

TREE OF LIFE



Issue 10, 2015

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Survival beyond the ruins



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Assyrian Aid Society- Australia encourages readers of Tree of Life to provide us with your feedback. We would like to further encourage all Assyrians businesses to contribute by supporting our annual Tree of Life by advertising in our publication.

ASSYRIAN AID SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA

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Our Mission

To use all possible legal means to generate and acquire funds in terms of cash and assets to be used for the benefit of Assyrians in Bet-Nahrain. These contributions will ensure and sustain their self-sufficiency through creation and development of businesses, educational institutions, health agricultural industries and social infrastructure.

Fundraising Activities 2014 - 2015

*Christmas Appeal Radiothon
14th December 2014
2QLF 89.3FM - Braqala D'Shrara*



*Picnic - 26th January 2015
Australia Day at Fairfield
Showground hosted by
Assyrian Barwar Association*

*Morning Tea
28th February 2015 at
Assyrian Sports & Cultural Club*



*Morning Tea
30th May 2015 at
Assyrian Sports & Cultural Club*

*Morning Tea
12th September 2015 at
Assyrian Sports & Cultural Club*



Participation in Local, National and International Events 2015



*Forum on Youth
Against
Violence and Extremism
18th January 2015,
hosted by the Iraqi
Australian University
Graduates Forum*

*Inaugural Benefit
Dinner
1st February 2015
Assyrian Church of East
Relief Organisation*



*Valentine's Day Celebration
14th February 2015
with Assyrian Kirkuk Sydney*



*Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
14th April 2015 United Nations, New York*



*Rally - One year anniversary of the fall of Nineveh
17th June 2015, at Canberra US Embassy and United Nations Council,
Hosted by Assyrian Democratic Party (Zowaa)*



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Reader,

I have the honor of writing in this new issue of the Tree of Life, the magazine that the Assyrian Aid Society- Australia promised to place in your generous hands, that donated to our cause without hesitation.

In this issue, you will come across all the activities that AAS-Au conducted in order to raise funds and awareness concerning our people, whether in our homeland Bet-Nahren, or in Syria. Since the last time I wrote, the situation of our nation has remained the same, or even worsened. In Bet-Nahren, our displaced people continue to live in tents, and in Syria, our hostages are still captive, and our refugees scattered around the Middle East.

Despite the hardships we are experiencing, our Assyrian nation remains as strong as ever, and this dire situation has not only united us, but further strengthened our resolve. With your generous support, AAS-Au was able to help the Assyrian Aid Society- Iraq in accomplishing its difficult task of looking after thousands of our displaced people. As this mission became AAS-I's priority, other duties toward our nation did not ease. Supporting the Assyrian education is one of Assyrian Aid Society's main work, where the Society continues to provide education for our youth, ensuring that the Assyrian language remains the core language of the curriculum. Assyrian education in Iraq has all subjects designed in the Assyrian language, starting from

mathematics, science, literature, and studies in foreign languages. The Assyrian Aid Society passionately believe in building our youth by supporting the Chaldy-Assyrian Youth Group. The same applies to the Assyrian Women's Union, which works on helping our Assyrian women, and in return, contributing to the creation of a prosperous family. The Assyrian Women's Union runs a childcare that intends to educate Assyrian children, on the basis of the Assyrian language and culture. AAS's work does not stop there. Furthermore, it attends to the needs of our Assyrian villages, providing amenities such as water pumps and generators, allowing our people to access the essential resources of every day life.

While flicking through the pages of this magazine, you will come across photographs taken during the fundraising events that contributed to AAS-Au's achievements. I want to thank all those who supported the AAS-Au fundraising events, particularly the morning tea events, where we gather around a table full of love and generosity that spreads to help the needy and displaced people. The Telethon fundraising night was another event crowned by success due to the support received from our Assyrian media, organisations, churches and additionally, our generous Assyrian community.

As in previous issues of TOL, you can observe the financial reports from Australia and Iraq, which

shows comprehensively the generosity of our contributors and all who donated to make the achievement of the relief projects successful. The AAS-Au's participation in the United Nations Forum for Indigenous Peoples helped in carrying the voice of the Assyrian people across the globe.

I will conclude by thanking all our contributors, supporters and sponsors, who gave generously throughout the year. I want to thank the remarkable and delightful team that worked passionately in achieving the outstanding results that contributed towards the successful relief work.

Long Live the Assyrian Nation.

June Ishtar Jako

Assyrian Aid Society - Australia

Committee Members 2015



Executive members:

Mrs June Ishtar Jako -President

Ms Nora Michael - Secretary

Mr Nenos Shemoun - Treasurer

Core members:

Mr Jonathan Adam

Mr Steven Barkho

Mr Nabil Shlimon

Ms Shoushan Tower

Ms Nineveh Yakou

Melbourne:

Mr Sirwan Gorgis

Ms Maryam Bay

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Annual Report 2014

The year 2014 had witnessed a re-genocide of indigenous people from different regions in Iraq, especially in Nineveh province, where our people (the Assyrian Christians) have faced an organized terror in Mosul and Nineveh Plain by the terrorists of the criminal groups of ISIS in which more than 200,000 (two hundred thousand) individuals were displaced from their historic lands in Mosul and Nineveh Plain successively as from June 10, 2014 until August 7, 2014. Along with thousands of Yazidis, Shabak, Turkmen and other Iraqis.

Since the first moments of the displacement process and ethnic cleansing organized by the terrorists ISIS, our Society began a wide campaign providing relief, shelter and care for the internally displaced people from Nineveh Plain, through implementing various relief programs organized by our Society by the efforts and support from the Diaspora and many organizations and humanitarian institutions.

Our Society has been able to provide thousands of rations and providing shelter for many families, as well as providing necessary supplies for hundreds of families in different areas in the provinces of Dohuk, Erbil, as well as in Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk and Baghdad.

In spite of the difficult conditions experienced by our people, AAS has continued to conduct its work in supporting the Assyrian Education Process in Dohuk and Erbil through bearing lecturers, wages and transport fees for some of them.

In addition to humanitarian and relief efforts undertaken by our Society, AAS delivered messages and reports on the difficult humanitarian situation faced by our people in the fight for existence, by sending them to international organizations, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous People, This has resulted to open new horizons for cooperation and coordination to deliver the voice of our people to international communities, as well as for the support of our displaced people, particularly from Canada and Estonia.



Relief & Humanitarian Affairs Department

Relief Programs:

In 2014 the AASI has implemented the following Relief Programs:

1. Distributing food baskets for the needy families in ACERO Complex, on Feb. 8th, 2014.
2. Distributing clothes to (100) needy child in Nasiriya, in Mar. 6th, 2014
3. Implementing Relief Program for the needy families in Sardashte, Baghdeda, Bartella and Karemlash, on Apr. 2nd 2014.
4. Distributing food baskets to (99) families from Syria in Telkeif, Einsifni, Dohukcenter, Badaresh, Babilo and Feshkhabour, on Apr. 18th-23rd, 2014
5. Distributing food baskets to (93) families from Syria in Zakho, Sapna, Duhok, Erbil and Nineveh Plain, on Jun. 10th, 2014
6. Distributing urgent food baskets to (250) families in Nineveh Plain (Alqosh, Telkeif and Sharafiya), on Jun.12th, 2014
7. In coordination with the Chaldoassyrian Youth and student union, distributing drinking water and soft drinks to the people waiting in rows to enter Dohuk , on Jun. 13th, 2014
8. Distributing food baskets to (150) IDPs families in Ba'shiqa, Bahzani, Mar Matti Monastery, Shekhan and the surrounded areas, on Jun. 16th, 2014
9. Distributing food baskets and drinking water to (75) families in Baghdeda Monastery, on Jun. 20th, 2014
10. Distributing drinking water in Karemlash for one week



11. Distributing food baskets to (185) families in Tellisqof, Nineveh Plain, on Jun. 23rd, 2014
12. Housing (38) IDPs families in AASI Dorms and providing them with the necessary needs.
13. Distributing food baskets for (110) families in EinSifni area\ Shekhan district, on Jun. 25th, 2014
14. Distributing food baskets for (100) families in Ankawa, who went to the Assyrian Women Union and Youth Union's buildings, on Jun. 25th, 2014
15. Distributing food baskets for (110) families in Sumel area (Sorka, Bakhitme, Sheiz and Mosorike), on Jun. 27th, 2014
16. Distributing food baskets for (300) families in Sapna area (villages of: Sarsing, Badaresh, Enishke, Bebad, Tin etc), on Jun. 30th, 2014
17. Distributing food baskets for (200) families in Aqra and Nahla areas, on Jul. 5th, 2014
18. Distributing food baskets for (42) families in Domeez and Mar Marsai Church, on Jul. 12th, 2014
19. Distributing food baskets for (300) families Dohuk City center, on Jul. 20th, 2014
20. Buying drinking water for those families.

