
"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)

item 462

"If anyone destroys God's temple..." (1 Cor 3:17)

The Christians in Iraq, Nineveh and Mosul in particular, appear to be in a mixed mood as they stand at the threshold of freedom. They are sad because the war is still raging. They are happy because they are about to return to their homeland and to end their life of exile. They are distressed because they see that their churches, homes and farmlands have been turned into battlefields. They are bitter because they see their ancient and beautiful churches are desecrated and burnt and their city walls are painted with hatred, racism, discrimination and persecution.





However the Christians of Iraq are glad despite everything, for nothing could shake their faith in Christ, even if it meant sacrificing their own lives. As St Paul says: "... I have given up everything ... in order to gain Christ" (Phil 3:8).



As they now witness the defeat and subsequent surrender of those who destroyed their churches and homeland, they are also reminded of the words of St Paul: "If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him..." (1 Cor 3:17).





Christians in Iraq, as they reconstruct their lives, take refuge in the Word of God – the Word that fills them with peace and hope. “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”(Jer 29:11). They have pledged to abide by the injunctions of St Paul: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom 12:21).



I leave you with these recent pictures of the churches on the plains of Nineveh, with a note of apprehension of the conditions of other churches – even older – in other cities of Iraq.



As we take note of the signs and shadows of Nineveh, we may call to mind the preaching of the prophet Jonah, who saved the city from impending destruction. Therefore, we wait for a new Jonah who can rebuild the city of Nineveh and usher in a new era of salvation! Perhaps according to our reasoning, this is now impossible – "... but with God all things are possible" (Matt 19:26).

Rebwar Audish Basa oaoc – Rome – ITALY
31.10.16
oaocpg@gmail.com

sac asia oceania e-bulletin

you commented...

on #245

South Sudan has been a very difficult story. I've come across quite a bit about it with my Anglican work and interviewed the Anglican Primate of Sudan and South Sudan, Dr Daniel Deng Bul Yak, when he was in Melbourne a few years ago, around the time South Sudan became independent....it really seems like a frontier area in the religious divide in Africa between the predominantly Muslim north of the continent and the rapidly growing Christian south, with all the other religious, tribal, racial, national and geopolitical tensions thrown in.

So it has been a hard first five years for the new nation.....this link may be of some interest from the perspective of a sister Church:

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/member-churches/member-church.aspx?church=sudan>

MB 06.11.16