



## National Evangelical Synod of Syria & Lebanon

February 26, 2015

A Letter from the National Evangelical Synod of  
Syria and Lebanon (NESSL)  
Dr. Mary Mikhael

Dear friends,

We greet you in the name of Him who gives life and hope, Jesus the Christ.

As our Armenian brothers and sisters are commemorating the Hundred Anniversary of the massacre inflicted on them in early 20th century, we watch with great sadness and are stunned by the news of Christian villages in the Northeast of Syria being criminally attacked by ISIS. killing, kidnapping, destroying churches and homes, and causing thousands of families to be displaced.

The Assyrian Christian community have lived in those villages for many centuries, now they are scattered with grief for the lost members, scared for the kidnapped, and seeking shelters in neighboring cities.

As assaults and attacks against the Christians move from one area to the other we ask, what else must we expect when ISIS moves freely with its arms behaving as if sent from above to kill and to destroy.....

No one has forgotten the scenes of Maaloula, when it's churches and monasteries were attacked, or the churches and cathedrals in Homs were destroyed, or the Christians leaving their homes to safer areas and being displaced. Now the scene of Christian villages being attacked is renewed.

Indeed there is fear and deep concern among the Christians as well among all who lived in Syria with peace and security.

We Christians must never forget what our Lord said to his disciples, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I overcome the world."

In the Northeast of Syria we do have Presbyterian churches, especially in Hasakeh and Qamishly. We have been in contact with the pastor and some session members who said, "there are thousands of families who fled the attacked villages. We are trying to provide help with our limited resources."

The pastor continued to say, "people are in a state of fear and caution, most especially in Hasakeh, being so near to the attacked Assyrian villages."

Stories about burned churches, and kidnapping men, women, children, as well as priests create deep concern. What will happen to the kidnapped is a big question, most specially that there is a threat to kill them. O God Almighty please have mercy and

intervene. Our hope rests in you alone.

We as the Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon abhor all violence against the Christians and against any human being. We are trying to provide help in every way we can to ease the suffering and the pain of so many.

We appeal to all who love peace and justice to cry with us to the God of life and hope for this tragedy to come to an end.

Our friends, please continue to pray with us.

In Christ,

Dr. Mary Mikhael

National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon  
(NESSL)

## *Treasurer's Report*

The 2014 budget year ended on a very positive note. Due to a push at the end of the year and the receipt of a few special gifts, our income actually exceeded our expenses for the year by approximately \$32,000, which was almost 15% over our entire projected revenue for the year. Since our staff and our Session have grown proficient in controlling expenses for several years, our net income was also approximately \$32,000 for the year and the Session has decided to utilize most of the retained earnings from 2014 in 2015 to further supplement the mission of the Church.

This is a belated thank you to the entire Congregation for your participation in and responsiveness to the Stewardship campaign last October and November. If you will recall, Mike Lochmann, Steve Guthrie, and Diana Justus provided testimonials and Pastor Connie expounded on the virtues of giving in all forms. The request was made to increase your level of giving, if possible, for 2015, even if it was \$1, \$5, or \$10 per week. The response from the Congregation was overwhelming because 40% of "giving units" increased their 2015 pledges!!

Because of the response during the Stewardship campaign, and with the retained earnings from 2014, the Session has approved the 2015 budget which calls for total revenue of \$269,000 in 2015 compared to a budget of \$217,000 in 2014, which is an increase of \$52,000 over 2014, which is an increase of almost 24%. Our Church is still small, and we all know that we need to grow our ranks, but the Congregation responded and reversed a downward trend in revenue and giving that had permeated budget decisions for several years. Thank you for your faith and steadfast support for the mission of our Church and please be diligent and consistent in meeting your 2015 pledges.

*Tom Stewart*



# Presbyterian Children's<sup>SM</sup> Homes and Services of Missouri

Dear Friends,

We are deeply grateful for your gift for Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services of Missouri and for your sincere expression of concern and encouragement. Your gift will help us provide healing to children and families so they can live healthy, productive lives. For 100 years we have sheltered, fed, clothed, taught and protected thousands of children who have been abused, neglected and abandoned. As the needs of children have changed, our agency has responded with programs and methods of treatment to give each child opportunity and hope for the healing they need.

Support for PCHAS has never been more important because children have never come to us with such severe trauma. Healing their broken spirits takes love, time, commitment and resources. As we are strengthened by God, we are affirmed by you and others like you who are committed to caring for such children. May God richly bless you and yours in 2015.

For all God's children,  
Mary Murawski  
Senior Development Officer



Dear Pastor Connie and Friends,

I want you to know how thankful I am for your partnership and your generous *Community for Hope* gift to support the work of Kansas City Rescue Mission.

This month, my wife Marilyn and I are celebrating 30 years of service at KCRM. Throughout the years, we have faced numerous challenges, seen God's provision time and time again, and been blessed to witness radical transformations in countless lives. What an awesome privilege it's been!

It hasn't always been easy, but one thing has kept us going: knowing you were right there with us – praying, serving, giving, caring. From the bottom of my heart, *thank you*.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Joe Colaizzi  
Executive Director, Kansas City Rescue Mission

P.S. KCRM needs H. U. G. S. – Hats, Underwear, Gloves and Socks! These items are essential to the men we serve and always in short supply. For a complete list of immediate needs, visit [KCRM.org](http://KCRM.org), go to “Join With KCRM” and click on “Immediate Needs.” Thanks!