21. Distributing food baskets for (60) families in Pirozawa, EinBiqri, Karanjo and Dashqotan villages, on Jul. 22nd, 2014
22. Distributing food baskets for (30) families in Dohuk for the Syria Chaldean Church, on Jul. 25th, 2014
23. In cooperation with (ACERO), implementing a relief program for (60) families, including Shabak families, on Jul. 25th, 2014
24. Distributing food baskets for (210) families in Telkeif, on Jul. 26th, 2014
25. Distributing food baskets for (75) families in Batnaye, on Jul. 26th, 2014
26. Distributing food baskets for (10) families in Bakhitme, on Jul. 26th, 2014
27. Distributing food baskets for (75) families in Dohuk center by the support of the Assyrian Cultural Center, on Aug. 2nd, 2014
28. Distributing food baskets for the (30) families in AASI dorms, on Aug. 2nd, 2014
29. Distributing food baskets for (93) families in Karemls and Bartella, on Aug. 3rd, 2014
30. Distributing food baskets for (150) families in Aqra area, on Aug. 5th, 2014



31. Distributing food baskets for (60) families in Sarsing and Badaresh, on Aug. 6th, 2014
32. Distributing food baskets for (302) families in Barwaribala villages, on Aug. 10th, 2014
33. Distributing food baskets for (45) families in Babad village, in Aug. 10th, 2014
34. By the support of the (Christian Endowment of Christians and other religions), a relief program for (1500) families, on Aug. 12th, 2014
35. Distributing food baskets for (150) families in Aqra area and surrounded villages, on Aug. 13th, 2014
36. Distributing food baskets for (160) families in Erbil, Ankawa, who are housed in the headquarters of the Assyrian Women Union, Youth Union, Akito Secondary school and Ankawa secondary school, on Aug. 13th, 2014
37. Distributing food baskets for (50) families in Erbil, Kasnazan area, on Aug. 22nd, 2014.
38. Distributing food baskets and blankets for (32) families in Qarawolla village, on Aug. 25th, 2014.
39. Distributing food baskets for (150) families in Erbil, Ankawa, on Aug. 25th, 2014.
40. Distributing food baskets for (216) families in Erbil, Ankawa, on Aug. 26th, 2014.

41. Distributing drinking water to the families living in (32) centers in Ankawa.
42. Distributing food baskets for (599) families in Aqra area, on Aug. 26th, 2014.
43. Distributing food baskets for (130) families in Sumeil and Sorka areas, on Aug. 28th, 2014.
44. Distributing food baskets for (300) families in Dohuk city centre, on Sep. 1st, 2014
45. Distributing food baskets for (161) families in the villages of Bakhloja, Avzarok, Sorria, Bajidaand Zakhocenter, on Sep. 2nd, 2014.
46. Distributing food baskets for (200) families in Dohuk city center, on Sep. 3rd, 2014.
47. Distributing blankets for (64) Yezides families.
48. Distributing mattresses for (48) Yezides families.
49. Distributing food baskets for (48) Yezides families.
50. Distributing food baskets for (200) families in Dohuk city center, on Sep.7th, 2014

51. Distributing food baskets for (85) families in Sourka village, on Sep. 8th, 2014
52. Distributing food baskets for (425) families in Sulaymaniya, on Sep. 9th, 2014
53. Distributing food baskets for (780) families in Zakho, on Sep. 9th, 2014
54. Distributing food baskets for (247) families in Mala Birwan, Hizarjot, Tilla, on Sep. 14th, 2014
55. Distributing food baskets for (85) families in Sapna, on Sep. 14th, 2014
56. Distributing food baskets for (573) families in Zakho, on Sep. 15th, 2014
57. Distributing food baskets for (200) families in Dohuk city centre, on Sep. 16th, 2014
58. Distributing food baskets for (225) families in Koysanjaq and Armota, on Sep. 21st, 2014
59. Distributing food baskets for (200) families in Dashqotan, Garmawa, Karanjok and Ainbaqre, on Sep. 22nd, 2014
60. Distributing food baskets for (150) families in Diyana and Hodiyan, on Sep. 23rd, 2014



61. Distributing food baskets for (200) families in Dohuk city center, on Sep. 24th, 2014
62. Distributing clothes for (1500) families in Zakho, Sapna and Barwar, on Sep. and Oct. 2014
63. Distributing clothes for (1500) families in Nahla, Zakho and Aradin, on Sep. and Oct. 2014
64. Distributing Medicine for (4500) families in Ankawa (Church Mart Shmoni), on Sep. 30th, 2014
65. Distributing food baskets for the families in Aqra and Sarsink, on Oct. 1st-2nd, 2014
66. Distributing clothes for the families in Diyana and Hodiyan, on Oct. 7th, 2014
67. Distributing food baskets, heaters and blankets for the IDPs families in Mala Barwan, Hazarjot and Aqra, on Oct. 12th, 2014
68. Distributing clothes for the families in Ankawa, on Oct. 14th, 2014
69. Distributing food baskets, heaters, blankets and gifts) for the IDPs families in Duhok, Amediya, Deralok, Komane and Bakhitme villages, on Oct. 13th -15th, 2014
70. Distributing food baskets for (450) families in Dohuk city center, on Oct.16th, 2014

71. Distributing food baskets, beds and mattresses) for the families in Ankawa, on Oct. 19th, 2014
72. Distributing food baskets, blankets, mattresses and pillows) for (335) families in Bersive- Zakho, on Oct. 20th, 2014
73. Distributing food baskets for (300) families in Kirkuk, on Oct. 21st, 2014
74. Distributing food baskets for the families in Dohuk city center, villages of Barwar, Babilo, Kindakosa and Shiyoz, on Oct. 22nd, 2014
75. Distributing heaters and carpets for the families in the villages of Barwar, Babilo, Kindakosaand Shiyoz, on Oct. 23rd, 2014
76. Distributing food baskets for the families in Mar Eliya Shrine in Erbil, on Oct. 23rd, 2014.
77. Distributing gifts to (45) children in Dohuk city center, on Oct. 23rd, 2014
78. Distributing gifts to the children in IDPs centers in Dohuk and the villages of Bakhloja, Shkavdale, Kindakosa, Bersive, Amediaya, komane, Dere, Deralok, Blejane, Sarsing and Enishke, on Oct. 15th - 27th, 2014
79. Distributing food baskets and blankets for the IDPs families in Keregavana village, on Oct. 27th, 2014
80. Distributing heaters for the IDPs families in Enishke, Dawodiya, Tin, Bebad, Benatha and Araden, on Oct. 28th, 2014

81. Distributing heaters for the IDPs families in Dohuk city center, on Oct. 29th, 2014
82. Distributing food baskets for (500) families in Dohuk city center, on Oct. 30th, 2014
83. Distributing food baskets for (300) families in Dohuk city center, on Oct. 31st, 2014
84. Distributing heaters for (40) IDPs families in Erbil, Ankawa, on Nov. 3rd, 2014
85. Distributing food baskets for (120) families in Shekhan, Einsifni, Garmawa, on Nov. 4th, 2014
86. Distributing food baskets and blankets for (61) families in Misireke village, on Nov. 5th, 2014
87. Distributing blankets for (200) families in Dohuk city center, on Nov. 6th, 2014
88. Distributing food baskets for (400) families in Mangesh village, on Nov. 8th, 2014
89. Distributing food baskets for (95) families in the villages Hamziye, Blejane, Bebad, on Nov. 10th, 2014
90. Distributing heaters for the IDPs families in Zakho and Dehe village, on Nov. 12th, 2014

91. Distributing clothes for the IDPs families in Nahla village, on Nov. 13th, 2014
92. Distributing clothes for the IDPs families in the villages of Bakhitme, Dehe, Kanibalave, and Duhok, on Nov. 17th, 2014
93. Distributing clothes for the IDPs in Um Al-Noor Church in Ankawa-Erbil, on Nov. 17th, 2014
94. Distributing clothes for the IDPs in Hizarjot, Millabarwan, AzakhArmash, Mangesh, on Nov. 19-21st, 2014
95. Distributing clothes for (230) families in Youth Center in Ankawa- Erbil, on Nov. 22nd, 2014
96. Distributing clothes for (80) families in Erbil, on Nov. 22nd, 2014
97. Distributing clothes for the families in the IDPs centers (Dorms, Sinharib club, cultural center, ADM, Mar Georgis church, Mar Putros and Polis church) and also in Sumel area in the villages of Hawresk, Afzarok, Shkavdale, and also in Aqra, Sapna and Zakhho, on Nov. 24th-27th, 2014
98. Distributing food baskets for the IDPs in Afzarok and Shkavdale villages, on Nov. 30th, 2014
99. Distributing medicine for the pharmacy in Mar Qardagh church- Erbil, on Dec. 1st, 2014
100. Distributing clothes for the IDPs in Shiyoz, Sorka, Mesirike, Sumel, on Dec. 2nd, 2014

101. Distributing blankets, mattresses and pillows for (115) families in Tillan village, on Dec. 7th, 2014
102. Distributing clothes for the IDPs in Dohuk city center, on Dec. 9th, 2014
103. Distributing food baskets for (75) families in Hawresk village, on Dec. 11th, 2014
104. Distributing clothes for (400) families in Sulaymaniya, on Dec. 12th, 2014
105. Distributing food baskets for (100) families in Shkavdale and Bakhloja villages, on Dec. 13th, 2014
106. Distributing clothes for (1390) families in Erbil city center and Ankawa, on Dec. 17th, 2014
107. Distributing food and kerosene for (66) families in Mar Georges church and Mar Putros Polis church, on Dec. 17th, 2014
108. Distributing food and kerosene for the IDPs in Keregavana village, on Dec. 18th, 2014
109. Distributing clothes for (750) families in Alqosh, Sharafiya, Bindwaye, Einsifni, on Dec. 21st, 2014
110. Distributing clothes and heaters for (250) families in Sumel, Musirike, Bakhitme villages, on Dec. 23rd, 2014

111. Distributing food baskets for (250) families in Duhok, on Dec. 23rd, 2014
112. Distributing children gifts for (2500) child in different areas, on Dec. 22nd, 2014
113. Distributing clothes for (150) families in Kirkuk, on Dec. 23rd, 2014
114. Distributing children gifts for (250) child in Ankawa, on Dec. 24th, 2014
115. Distributing food baskets for (195) families in Nahla area, on Dec. 28th, 2014
116. Distributing food baskets for (300) families in Dohuk city center, on Dec. 30th, 2014

Construction and Projects:

Christmas Gifts Project:

Distributing Christmas gifts for (6,500) kids, funded by the Assyrian Aid Society of America & the Iraqi Christians Relief Council, in coordination with the Assyrian Aid Society of Iraq and the Assyrian Women Union.



