

Rohaid and Celine Onella (7) and Ebair (31/2)

Initially they went to Lebanon – but found it hugely expensive. It cost them \$500 per month for a tiny flat so they came to Jordan where they stayed with Celine’s sister to start with. They are from Bakhdida near Mosul. Like others they heard what ISIL did to the Yazidis and had just 3-4 hours to escape from the area to Kurdistan.

### Wednesday am



**Nahla’s story:** Nahla had worked in the airport at Baghdad for years and learned a little English there. Her husband Riad died 6 years ago. She has a son left in Erbil – Bazil and a daughter Zeena. Bashara – her son is still with her.

All that Nahla had worked for 45 years was taken away in one night.

In October 2014 she was cleaning out her garage to wash the floor and found a piece of paper on the floor with a threat in it. She did not think it could be for her – but took it into the house and showed it to her son. The threat was simple – leave within 24 hours or we will kill you. She thought it could not be for her as she got on well with everyone, had not upset anyone - they did nothing but she did stop her son from going to work the next day and decided to stay in. The next day at 2pm there was a knock on the door and 3 men – one huge like a bodybuilder were there – all wearing yashmar and glasses...the big guy put his hand over her mouth and pushed her inside where her son was watching TV. They beat him up severely – such that he still has kidney problems a year later and is still on medication. (She is diabetic and has high blood pressure and takes 6 pills every day). They were told they had 3 choices: 1) convert 2) pay tax or 3) be killed. They had one day only and they were fortunate to get that as they normally did not give second warnings...but they were as they were known as ‘good people’. The note was signed by the True Islamist Movement. Notice was taken to all Christians in the area to get out.

They left immediately to hide at her sisters. Fortunately she had just received her retirement payment so she had a little money. The next day they applied for a visa to go to Jordan which takes a week or so, so they then travelled up to her son Bazil in Duhok, Kurdistan (two grandchildren aged 6 and 4). Her daughter Zena escaped to California – she was threatened and her father in law was kidnapped, kept in a mosque for 24 days and only released when they paid \$50,000 plus two cars plus all the items of gold they had. He was betrayed by one of his workers.

Prayer requests: for Iraq, for Syria – for the Middle East!



One of the team was listening to the bird in the cage which she found in the street and reminded them that Jesus said ‘Are not two sparrows sold for a penny....so do not be afraid you are more valuable than many sparrows’ Matt 10 29-31