

Franklin Graham dedicates Emergency Field Hospital to treat victims of fighting in Iraq

Samaritan's Purse medical teams providing life-saving trauma care for injured from Mosul area; more Christian medical specialists from Canada needed for short-term duty

Erbil, Iraq – Jan. 13, 2017— Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham has dedicated the organization's state-of-the-art trauma facility in northern Iraq, which is now treating people who have sustained injuries as Iraqi and coalition forces fight ISIS terrorists for control of Mosul.

Victims injured in the intense fighting, including women and children who have been caught in the crossfire, are now receiving critically needed care from the organization's medical teams at the hospital.

At the dedication, Graham shared the story of the Good Samaritan saying: "At Samaritan's Purse, we want to show God's love to everyone. We show the same love and compassion for each and every one because that's what Jesus Christ would have us do."

Graham watched first-hand at the field hospital as Samaritan's Purse doctors provided treatment to victims of a car bomb. He encouraged the organization's medical teams—including some Canadians—who are working day and night to care for patients who might otherwise have no hope of survival.

The hospital will be open for a minimum of six months before being handed over to the Iraqi Ministry of Health, helping those who may not have access to medical care otherwise.

Christian medical personnel from Canada are urgently needed for deployments of three weeks or longer to staff the hospital. Samaritan's Purse is recruiting trauma/general surgeons, anesthesiologists, emergency medicine physicians, operating room nurses, intensive care unit nurses, surgical technicians, and operating room sterilization staff. [Learn more here.](#)

Iraqi government officials and other dignitaries, including Lise Grande—the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq—joined Graham for the dedication event.

In her remarks, Grande highlighted the critical role Samaritan's Purse is playing in this situation: "You stepped forward . . . [and] built this hospital in record time. Most of all, we want to thank you for saving people. Because Samaritan's Purse is here, thousands—tens of thousands—of people will survive."

Samaritan's Purse airlifted the hospital to Iraq in late 2016. It arrived on Christmas Day, and includes two operating theaters, an intensive care unit, and 54 in-patient beds. In partnership with the Iraqi Ministry of Health, the hospital is providing immediate medical care for people injured by gunfire, mines and other explosives who might not have survived before reaching the nearest permanent hospital, which is in Erbil.

Since the battle for control of Mosul began in October, Samaritan's Purse has provided food assistance to more than 130,000 people who fled the fighting and are now in several displacement camps. The organization has also supplied clean water, blankets, tarpaulin for shelters, hygiene kits, cooking kits, and shoes to displaced families and people returning to towns and villages no longer held by terrorists.

Recently, Samaritan's Purse began offering nutrition education in refugee camps and installed shelters in three of the camps, which function as safe spaces for women to breastfeed.

Samaritan's Purse has served the people of Iraq during numerous times of need for more than two decades, and has—with its latest initiative—maintained a continuous presence in the country since 2008.

Donations Needed

To support Samaritan's Purse's disaster relief efforts in Iraq, please visit SamaritansPurse.ca (click on "Donate") or call **1-800-663-6500**.

About Samaritan's Purse Canada

Samaritan's Purse is a Christian relief and development organization that takes its name from Jesus Christ's biblical story of the Good Samaritan. Like that Good Samaritan, who found a beaten man and helped restore him, we aid victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty, famine, and persecution. Besides disaster relief, our work includes collecting and distributing gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, providing safe water, teaching vocational skills, and providing agricultural supplies and training to families in the developing world. Learn more at SamaritansPurse.ca.

Media Inquiries:

Jeff Adams
Communications Director
Samaritan's Purse Canada
403-615-8747 (mobile)
Jadams@samaritan.ca