Construction:

1. Establishing an artesian well in Sharafiya village in Nineveh Plain.
2. Digging 2 wells in Bakhdeda.
3. Digging a well in Karemls.
4. Digging a well in Batnaye



The Supporters in 2014

- Assyrian Aid Society - America
- Assyrian Aid Society - Australia
- Assyrian Aid Society - Sweden
- Assyrian Aid Society - Canada
- Assyrian Society - London
- Assyrian Aid Society - Holland
- Assyrian Aid Society - New Zealand
- Lutheran Evangelical Churches - Germany
- Solidarity Group of TurAbdin & Northern Iraq
- Institute for Global Engagement and Cradle Fund
- Iraqi Christian Relief Council (ICRC)
- Grace Community Church
- Assyrian National Council of Illinois (ANCI)
- Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East
- Assyrian Cultural Center in Dohuk
- SALT Foundation - Holland
- Assyrian Chaldean Syriac Student Union of Canada
- Assyria Foundation - Holland
- Imperial Orthodox Palestinian Society from Russia
- Diaconie and Caritas Raad Abcoude from Holland
- Wilfred Wong - London, UK Group of Donors
- Assyrian Without Borders - Sweden
- Assyrians from Russia
- Save Our Souls - Germany
- Mr. ElishYako
- Ms. Rouba Dabbagh
- Ms. Suaad Dinkha
- Assyrian Clubs Federation - Goteborg
- Assyrian Club - Goteborg
- Nineveh Society - Norway
- Mr. Binyamin Danho
- Bethnahrin Solidaritaets Komitee E.V. - Germany
- Child Aid - London
- Khabour Organization - Sweden
- Assyriska riksforbundef
- Kinder menukonig \ Fr. Astried Penn
- Assyrian Women - Canada



Assyrian Aid Society - Iraq

“Organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council since 2011”

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Ashur Eskrya (Biography), President of the Assyrian Aid Society Iraq

Ashur was born in Mosul, Nineveh on 19 August, 1974. His parents are from the Barwari Bala area. His father was from the Einnone village and his mother from the Hayes village, both in the Barwari Bala district. As most of the Assyrian Christians, they moved to Mosul and Baghdad in the 1960's until finally settling in Mosul. Ashur's father worked in many companies and fields, mainly in Mishraq Sulphur State Co. After some time, Ashur's family moved to the area of Kule, Batofa, related to the Zakho district in the Duhok Governorate where they worked.



In 1980, Ashur began his primary education at Batofa Primary School until 1983. In 1984, Ashur's family moved back to Mosul where he attended Alghasaniya Primary School (Mar Toma for the Syriac Orthodox) and completed his primary education.

In the middle of 1984, the security services of the former regime arrested most of Ashur's family members, his father, uncles, aunts and grandmother, and several other adults. According to the security services, the reason behind this was that one of his family members had travelled outside Iraq. Some of them were released, but his father and uncles were kept in a secret prison until the end of 1986. Despite all these hardships and severe circumstances his family had experienced, Ashur continued his studies.

From 1987 to 1989, Ashur attended Al-Rabe' School, and from 1991 to 1992, completed secondary schooling at Al-Zuhoor High School for boys. This period was also unstable due to the Gulf War, but Ashur insisted on finishing high school with a focus on the area of science. In 1992, Ashur entered the Surveying Department at the Technical Institute in Mosul, and finished in 1994 with a distinction, coming third in his department. During his time at the Technical Institute, student activities related to Assyrians were conducted. Despite suffering harassment for holding rallies for Assyrian students, they were supported by the security team. After completing his studies at the Institute, Ashur was accepted at the College of Agriculture and Forestry.

At the end of 1992, Ashur joined the interior underground for the Assyrian Democratic Movement (ADM), which was working secretly at that time in different areas, including Mosul, Baghdad and Kirkuk. From 1992 to 1995, Ashur studied the Assyrian language at Mar Georges Church in Mosul with his teacher, Rev. Sargon Khnana. In 1997, Ashur was accepted into the Building and Construction Engineering department at Baghdad Technology University, and graduated in 2002, specialising in construction and project management. Following this, Ashur was employed by the construction department in the Iraqi Railways company, Bagdad in December 2002, after which he joined the railway project in Mosul, Rabi'a.

After the Iraq Liberation War and the change in the Iraqi government in 2003, a new ADM branch was established in Nineveh, where Ashur became a member as the NGO's directory. Ashur also worked as an engineer at the Assyrian Aid Society, and since then, he has been working and supervising many projects for Assyrian Aid Society Iraq (AASI) in Mosul and the Nineveh Plain.

In 2004, Ashur became the Deputy of the railway project in Mosul - Rabi'a. In August 2005, Ashur married Rozena Issac, and now has two daughters, Shameran and Berta, and one son, Sanharib. In 2008, Ashur moved to the Duhok governorate as a result of the bad security situation in Mosul, as his family were targeted by terrorists several times while working in unsafe areas. While in Duhok, Ashur worked in many construction field companies until 2009, when he was employed by the Municipality of Duhok as a Civil Engineer in the Projects and Maintenance department. In the same year, Ashur became the Vice President of AASI, until October 2010 when he became the President of the organisation, and remains as such to the present.

Thanks to the efforts of Assyrian Aid Society - Australia (AAS-Au) and AASI, in 2011, Ashur was officially approved at ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council of the United Nations). In May 2012, AASI, along with Mr. Narsai David Ashur, participated for the first time, at the 11th Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations branch in New York, where he presented a speech about the Assyrians. This participation was followed by a second attendance the next year. In October 2013, at the 7th conference for the ADM, Ashur was elected as a member of the Central Committee, which he holds until the present time. After the shocking events of Mosul in June 2014, Ashur headed the global AAS community in a concentrated effort to provide humanitarian aid for the displaced, supporting the various needs of the Assyrian people in Iraq and Syria.

Between September 2013 and June 2015, Ashur completed his Masters study in Civil Engineering from Gaziantep University in Turkey.

FINANCIAL SECTION

Direct Debit Scheme

The Assyrian Aid Society - Australia (AAS-Au) has implemented many methods of raising funds in order to improve the lives of Assyrians living in our homeland. These methods have been in many ways successful but the most consistent and secure method to date has been the direct debit scheme, adopted by AAS-Au March 2000.

The benefits to the contributor are numerous:

- Convenient and time-efficient, as the contributor nominates a bank account and specifies an amount that is automatically debited every month.
- Contributor has the ability at any time to request an increase/decrease/cessation of the direct debit.
- No fees are charged to the contributor's bank account.
- The AAS provides the contributor with an annual statement of the amounts donated by the contributor; and the AAS provides updates to the contributor on completed AAS projects.

In order for the AAS to collect direct debit funds, the contributor follows certain simple steps:

- Complete a one-off direct debit form.
- Ensure sufficient funds are available for the monthly direct debits and notify AAS-Au immediately of any changes to bank details.

The present total numbers of direct debit contributors, at year ending 30th June 2015 for AAS-Au is as follows (please note: numbers are variable from month to month):

Total: 165

The average funds received on a monthly basis as at year ending 30th June 2015 for AAS-Au is as follows (please note: amounts are variable from month to month):

Total (monthly average): \$3,690.83

Fundraising Methods:

The July 2014 - June 2015 reporting on the graph in page 17 of this publication shows the various methods of fund raising by AAS-Au. One of the primary methods includes monthly direct debit which has been taking place on a continuous basis year after year, collecting funds from Assyrian individuals & businesses via electronic banking. The graph also shows that AAS received substantial amounts in donations. These donations were received from Assyrian and non Assyrian individuals and from Assyrian businesses and institutions.

Additionally, money boxes collected from Assyrian individuals and owners of businesses for the financial year end 2015 were \$13,503. You will find names of individuals and organisations that donated on the following pages.

During 2014 and 2015 AAS-Au organised Morning Tea events at Assyrian Sports and Cultural Club, participated in Assyrian Kirkuk picnic, Barwar Association festival, Assyrian Singers/Artists event, ACSYA picnic, Car Raffle and hosted the Christmas Appeal Radio-thon. These were successful fundraising activities.

Projects completed in 2014 - 2015

- December 2014 – September 2015 AAS-Au transferred \$88,000 for the Relief Fund to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) fleeing Nineveh Plains.
- March 2015, AAS-Au transferred \$10,000 for the Relief Fund Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) fleeing Khabour, Syria.
- September 2015, AAS-Au transferred \$20,000 to fund Minibus for Assyrian Women's Union.
- September 2015, AAS-Au transferred \$9,236 to fund Bebed (Village) Water Network project.

Financial Reporting

All funds raised and received by AAS-Au, which includes funds allocated to projects in our homeland as well as expenses incurred during each financial year, are audited by a certified accountant in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. At each annual general meeting, financial performance and financial position statements for the financial calendar year are presented to the Assyrian community.

