

March 26—April 01

26 Sunday	27 Monday	28 Tuesday	29 Wednesday Bible class 6 p.m.	30 Thursday	31 Friday Sonja Phillips' birthday	01 Saturday
--------------	--------------	---------------	--	----------------	--	----------------

1 birthday and 0 anniversaries this week.

March 19, 2023
Contributions: \$412.00
Attendance: 22

Campus minister: **Caleb Hughes**
Minister: **Curtis Wubbena**

WiFi name: ALPINECHURCH402
Password: b14Smiley
Join us on the internet:
<http://www.alpinechurctx.org/>

Welcome to the Alpine church of Christ

March 26, 2023



Ordinary people serving an extraordinary God.



A brother in Christ continues to impact the Arab world by sharing the Gospel of Christ. Wissam has visited the church in Alpine on three occasions and has shared his conversion story as well as update on the Lord's work in Michigan. Inside this bulletin is an update on the various opportunities to spread the Word.

Arab Christian Ministry Update

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts,” Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad*, after an overseas tour.

In 1844, Felix Mendelssohn composed his Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64, one of my all-time favorites. His contemporary, Richard Wagner, was so unimpressed with the Jew-turned-Christian’s work he wrote an essay called [Jewishness in Music](#)—one of the earliest works of German anti-Semitism. Wagner’s booklet, though, was not the only crazy writing of the nineteenth century: that period of Enlightenment produced so many ambitious works that promised a utopia on a foundation of skulls that found receptive soil in Europe, Arabia, and even the United States. The vicious hate-and-counter-hate cycle claimed the lives of millions during the next century’s two major wars, before that chauvinism died out with the very lives they claimed. Today, I came back, along with a team of pilgrims, from a country that has just survived one of the last strains of the Enlightenment’s madness, and tomorrow I will visit the most notorious witness of its brutality in Auschwitz.

Although I have chosen the trip’s dates so that I could leave Iraq the day before Ramadan begins (when restaurants close during the daytime,) it coincided with the very day the U.S.-led coalition entered Iraq two decades ago. News websites, as I am writing this update, are filled with articles titled (Twenty Year After the Iraq War: What Has Changed?” I would say, a lot. The fellow three travelers found a country with so bright a present and so promising a future they have expressed their desire to return for another visit next year. The richness of Iraq’s history, the hospitality of its people, and the encouragement that the visitors and the visited have been to each other, were explicit on the social media’s reviews. Our Iraqi guide—a devout Muslim, a former militiaman, and my schoolmate, was exposed to real-life Christians and Americans for the first time in his life. The follower of the faith that strictly prohibits any physical contact between opposite sexes commented on his first hug “It felt so . . . *pure*.” Khalid accompanied us as we visited the Iraq Museum during its centennial, the ruins of Babylon, the marshland paradise, the tomb of Ezekiel and Ctesiphon and he learned more about America, the Christian faith, the English language, and the history of Iraq in one week than the former five decades of his life. Imagine what a bigger crowd of visitors visiting on a regular basis can do in that part of the world.

In other news, a Dundee brother has requested seven copies of *The Road to Your Happiness* to distribute in Scotland. Another believing sister requested a copy to be delivered in Turkey (my first in that strictly secular state.) A third brother ordered a copy to share the gospel with his Muslim neighbors in Washington. The book is available to you in two language for free upon request.