

Pastor Younan G. Shiba grew up in a traditional Assyrian church with his family in Iraq. He and his wife Layla, have two daughters: Joy, born in 1997; and Grace, born in 2000. He received Christ as his Savior in 1990. In 1995, he was called to the ministry and moved to Amman, Jordan to receive theological training at the Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary. Layla also completed a diploma in Biblical Studies from Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary.

During his studies in Amman, God revealed to him a vision for planting Churches through evangelism and discipleship. Pastor Shiba was able to plant the seeds for six new congregations in Jordan for the Iraqi refugees. In Jordan, Pastor Shiba and his wife witnessed the struggles and afflictions of the newly immigrated Iraqis. This led them to found a community development center in their home to serve the needs of these disenfranchised refugees. They began several project to meet the spiritual and physical needs of those that God was sending to them. In 2002, they opened a larger government sanctioned cultural center called *Intelaqa Cultural Center* in Amman and in February 2003, the Lord drew a number of Iraqi Muslims to Himself through Pastor Shiba's ministry. These new converts were baptized into Christianity and as a result the Jordanian government pressured Pastor Shiba to leave the country.

The Shiba's were forced to flee to Damascus, Syria. While they were in Syria, they planted a new Church for Iraqi expatriates as well.

In 2003, they returned to Baghdad in order to work with the Assyrian Evangelical Presbyterian Church. On July 11th, 2003, Pastor Shiba was ordained at the Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Churches – Iraq the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Iraq. In Baghdad, the Lord blessed him with a new ministry comprising of approximately 120 active families. God used Pastor Shiba in 2004 to plant a daughter Church in Dora, south of Baghdad. It had a newly ordained elder and a congregation of 63 members. Shortly after moving to Baghdad, Pastor Shiba was appointed as the Director of Operations in Iraq with the SALT Foundation, a non-governmental organization affiliated with the Open Doors organization. In conjunction with this organization, the Shiba's started a cultural center in 2004 called Hope Cultural Center in Baghdad. In addition, they founded the Hope Cultural Institute in the city of Mosul in 2004. The centers in Baghdad and Mosul offered: English, computer, art, and music classes, A Library and Internet café. And Spiritual training conferences and Christian resources.

The Shiba's established a separate ministry in Baghdad in 2004 for the purpose of printing, publishing, advertising, and the distribution of spiritual materials.

On April 14th, 2005 Pastor Shiba and his family were threatened by radical Muslims in Baghdad. The two Churches that Pastor Shiba pastored decided to have Pastor Shiba and his family move to northern Iraq for their personal safety as well as for the security of the Churches. But God's will was for them to come to the United States. Pastor Shiba first came to the States at the end of 2005, and his family joined him as religious refugees. Currently God is utilizing the Shiba's in the northern suburbs of Chicago to serve among the Assyrian and Arab communities in discipleship and evangelism groups. In addition, Pastor Shiba and his wife have a Christian

radio ministry called “Family Life Development Program,” which airs every Thursday at 8- 9 pm on WONX-1590AM. They are also involved in a Christian radio ministry, Bahra Radio, every Wednesday at 8 pm on WONX-1590AM. Pastor Shiba conducts a Bible study with a group of Assyrians at Glenview Evangelical Free Church on Friday nights. Pastor Shiba has launched a private discipleship program that meets at Assyrian homes every Sunday evening. Pastor Shiba, in addition to the radio, is serving the Lord full time in all of his capacity at Paywand Broadcasting, Inc. by administering programs that are catering to the Christian needs of the Assyrians and Arabs via broadcasts through satellite transmission.

Pastor Shiba’s constant prayers for God’s grace in continuing his theological training to be more effective in his ministry.

Our Vision:

Family Life Development Foundation has a vision and an interest for development of every person and family, in community. To build on God’s Word for a better transitions in all spiritual and physical aspects. So that we may participate in the changes of communities we dwell in and live life abundantly.

This foundation serves marriage counseling, media and broadcasting ministry, training groups for discipleships and prayers, preparing and training of leaders to minister families, and establish conferences for further developments of family matters.

The Shibas: Younan, Layla, Joy, and Grace