



HAZELGREEN BAPTIST

EXALTING CHRIST

Welcome to Hazelgreen Baptist Church. We are glad you've chosen to worship with us today. If you are visiting for the first time, please fill out the welcome card provided by our ushers.

We are an Independent Baptist Church that teach and preaches the Word of God.

Pastor John Reed

Assistant Pastor Kevin Ross

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Weekly Services & Meetings

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

SUNDAY SERVICE: 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: 6:30 PM- 7:30 PM

Welcome and Announcements for 7/5/2026

Announcements

Congregation Song- *My Country Tis of Thee* pg. 807

Special Music- Lisa Ivins

Doxology Page 815

Offertory Music- Naomi Ross

Congregation Song- *His Mercy is More* (on-screen)

Independence Video: Because of Them

Sermon- "The Pursuit of Happiness" Psalm 32

Closing song- *Battle Hymn of the Republic* pg. 804

Join us for God & Country Day after the morning service

Prayer Requests

- Pray for VBS, that God would bring many children to hear the Gospel, and accept the Freedom we have in Christ! July 9-11.
- Pray that the seeds planted during our outreach last week will take root and draw many to the Lord.
- Pray for healing, including Barb F, Teresa D, Dolly C, & Elijah..

Pastor's Corner

From Dr. Rami (see insert)

Verse Of The Week

**"Righteousness exalts a nation,
But sin is a reproach to any people"**

Proverbs 14:34

Dear friends,

In May, I had the privilege of traveling to the UAE to serve a local church in a strategic and challenging context. The purpose of the trip was simple: to teach the Bible, encourage the pastor, strengthen believers, and spend time with people who are wrestling seriously with the claims of Christ.

Though the trip was short, it was full of meaningful ministry and rich fellowship. I came home encouraged by the hunger of the church, burdened for those who are seeking, and thankful for what may become a continuing open door for teaching, preaching, and helping train future leaders.

Over two days, I taught around 14 hours on the reliability and sufficiency of Scripture as well as various other topics. These are vital issues everywhere, but they are especially important in a context where Christians are constantly surrounded by questions and objections from Islam. Can we trust the Bible? Has it been corrupted? Is Scripture enough for faith, discipleship, and ministry? These are not merely academic questions. For many believers in that region, they are questions they face in conversations with family, friends, coworkers, and seekers.

It was deeply encouraging to see the hunger of the people who came. They listened carefully, asked thoughtful questions, and wanted to be equipped to understand the Bible more clearly and defend their faith with humility and confidence. I was reminded again that theological training is not only needed in seminaries. It is needed in local churches, among ordinary believers, and especially in places where future pastors and leaders are being formed.

One of the great blessings of the trip was that I was able to bring 80 copies of my book on Nicaea into the country. The pastor wanted the church to begin studying these

books in preparation for a future conference that he hopes I will teach on the Trinity.

That was very meaningful to me. In a Muslim context, the doctrine of the Trinity is often one of the greatest points of misunderstanding and objection. Helping believers understand what the church has confessed about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is not a secondary issue. It is essential for worship, discipleship, witness, and faithfulness. My prayer is that these books will serve the church by helping believers become more rooted in the truth and better prepared to speak clearly about the God we worship.

I also had a wonderful time of fellowship with the local pastor. Much of ministry happens outside the formal teaching sessions, and this trip reminded me of that again. We had time to talk, share meals, pray, and think together about the needs of the church. I was able to encourage him in his ministry, and I came away encouraged by his faithfulness, his love for the people, and his vision for training future leaders.

Some of the most moving moments of the trip came through personal conversations. I had multiple opportunities to sit and talk with Christians who came from a Muslim background and to hear parts of their

stories. I also had conversations with Muslims who are actively asking about the Christian faith.

For security reasons, I will call one of them “Khalid.” After many questions and conversations, he said something that has stayed with me:

“At this point I have no questions that hold me back from becoming Christian, but I need to seek God.”

That sentence captures so much of what I saw during this trip. There are people who are asking honest questions. There are people who are reading, listening, thinking, and wrestling with the claims of Christ. Some have moved beyond intellectual objections, but still need the Lord to open their hearts and draw them to himself.

It was a powerful reminder that while apologetics is important, it is not enough by itself. We answer questions because the truth matters. We defend the faith because the gospel is true. We seek to remove obstacles because many people have been taught false things about Christianity. But in the end, only God can give life. Only the Spirit can open blind eyes. Only the Lord can bring someone from death to life.

Rami

I came home encouraged and burdened. Encouraged, because the Lord is clearly at work. Burdened, because the needs are great and the opportunities are many.

And it seems this will not be the last time I serve there. After the trip, the pastor reached out and asked if I would consider coming three times a year to teach and preach at his church. He also asked about building an informal training program that would help local believers grow in their faith and be prepared to become pastors in the future.

That request moved me deeply. This is exactly the kind of work I long to give myself to: strengthening local churches, equipping believers, supporting faithful pastors, and helping train future leaders who can serve the church for years to come.

Please pray for this open door. Pray for the pastor and his church. Pray for the believers there, especially those who come from Muslim backgrounds, that they would be strengthened, protected, and rooted deeply in Christ. Pray for Muslims like “Khalid,” who are asking serious questions and seeking God. Pray that the Lord would save, build his church, and raise up pastors for the future.

Thank you for praying, encouraging, and supporting this work. These teaching opportunities, books, conversations, and open doors are part of the fruit of your partnership.

With gratitude,