The total funds raised by the AAS-Australia since its inception in 1999 and until 30 June 2015 is as follows:

Monthly Direct Debits	\$402,997.00
Cash/Cheque	\$261,238.95
Activities	\$268,395.28
Total collected	\$932,631.23

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the details of this financial report please do not hesitate to contact the AAS-Au treasurer, Nenos Shemoon on 0408965763 or email: nenos@assyrianaidssociety.org

Direct Debit Contributors from July 2014 to June 2015

Sydney

ABDISHOU, YOEIL	ISSAC, LENKEN	SARKIS, ALLAN
ADAM, MAHA	ISSAVI, JACKLIN	SCHKHALI, SHIRLEY
ADAM, FOUAD	JAKO, JUNE	SHABAZ, HANNIBAL
ADAM, GEORGE	JANET, ELIAS	SHABO, MAHIR J
ALBAZI, NINOS	KANNA, NINUS	SHALALO, SAMUEL E
ANTOON, OSHANA	KANNO, WARDA	SHALALO, ROSA
ANVIA, HELEN	KANOON, YOUSHA	SHAMON, ZUHAIR
APRIM, HELEN	KELAITA, EDMOND	SHAMUEL, JACOB
ARABOU, JOUDO	KELAITA, FAYROUS	SHEMOON, NENOS
ASHAK, SARGON	KHAMEES, YACO E	SHEMOON, SIMON
ATTO, ANWAR	KHAMIS, MARIAM	SHIBA, BENYAMIN SHLIMON
AUDISHO, SARGON	KHANNIA, JEENA	SHIBA, SAMIR
AURAHA, KHUSHABA	KHOKAZ, NATALIE	SHIBA-WADDINGTON, SHAMIRAN
BARCHAM, SAM	KHOSHABA, HIRMZ	SHILMUN, HIMLER Y
BARKHO, JAMES S	KINDO, SAM	SHIMON, ASHUR
BAZI, ZAIA ANDREW	KORKIS, DINA	SHLIMON, SHLIMON
BAZIL, RAY	LAZAR, ASHOR	STEPHAN, ARMENOUHI
BENJAMIN, STEPHAN	MATTI, JANEET	STEPHAN, NADIA
BENJAMIN, EVAN	MATTI, ADIB	TALIA, EDWARD
BITYOU, HIRMIZ	MATTY, YVONNE	TAMAR AGHA, SILVANA
CASEY, DINKHA	MATTY, DANIYAL	TOMA, DAWOOD S
CHALABI, DANY	MCCALLUM, RICHARD	TOMA, ZAC
CHAWCHIN, ELLBRA	MENASHI, NINOS	TOMA, TOMY
CHAWSHIN, JOWLET	MICHAEL, NORA	TOMA, MONA
CHEWCHIN, VICTORIA	MIKHAIL, ZAIA	TOMAS, YOUNIA R
DANKHA, SUSAN	MINYANISH, SHLEMON	TOWER, YOUNO A
DARMO, JAN	MIRZA, FRAIDON	TOWER, YOUASH
DAWOD, KLEAMIS	MIRZA, JUDITH	TOWER, SHOUSHAN
DINKHA, LOUI	MOSHI, NUEL	TOWER, ESTER
DIYANA, YAKWO	MOTTI, JULIAN	VARDA, ROWELL FRANCIS
ELIA, BERJINEH	NANO, MARLIN	WARDA, SHMOUEL
ENWIYA, ENWIYA Y	NIKHO, NISSAN	WARDA, BANIPAL
GEORGES, NAHREN S	NWIA, LEWIS	YAACUB, ADISON
GEORGES, SHAMIRAN	ODISHO, EVLYIN	YALDA, MUNA
GEORGES, GEORGES	ODISHO, KLODIA	YAWAB, AMBOLIA
GEORGES, WARINA	ODISHO, IBRAHEM	YOUEL, DAWOOD
GEORGES, EDMUND	OSHANA, MARILYN	YOUHANA, LOUIE
HANNA, ROMEO M	PAULS, NADA	YOUKHANA, YOUNAN
HURMOZ, ASHOOR	PETRUS, YOUNAN	YOUKHANIS, WALID AND JWAN
IESHU, ADSEN	RAFEALE, CARLOS	YOUKHANNA, NAHRAIN
IESHU, ANEETA	ROWELL, EDWARD	YOUNAN, MARTIN AND MARY
ISAAC, SANKHERO	SADA, IMMANUEL	YOUNAN, KATHRYN
ISEHAQ, JENNIFER	SARKIS, GEORGE	YOUNAN, ALFRED
YOUNAN, YOURAM	YOUSIF, EMMANUEL	ZAYA, JAMES
YOUNAN, NIRARI	YOUSIF, YOUTBERT	ZINDO, SUSSAN
YOUSEF, RONY	ZAIA, REMON	ZOMAYA, EVON

Melbourne

ADAM, NASIR	JAMALY, GEORGE	ODESHO, SAMIRA
ALBERT, SLAYO,	KAMBER, SAMI	REHAN, ISHA SOMO
AL-JELOO, NICKOLAS	KAMBER, SHAMOAIL	YAQO, ALIN
BAY, MADLEN	KHOSHABA, KAMILIA	YOHANNA, SLEIMAN
BAY, MARYAM	KORKEES, ADAM	YOUKHANA, EDWARD
CHIBO, DORIS	KUNDA, NADAL	YOUKHANA, N YOUARSH
CHIBO, KHANNA	MANSOOR, ELIAS	YOUNAN, YOULIA
DANIEL, LIDA B	MARKHAY, BASIM	YUAIL, SERGIO
DANIEL, MIRIAM	MAROKI, SALIM	ZAIA, VICTOR
DANIEL, STEVE	MOSHI, AKRAM	ZAIA, VICTOR
GIVARGIS, SHAMIRAN A	NISSAN, DAWOOD	ZAYA, ODICHO
HANNA, FOHAD	ODEESHO, MUNEEER K	ZAYA, VIVIAN
HAWEL, HAWEL		

Money Boxes collected Jun 2014 - Sep 2015

Individuals

ADAM, KRESTENA	DADISHO, GEWARGES	HEDO, BERONEA
ROAEL, MONA	DAUOD, SAMI	HIDO, NOEL
ABDISHOU, YOEUIL	DAVID, NAHRIAN	BRAHIM, EDWARD
ADAM, ASMAR	DAVID, RAY	IBRAHIM, GEORGE
ADAM, GEORGE	DAWOOD, KLAMIS	IESHO, ADSEN
ADAM, HELDA	DAWOOD, SHEMSHOON	ISAAC, JANET
ADAM, JONATHAN	ENVIA, HELEN	ISHTAR, JUNE
ADAM, LINDA	ENWIA, JEANY	JAJO, ALYZABITH
ADAM, SOSO	ENWIA, NARGIS	JAJO, ELYAZABETH
AL OBAIDI, DR. BUSHRA	ENWIA, RITA	JAJO, JANET
ALBAZI, NINOS	ENWIA, YOUAO	JOHN, LINDA
AMANOEL, LYDIA	ENWIA, YOUAO	JOSEPH, MARGARET
AMANOEL, RAMEL & JESSICA	ENWIYA, CLODIA	JOUDO, LYDIA
AMANOEL, RAMIS&STEPHANIE	ESHO, ISHA	KAFO, ASSFER
ANITA, JONE	GABRIEL, NINOS	KANNA, SOPHIA
APRIM, HELEN	GALONY, ROSA	KELAITA, ESSA
ARMSTRONG, HARRY	GANDO, IBRAHIM	KELAITA, ESSA
ASANOVIC, VALI	GEORGE, JESSIE	KELAITA, MARIAM
ASHAK, JOULIET	GEORGE, YOUKHANAN	KELAITA, SORMA
ASKARON, MARIAM	GEORGES, EDWARD	KELAITA, SURMA
AZZU, ELIE	GEORGES, NAHREN	KHAMIS, ADAM TINA EDDY &
BAHRY, MELISSA	GEUENPTER, RAFEAL	KHAMIS, ELESWA
BEDROYA, OLINKA	GOERGE, YOUKHANAN	KHAMIS, GLADIS
BENYAMEN, JULIE	GOLANY, ROSA	KHAMU, LINDA
BITYOU, SAMERA	GORGIZKHAH, ANAHEET	KHEYO, JENA
BITYOU, SEMERA	GORIYEL, SARGON	KHEYO, SHMONEY
CHAMMANEY, MARKINA	GOROW, JAKLYN	KHYWA, SONIA
CHANANI, MARTIN	HANNA, ROMEO	KORKIS, ALBERT
CHAWCHIN, ALADDIN	HANNA, ROMOE	LAZAAR, ASHUR
CHRYSLER, CHORISH	HAYDAR, NAGEBA	LAZAR, KHAWA
LIRA, MARINA	ODISHO, OBEROUNE	TOMA, NINOS
MADJ, JACKY	POLIS, RONEY	TOOMA, MARY
MANZINI, ARIANA	ROSTAM, JAKLEN	VAGA, LUDI
MATTI, EDMOND	ROSTAM, JAKLEN	VARDA, ALFRED
MEZA, RONA	SADA, IMMANUEL	WARDA, ZAYA
MIRZA, FRAIDON	SCOTT, DANIEL	WARDA, ZIA
MIRZA, RITA	SHALALO, MARINA	WARDI, BENJAMIN
MOTTI, JULIAN	SHAMON, HELEN	YACOB, EVA
NUOUA, LAVITA	SHAMOON, ADAM	YAKO, NIRAMSIN
ODISHO, GINA	SHAMOON, SAMIR	YALDA, BATTEY DAVID
ODISHO, LINDA	SHEMOON, NENOS	YALDA, LINDA
ODISHO, ZEKI	SHIMOON, ELIAS	YOKHANAH, FLORENCE
ORAHA, EXARYA	SHLIMON, DOUGLAS	YOUKHANA, VICTORIA
ORAHA, KHOSHABA	SORMI, JOSEPH	YOUKHANAH, DIANA
ORAHA, SALTA	SOROO, EDMON	YOUNAN, RAMON
ORAHAM, GEORGE	TOMA, BEN	YOUNAN, YOUNAN
ORAHAM, RABKA	TOMA, EDDIE	YOUSIF, SAMIR
OSHANA, ALMAS	TOMA, NINA	YOUSUF, NAJIBA
OSHANA, JANET		

