

# UPDATE

December 2010

## 2010 Highlights From Iraq

*In western Iraq, the Behdini speaking Kurds have been EPIC's major focus of evangelism and church planting activities. This year, there have been 15 adults baptized and three new fellowships planted with several more Bible study group meetings. Additionally, a "Timothy Leadership" program was launched and 47 young men and women are training to be leaders in church planting and discipleship.*

*This year a multiplicity of humanitarian projects were implemented in order to build relationships in Yazeedi, Armenia, Chaldean, and Assyrian villages. EPIC has been working among Kurds since 2006 in four different nations (Armenia, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran). Highlights of our activities with this people group of over 40 million will be featured in this and next month's Update.*

### 1. **Blind children music classes**

A class of blind children are being taught to play music from a keyboard. Ashty's brother (who is blind) is the teacher. He has written many worship songs and arranged songs and played for the Behdini Music CD. The children live in Dohuk and represent all ethnicities present but are primarily Muslim Kurds.



### 2. **Friday Sunday School for Children**

A group of Kurdish, Chaldean, and Assyrian children in Dohuk attend a neighborhood Bible class. The group is led by a Chaldean woman who is learning to teach children and is being facilitated by EPIC church planters. Their program is crafts, games, Bible study, and refreshments.



### 3. **Adult Discipleship Class**

Thirteen Behdini-speaking believers come for a four-hour study each month. They use the *Directions* materials by Jeff Adams as their curriculum. There are men, women, Yazeedis Kurds, and Armenians in the group, gathered from all over the province, and meet in Dohuk. Many are leaders of small groups themselves.



### 4. **Doctor visits**

EPIC has arranged monthly doctor visits to four isolated villages in Dohuk province. Each village has a small group of believers and the doctor visits, in Jesus name, give each village a practical reason for believers to not be oppressed.



### 5. **Soccer Field**

A soccer field was built in Avzerik. Soccer is a terrific venue for believers to share their faith beyond their village borders. There are now Bible studies in four of the seven villages around the field.



### 6. **Women Believer's Retreat**

A group of Christian women, mostly of Yazeedi and Chaldean background met to think, pray and imagine possibilities for outreach by and for women. There are a number of smaller ministries beginning as a result. One church has taken on a women staff member to do women's ministry. There is an outreach Friday school and women's Bible studies in various stages.



### 7. **Young Men's Retreat**

Led by Ashty, a group of high school and college-aged men met for a picnic. Relationships were developed that are now materializing into new leaders in church planting and discipleship. More of these events are planned.

