous missionaries are the most effective in church planting ministry. They know their people, culture and language, and that makes their success possible. The ministry of church planting is both exciting and demanding so it needs a lot of support. New churches are being planted in some of the most difficult places.

### God's mission despite the war

We hear most of the time about the war in Iraq. However there is also better news that comes to us from that disturbed and wounded country.



According to the current reports of Baptist leaders who know the local situation, the Iraqi people are now much more open to the Gospel than ever before. In spite of the war there have been thousands of Bibles distributed, numerous evangelistic events were organized and new churches have been started. There are for example ca. 3000 Evangelical believers in 12 churches in Baghdad alone. Some new Baptist congregations were also started in the north of Iraq.

### Church planting in Iraq

The Baptist work began in Baghdad in 1985 through international mission partnerships and close cooperation with the Jordanian & Lebanese Baptists. At that time the Presbyterian Church was the only Evangelical body present there. One indigenous missionary worked since 1990 with some families in home groups. This

was an underground church as the matter of fact. Such gatherings were not allowed, so the group constantly changed meeting places & dates.

During the war over 30 believers were baptized in a big plastic swimming pool that was installed in the backyard of one home. On January 16, 2004 the dedication of the First Baghdad Baptist Church and the ordination of its pastor took place.



During the last two years the church grew very fast. The average attendance on a Sunday is over 200 adults despite unsafe status & difficult circumstances. Let's have in mind that Sunday is working day in Iraq and that prevents some people from going to church.

Every Friday, the day off in Iraq, various groups have their meetings including the

children and youth. In addition, there are theological classes by extension and two discipleships training classes. At least 450 individuals go to the First Baptist Church of Baghdad every week.

It is also possible to freely provide the Iraqi people with spiritual materials from the Baptist Publications. Christian books exhibitions have been organized. In addition to that some underprivileged families receive parcels of food. The vital part of the ministry though is due to an evangelistic team which regularly visits non Christian families in order to share the Gospel. The other 'follow up' group takes care of the new converts.

Several members of the Baghdad Baptist Church were sent abroad to study theology. They will return to serve the Lord in Iraq after having completed their studies.

A new Baptist Church is being planted on the other side of the Tiger River, where no Evangelical witness and the vast majority are not Christians. Some other church plants are in the north of the country.

**Indigenous missionary** is planting new church in the part of Baghdad the mother church being the FBCh of Baghdad. Church planter began with only one family in 2006 and in March of 2007 he ministered to eight families. They meet in a rented building (they believe that a purchase of their own in future would keep the costs down). They are glad for having transportation to bring people from the

neighborhood. Church planter & his team have discovered that prayer has great power.

**Prayer requests**

**Pray** for the advancing ministry of the Gospel & church planting in Iraq. **Pray** that the presently observed spiritual openness of the Iraqi people will continue and potential obstacles will be overcome. **Pray** that the reconciliation between all of the people of this wounded country will happen as soon as possible.

In Christ,

***Daniel Trusiewicz***  
***EBF Mission Coordinator***

**To help planting reproducing churches!**

**To help growing healthy churches!**

**For the glory of God!**

**Offerings and donations should be sent to:**

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