**Cash/cheque donation received from individuals and organisations
From October 2014 - September 2015**

Individual

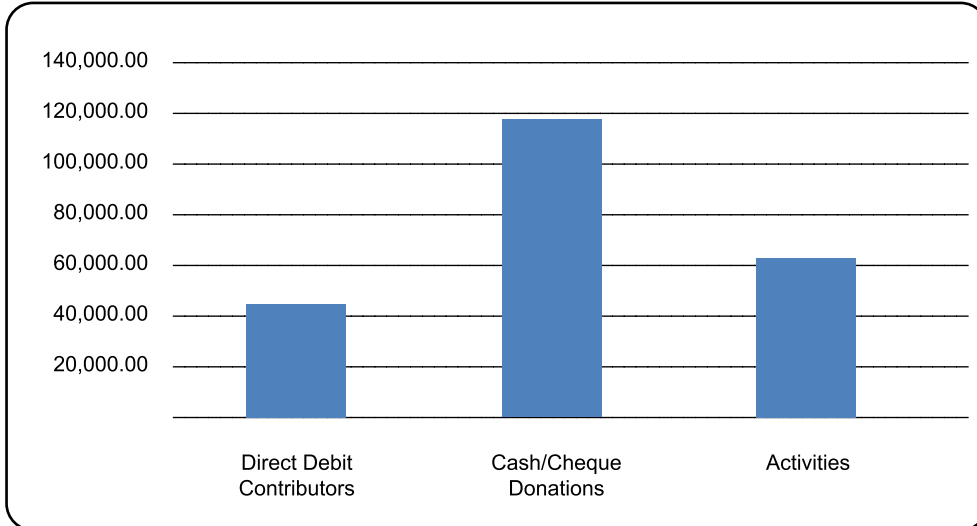
ALAM, PAULA	ISMIEL, SUE	SHLIMON, STELLA
AMANOEL, LYDIA	IZGI, AZIZ	TAMSON, MICHELLE
ASHAK, JOULIET	JABRO, WILLIAM	THOMASZADEH, MAROUDEEN
AZZO, JOSEPH	KANNA, NINUS	TOMA, ALYANA
BITYOU, SAMERA	KHOSHABA, KHOSHABA	TOMA, TARA
CONDON, PAUL	KHOSHO, ANDRE	TOOMA, MICHAEL
DADISHO, RAMIN	KHOUSHABA, WARDA	UNATHAN, DOREEN
DANKHA, SAVIO	KORKES, GIBSON	WARDI, BENIAMIN
DAVID, S	MOSHI, JULIANA	WOLTHUIS, WOUTER
DINKHA, RENEE	NAIM, BETTY	YACO, SHAROKEEN
GEORGES, JESSICA	ODISHO, ZEKI	YAGHOUBPOUR, VICTORIA
GEORGES, NINA	ORAHAM, RAMSEN	YOUKHANA, ASAAM
GEWARGIS, GEORGE	PAPALII, JAMES	YOUNAN, JOLYANA
GORAIL, EISHO	RIHANA, GEORGE	YOUSIF, FAHDE
GORJIAN, JANET	ROHAN, ANDREW	YOUSIF, JIMMY
HAJI, FLORIDA	SADA, DAVID	ZARADOSH, MADALIN
HANA, MAYSOON	SALIBA, HANNAH	ZAYA, EMAN
HANA, JIHAN	SCOTT, DANIEL	ZAYA, JAMES
HANA, JINAN	SEDEH, MELODI	ZEITOUNE, ABBOUD
HEDOO, DYANA	SEFOU, DORIS	ZORZAN, GEORGE
HISDOO, NINOS	SHABA, RAMZIYAH	

Organisations & institutions

- ACSYA
- AMAXX PTY LTD
- ASSYRIAN SPORTS & CULTURAL CLUB
- ASSYRIAN KIRKUK - SYDNEY
- BELLA BY SUE
- BABYLON WELDING
- CHRISTIAN FAITH AND FREEDON
- GEORG'S CAFÉ AND TAKEAWAY
- LA VITA
- NEETA CITY NEWSAGENCY
- SHAYNA CAFÉ
- THE ASSYRIAN ST GEORGES CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION INC.
- THE HOLY APOSTOLIC UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF EAST

July 2014 - June 2015

Direct Debit contributors		43,540
Cash/Cheque donations		117,431
Activities		
Donation tins	13,503	
Sales (CD's, Plaques, Books)	20	
Tree of Life	200	
Fundraising event	50,392	64,115
Total Fundraising Collected		\$225,086



ASSYRIAN AID SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE 2015

	TOTAL (\$)
INCOME	
Sales - Books	20
Committee Membership	225
Tree of Life - Sponsorships	200
Money Box's	13,503
Donations	
Cash	117,430
Direct Debit Net	43,540
Funds from AAS NZ	70,900
Activities	
Morning Tea	9,713
Car Raffle	8,190
Christmas Appeal Radio thon	15,270
Assyrian Relief Aid Calendar	8,819
Others	8,401
Cambridge University-Project Funding	5,000
Interest Received	35
TOTAL INCOME	301,246
EXPENSES	
Accommodation and Travel - United Nations New York	12,333
Auditors Fees	1,250
Bank Charges	1,428
Child Wise Policy Development	700
Crime Check	141
Fees - Lodgement	69
Insurance Public Liability	997
Postage	839
Printing & Stationary	3,547
Project - Relief Fund Assyrians Fleeing Nineveh	195,000
Project - Relief Fund Assyrians Fleeing Nineveh (contributed by AAS NZ)	35,510
Project - Relief Fund Assyrians Fleeing Khabour Syria (contributed by AAS NZ)	37,324
Project - Modern Assyrian Studies Chair, Cambridge University	-
Sundry Purchase - Others	1,303
Phone & Internet	1,189
Rent - Office	2,003
Rounding error	(1)
TOTAL EXPENSES	291,631
NET OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	9,615
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash at Bank	19,821
Cash at Bank-Cambridge University Project	5,532
GST Receivable	1,279
TOTAL ASSETS	26,632
NET ASSESTS	26,632
Represented by:	
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	
Retained Surplus Opening Balance	17,019
Retained Surplus (Deficit) Current Year	9,615
Rounding	(2)
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	26,632

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AAS PROJECTS IN NORTHERN IRAQ TO DATE

Project Name	Amount \$
Roofing Bishmeye	11,343
School bus	10,000
Roofing Dore	20,080
School computers	9,644
School funding	8,000
Emergency funds	25,000
Funds to Iraq (teaching Cost)	14,878
Telisqof Project replaced by Relief fund program	50,000
Building Rooms and Hall Mullabarwan & Sardwara	20,000
Relief fund program	13,095
Building houses Dehe village	9,310
Teaching Cost	19,875
Pharmacies Batnaye, Telisquf, Baghdeda, Bartela	12,623
Teaching Cost	11,975
Fleeing Refugees	10,000
Education Expenses	10,000
Education & Dormitory Expenses	10,601
Relief Fund Mosul Appeal	14,535
Education expense academic year (2008-2009)	10,000
Education & Dormitory Expenses	30,000
Laptops x3 AAS-Iraq office	4,769
Education & Dormitory Expenses	10,000
Education & Dormitory Expenses	11,457
Education & Dormitory Expenses	53,738
PC (Computer) x1 AAS-Iraq office	2,000
Education & Dormitory	40,000
Power Generator	5,000
UN Event	5,000
Education & Dormitory	45,500
Relief Fund Assyrians Fleeing Syria	25,000
Relief Fund Assyrians Fleeing Nineveh Plains	229,700
Relief Fund Assyrians Fleeing Kabour Syria	10,000
Minibus for Assyrian Women Union	20,000
Bebed (Village) Water Network Project	9,236
<hr/>	
TOTAL FUNDED PROJECTS	\$792,359

Interview with Albert Yousef Abdal

Mr Adam is an Assyrian refugee who recently fled the conflict in Syria

Mr Abdal: My name is Albert Yousef Adam, I am from Khabour, Syria. I am also a member of the Assyrian Democratic Party. I am a poetry composer. I am also married and have two lovely children. I have developed a CD which consists of 11 poems, but unfortunately I was not able to publish my CD due to the circumstances back home. It is my dream to be able to compose this CD for my beloved community within Australia. I was part of the Assyrian Carnival in Urmia-Iran. This event took place on MARTYRS day 2007

When did you leave Syria? And why?

I left Syria in 2013 and I fled to Lebanon. The reason I left was due to the civil war within Syria as we as the Assyrians were continuously threatened even by death by terrorist groups and various gangs. I tried to remain within Syria and bear it until I finally realised that there was no place left for me here and had to flee.

Have you been personally threatened whilst in Syria?

I personally have not been threatened but my brother and his family have. They were threatened by terrorists who had weapons, but as for myself they had put graffiti on my fence that said, 'Christians have to leave'. Life was very hard. There were no more opportunities for employment, no electricity and no medication available for the sick and injured. Due to such horrid circumstances I had to leave and find a safe place.



Have you witnessed any terrorist attacks or been subject to it or seen it take place?

I have witnessed and seen attacks take place. I bore witness to this in 2013 when we were crossing the borders to Lebanon. Each one of us was questioned on the bus. It was not as controlled as it is today, though. They apologised for the disruption and allowed us to continue our way.

After 2013, the questions began. Individuals were questioned on whether they were Islamic or Christian and if they were Christian they were either killed or taken for ransom. I have not seen this myself but lost a dear friend by this behaviour.

Did you witness the war?

The only time I came across witnessing this sort of behaviour is when Government agencies were firing at terrorists and we were so horrified we would hide ourselves.

Did you have a house back in your home country?

Within Syria I had my own house within the village. My home remains upstanding there until today, though the house is empty and no-one resides within it. I have only had my belongings stolen from the house.

How did you enter Lebanon? How did you live in Lebanon?

The way in which I entered Lebanon was through the use of my passport. It took almost 28 hours to reach Lebanon as it has become very rough to enter the country.

It was very hard to reside within Lebanon as it was very expensive to continue everyday life. We thank the country of Lebanon for allowing us to take part in employment in order to live our lives. Even though life was tough and a struggle, the country was very helpful, and allowed us to be free; to speak freely and say whatever it is we wished.

Why did you choose to come to Australia?

The reason in which I chose to come to Australia is firstly, to join the majority of my family who reside in Australia and also due to the opportunities which are accessible within the country, including employment and educational opportunities, etc. It is deemed most important to articulate that Australia is a country which allows individuals and families to grow together and have a safe and peaceful future.

UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

In 2009, Assyrian Aid Society –Australia (AAS-Au) prepared and submitted an application to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) for Assyrian Aid Society-Iraq (AAS-I) to have Consultative Status with the United Nations. In 2011, AAS-I was granted this Status, and since then, representatives from Australia and America have attended the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII).

In April 2015, two members of AAS-Au, our very own Ms Shoushan Tower and Ms Nora Michael, attended the 14th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII), held at the United Nations in New York. They were joined by Ms Mona Malik from Assyrian Aid Society-America.

The aim of this year's Forum was to hear recommendations from non-government organisations (NGO's) for ways in which the Forum can be improved, for the benefit of the NGO's and the indigenous peoples whom they represent.

On 23 April 2015, AAS was called upon by the Chairperson at the Forum to deliver a Statement. Nora delivered her Statement and addressed the issues affecting the Assyrians in the Middle East as they have arisen since June 2014.

The intention of our Statement was to portray the perils of the Assyrians in Iraq and to make recommendations for the improvement of the Forum which would be of direct benefit to Assyrians in the Middle East. We recommended to the Forum that mechanisms be implemented for ongoing communication between AAS and the Iraqi State as well as with UN bodies and organisations. Our recommendations were received well by the Forum and were commended by the Chairperson.

Representatives of Member States were also present at the PFII. For instance, the Member State for Iraq was present at the Forum while our Statement was delivered.

The Forum took place over two weeks where our AAS representatives attended a daily conference at the UN Headquarters in New York, as well various side events hosted by other NGO'S. In the second week of the Forum, Mona delivered her Statement and AAS hosted a side-event of its own, where the theme was 'Indigenous Assyrians and Yezidis: Targeted by ISIS for Genocide'.

AAS-America organised the side event and invited guest speakers to make a presentation at the event. The guest speakers were Helen Malko (PhD, Columbia University), Nora Michael (AAS-Au), Mirza Ismail (Yezidi Human Rights Organisation), Dr Chris Seiple (Institute for Global Engagement) and Rebecca Tobias (Euphrates Institute, United Religions Initiative Trustee). Each speaker gave a presentation, relevant to their expertise, in relation to the current atrocities being carried out against either the Assyrians, Yezidis or Christians in Iraq and in Syria. The audience for this event included a representative from Amnesty as well as representatives from the US mission and the Holy Sea Mission.



The Forum provided AAS with the opportunity to network with fellow NGO representatives as well as noteworthy individuals and groups who are better placed to assist charitable organisations such as AAS. Representatives of groups such as UNICEF and Amnesty are often present at the PFII. These representatives are in direct communication with us at the Forum. This networking opportunity continues to present itself in favourable terms with AAS as we remain in contact with representatives of these organisations well after the Forum is concluded.

Ongoing communication with the delegates of UN agencies and other aid organisations gives hope to Assyrians in need as these agencies and organisations have the capacity and resources to assist Assyrians in the Middle East. Hence, the importance of the continued involvement of AAS in the international forum.

Thanks to the continued involvement of AAS in UN Forums and activities, Assyrians are becoming known worldwide. The presence of AAS in these Forums is crucial, particularly in times of crises when the needs of Assyrians in Iraq have to be recognised as distinct from the needs of other minorities in Iraq. At AAS, we work towards raising the standard of living for Assyrians in Iraq and in the Middle-East, maintaining our language and culture and meeting the daily living needs of our people in the Middle East. To continue doing so, we must maintain our Status with the UN ECOSOC and maintain our presence within the activities of the UN.

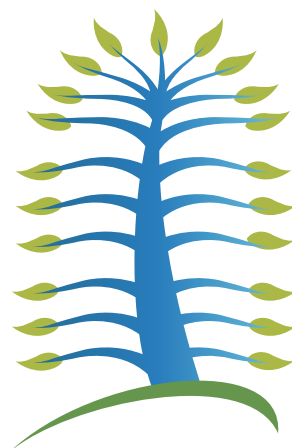
AAS is grateful to our contributors to this event, without their assistance, our attendance at the Forum would not be possible. We would like to thank:

- The Assyrian St Gewargis Charitable Association, who graciously donated \$5,000 towards the expenses associated with our attendance at the Forum.
- Mr Ashour Oraham (Graphic Designer) for designing and printing the AAS leaflets distributed at the Forum.
- Mr Phlimon Darmo & Mr Sam Shalalo (Arabic translators), who kindly donated their time to translate documents for AAS.

If you would like to make a donation towards the expenses of our future attendance at the Forum, please contact us at info@assyrianaidssociety.org or nenos@assyrianaidssociety.org

We look forward to continuing the noteworthy work of AAS on a global scale and hope that we will have the support of Assyrians worldwide in achieving our endeavours.

We greatly appreciate your support!





تبیان

تاریخ تصانیف: ۱۳۸۵ هجری قمری

در این کتاب که به دسترس عموم رسیده است، سعی شده است تا با روشی ساده و قابل فهم، مفاهیم عمیق و پیچیده را بیان کند. این کتاب به گونه‌ای نوشته شده است که برای همه سنین و سطوح تحصیلی مناسب باشد.

این کتاب به سه بخش اصلی تقسیم شده است: مبانی، روش‌ها و کاربردها. در هر بخش، با استفاده از مثال‌ها و تصاویر، مفاهیم را به سادگی توضیح داده شده است. این کتاب می‌تواند به عنوان یک منبع ارزشمند برای دانش‌آموزان و محققان به کار آید.

در سال ۱۳۸۵ هجری قمری، این کتاب به چاپ رسید. این کتاب به زبان فارسی نوشته شده است و به دلیل سادگی و جامعیت آن، به سرعت مورد توجه قرار گرفت. این کتاب به گونه‌ای طراحی شده است که برای همه سنین و سطوح تحصیلی مناسب باشد.

این کتاب به سه بخش اصلی تقسیم شده است: مبانی، روش‌ها و کاربردها. در هر بخش، با استفاده از مثال‌ها و تصاویر، مفاهیم را به سادگی توضیح داده شده است. این کتاب می‌تواند به عنوان یک منبع ارزشمند برای دانش‌آموزان و محققان به کار آید.

در این کتاب که به دسترس عموم رسیده است، سعی شده است تا با روشی ساده و قابل فهم، مفاهیم عمیق و پیچیده را بیان کند. این کتاب به گونه‌ای نوشته شده است که برای همه سنین و سطوح تحصیلی مناسب باشد.

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How To Shine A Light

In All Darkness

Three words that every Assyrian/Syriacs/Chaldeans has had to utter at some point. It is invariably followed up by an explanation of how we have no country but once had a great Empire and is usually concluded by prattling off all of our 'firsts'. We have a lot of 'firsts'. The first civilization. The first library. The first mathematicians. The first law makers. The first astronomers. The first to be targeted by ISIS... The first to be told we must convert to Islam or else die by the sword. The first to be told that our homes, the homes that stand on our ancestral land, are no longer ours.

It is very easy to look over the events that have taken place since July 2014 and feel nothing but anger. To despair at the state of the world and get caught up in its ugliness. Murder, rape, kidnap, hunger; the list goes on. It hurts the heart and confuses the head. We are left asking ourselves, how? How is it that hundreds of thousands of people, innocent people, were forced to stand by and watch as some bearded monsters came in, took their worldly belongings and marked their homes with a the letter 'N'. Isn't this the same world that said "Never again" after the Jewish holocaust? And yet, it did happen again. For too long, there was silence from major international bodies and Nations, as overnight, historic cities and towns emptied of its sons and daughters. Towns like Mosul, which prided itself on having held mass in its churches every Sunday for over 1700 years, stood bare and its church bells stopped ringing.

At some level, even today, my brain refuses to understand how this happened. I have trouble accepting that, in my life-time, I could be witness to another genocide of my people and that I would have my own stories to tell to my child when he is old enough to ask. It makes me hug him a little tighter when I think of 3 year old Christina, an Assyrian girl from Qaraqosh, who was ripped from her mother's arm as they tried to escape. My own boy is just a year younger and fiercely attached to me. He looks for me when I leave the room and calls out until I am back in his sight. It makes me wonder how long Christina looked for her mother. Does she still wait for mummy to come find her and take her home? Does she still cry until her young eyes are tired and swollen? Does she know that her mother probably studies every 3 year old little girl, holding her breath, hoping by some miracle that God has sent her daughter back to her?



It is easy to be held hostage by stories like Christina's; to feel hopeless when looking at photos of children with no shoes, shoveling mud from their tent floors; to feel anger at the images of them huddled together under a single blanket in a doorway. It is as though you descend into a state of mourning. But at some point, as in any grieving process, there is an upward turn where you

become functional again and start to seek realistic solutions. And that's when you realize, that although there is a lot of bad, there is also good.

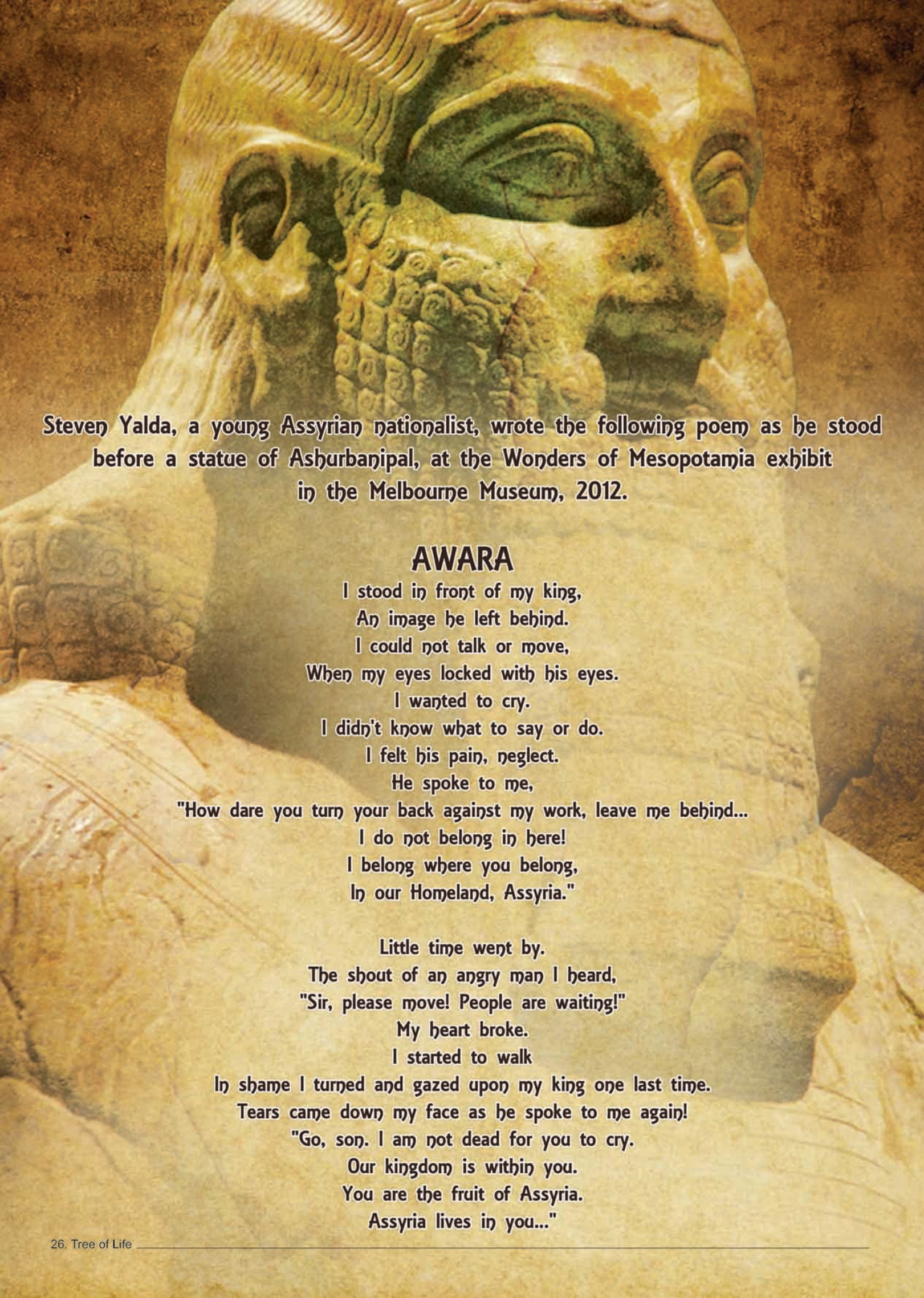
Edmund Burke once said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Well, I've watched good men and women do something. I have followed a Sikh's journey as he arrived in Erbil ready to help minorities he'd never even heard of before ISIS. Today, his charity has a bakery set up feeding IDPs 35km away from Dohuk, an Assyrian city in North Iraq (much like Mosul once used to be). I have read about the celebrity couple who are using their status and popularity to raise millions of dollars to help the impoverished survive winter, and the Assyrian businessman who travelled to Ankawa (another Assyrian city in North Iraq) on his own to feed people there. And just yesterday, I watched video after video as the ADFA team and other volunteers in Sweden packed a truck full of goods to send to the refugees in Mosul and the Nineveh Plains. As a result, reports are that "stores in Stockholm are sold out of blankets and sleeping bags". All because ordinary individuals decided that although there is a lot of darkness in the world today, we can all do something to shine a light on it.



LINDA MICHAEL
#demandforaction

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Steven Yalda, a young Assyrian nationalist, wrote the following poem as he stood before a statue of Ashurbanipal, at the Wonders of Mesopotamia exhibit in the Melbourne Museum, 2012.

AWARA

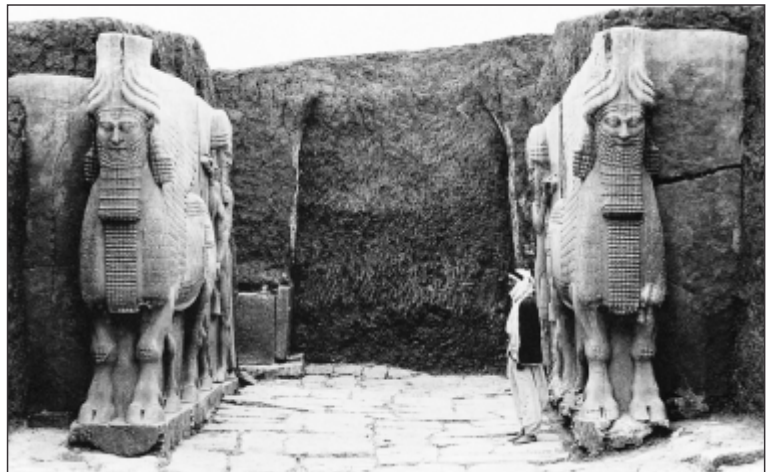
I stood in front of my king,
An image he left behind.
I could not talk or move,
When my eyes locked with his eyes.
I wanted to cry.
I didn't know what to say or do.
I felt his pain, neglect.
He spoke to me,
"How dare you turn your back against my work, leave me behind...
I do not belong in here!
I belong where you belong,
In our Homeland, Assyria."

Little time went by.
The shout of an angry man I heard,
"Sir, please move! People are waiting!"
My heart broke.
I started to walk
In shame I turned and gazed upon my king one last time.
Tears came down my face as he spoke to me again!
"Go, son. I am not dead for you to cry.
Our kingdom is within you.
You are the fruit of Assyria.
Assyria lives in you..."

The Destruction of Heritage and its Implications for the Assyrian People

Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) is the cradle of civilisation, where the first forms of writing, cities, written law code, universities and the wheel originated. Modern Assyrians, being the indigenous people of Iraq, and the descendants of the ancient Assyrians, more predominantly identify with the sites and artefacts associated with Assyrian history, and since the invasion of the so called Islamic State (ISIS), feel that along with their people, their identity and heritage is being wiped out. The history of the origins of modern civilisation is being deliberately and violently looted and levelled at the hands of an extremist regime that proclaims to systematically destroy and eradicate all traces of historical presence of the Assyrians and the people of Iraq. The importance of Iraqi cultural heritage is valuable not only to Assyrians and Iraqis in general, but to the world, and it forms the foundation of the cultural and historical identity of the indigenous Assyrians.

Over the last year, several significant artefacts and archaeological sites have been destroyed, stolen or damaged beyond repair by ISIS. ISIS is known to use the psychological tool of media, predominantly through Youtube videos, to promote their acts of violence. The first site attacked was the Mosul Museum, which housed several important artefacts including the original Lamassu of the Nergal Gate at Nineveh, a sculpture dating back to the 7th Century BC. It remained well preserved and in situ until a power-drill was used to deface and then destroy the nearly 3000 year old statue belonging to a listed UNESCO World Heritage site. Although some of the artefacts shown are indeed modern replicas, visible by the white plaster and in some instances, metal bars within the statues, they have in fact destroyed original ancient artefacts along with them. These include a statue of King Sargon from the seventh century BC, and a human-headed winged bull, which as the Islamic State mentioned, was from the Nergal Gate in the ancient city of Nineveh. Many scholars believe that what they could not move to sell or ship off to private collectors, they destroyed, evidenced by the demolition of the Lamassu.



Further ancient sites on UNESCO's World Heritage list that were destroyed by ISIS include 3,300 year-old Nimrud (ancient Kalhu) and Hatra, which were both levelled, and Khorsabad, which was extensively looted. Nimrud is one of the most important sites from the Middle Assyrian through to the Neo Assyrian period in terms of its historical significance, condition and preservation, and its link to cultural identity. The first lens was not invented by Dutchmen as the history books would tell us, but in fact was created almost 3000 years before in Nimrud. Despite neglect and looting that has taken place since even 1991, it was one of the best preserved sites in Mosul. Many have seen the video which shows ISIS using sledge hammers and power drills in a very ineffective attempt to destroy Assyrian reliefs within in the palace complex. One of these men stands in front of a Lamassu, preaching the propaganda of the group. ISIS members then hammer their way through walls into the site museum, destroying intricately carved reliefs with visible remnants of paint, and defacing other gypsum slabs. They are then seen entering the royal tomb where several of the most precious and valuable artefacts from the Assyrian empire had previously been excavated and transferred to the Baghdad museum. They maliciously hammer reliefs of the Tree of Life, which is symbolic of their lack of respect and value for humanity. ISIS proceeds by filling barrels with explosive powder which they later detonate, turning Nimrud to ash and dust.

By looting these sites, ISIS has managed to fund their campaign of terror across the Middle East. Besides the looting, ISIS have also blown up historical sites such as the Tomb of Jonah, and several of the oldest churches in the Middle East. Ban Ki-moon of the UN and Irina Bokova of UNESCO condemned these vicious acts and called this destruction a war crime and a form of cultural cleansing.

The destruction of Iraqi cultural heritage has been taking place since well before 2003, but more fiercely since 2003. The images from the looting of the Iraqi museum in 2003 is still fresh in our memory. The devastation is just as poignant. Dr Donny George, the late curator of the Iraqi Museum predicted this devastation, 3 months before the looting. He knew better than anyone the significance of our heritage, the value that our sites and artefacts hold, not only to Assyrians and Iraqis, but to the world. The beginning of civilised life is being taken apart piece by piece and being replaced with a primitive way of living. ISIS is destroying civilization from its ancient epicentre.



This is an undeniable ethnic and cultural cleansing. We are facing an onslaught on several fronts. Well over 200,000 Assyrians have been displaced from their homes in Iraq and Syria, there are still hostages being held captive in Syria, militias in Iraq and Syria that require assistance, and further, our heritage sites are being systematically targeted and destroyed. Most people might believe that what ISIS has destroyed was merely bricks and mortar. However, the situation is far worse. Assyrians are being forced from their homes and into foreign lands. How long before the language is phased out, a language thousands of years old and a fusion of both Aramaic and ancient Akkadian? In addition, the destruction of the Assyrian historical identity could potentially be the extinction of their race.

Assyrians worldwide are urging and pleading on every medium to the international communities, human rights organisations and cultural heritage agencies, to stop meeting and speaking and to start acting. The ancient history of Iraq is central to world heritage. Moreover, it is critical for the indigenous Assyrians to grasp tightly on to what remains of their ancestral legacy, being a people forced into mass displacement and mass exodus from their ancestral homeland. 2015 is the 100 year commemoration of the Assyrian Genocide which killed hundreds of thousands of Assyrians, and saw the beginning of large migration waves outside of Iraq. These migrations have continued over the last century as a result of further sectarian violence, and, alongside the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage which serves to wipe out memory of culture, ethnic connection and concept of social and historical identity, we are witnessing not only a cultural cleansing, but also an ethnic cleansing of the Assyrian people in the 21st Century.



Despite our losses, the cruel and tormenting hardships we have faced, and the countless attacks by the enemy without, our people, our history, our nation will survive. As long as a single stone stands, Assyria will live on. We must, however, do everything in our power to preserve what is left. Learning to speak, read and write Assyrian is essential to our survival. Engaging in historical conversations with one another, thirsting after historical knowledge of our great ancestry and remembering our struggles, our battles and our triumphs will ensure that Assyria and Assyrians will never die.

Nineveh Yakou

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Supporting Assyrian Aid Society - Australia

Without your ongoing support, there would be no AAS-Au. We have the pleasure of announcing that we also have non-Assyrian contributors whose support we value and encourage. We are forever grateful to our supporters. To those of you who attend our events or contribute to AAS-Au; our committee, our people in Iraq and our people in Syria say, 'thank you'. We are so proud of the efforts of our community in Australia in coming together for the benefit of the less fortunate Assyrians in the Middle East.

Your support means that our people receive the basic daily essentials of food and water, our children have schools to attend in Iraq and our culture and language remain alive even in the midst of attempts to exterminate our Assyrian identity.



Despite the efforts of the committed members of AAS-Au and our wonderful supporters, the needs of Assyrians in the Middle East are so dire that there is so much more that needs to be done. They need more than just food and water; just like you, our people need access to medication, gas/electricity and clean running water at the very least. Our displaced children need to attend school and receive an education so that they escape the cycle of suppression of Assyrians in Iraq. So, how can you, your family and friends help? We ask that you support AAS-Au by becoming a direct debit contributor, donating to AAS-Au (via Paypal, EFT or direct deposit), attending our events and spreading the word of the important work that we do amongst your family, friends and work colleagues.

All that needs to be done in order to become a regular financial supporter is to complete a simple direct debit form, which you will find on the previous page. This form allows AAS-Au to direct debit an amount of money which you nominate every month from your account. The money goes directly towards the Assyrians in the Middle East. Direct debit contributions are a commonly used method of collecting charitable funds. For instance, UNICEF, AMNESTY and countless other international NGO's use direct debit contributions to fund their causes.

AAS-Au depends primarily on direct debit contributions to help Assyrians in the Middle East. Becoming a direct debit contributor will not only improve the lives of thousands of Assyrians in Iraq, and in Syria; it will ensure the preservation of our beautiful language and culture in the land from where it first came, thousands of years ago.

At AAS-Au, we commend those of us who have remained in Iraq and maintained a presence of the Assyrians in Iraq and in the Middle East. They struggle to survive and defend their homes, families and lives. We have the privilege of being in Australia and have the power to make a difference. Your contribution will go a long way to help these Assyrian families in distress. We guarantee you that supporting this worthy cause will give you the satisfaction of knowing that you are part of the solution, you made a difference.

Reach out to us, donate, volunteer, attend our events; work with AAS-Au to make a difference to those fleeing for safety, struggling to survive and maintain our Assyrian identity.

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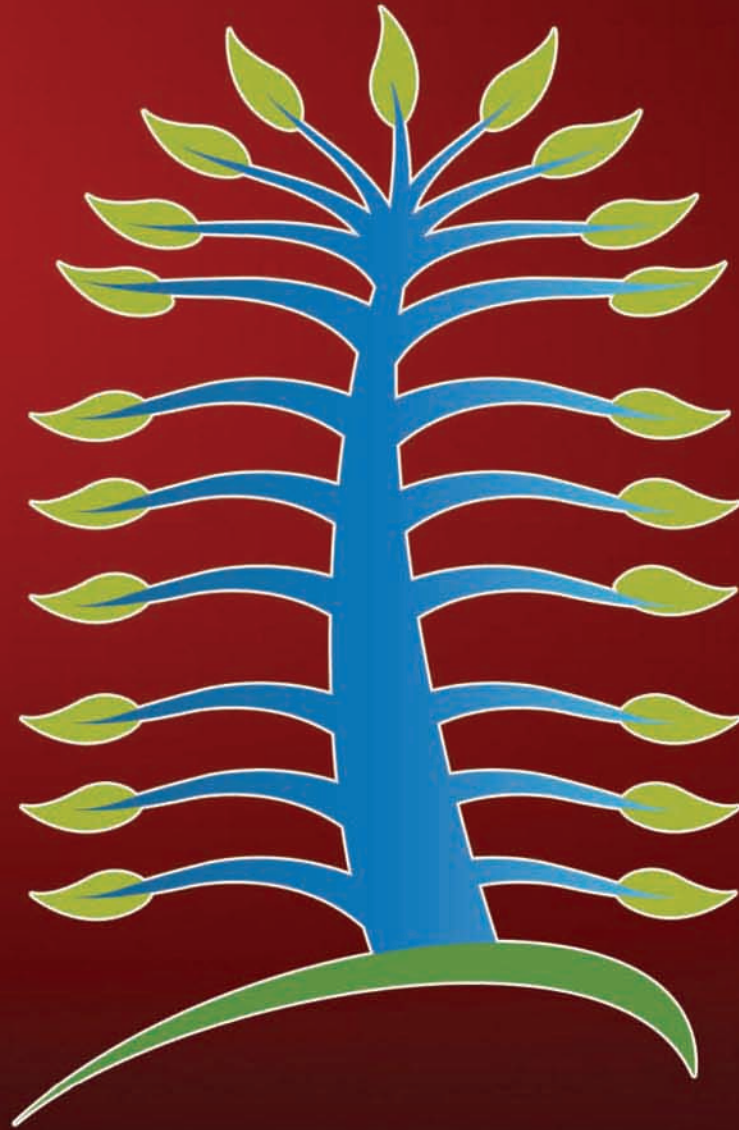
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