



Christo L. Ayoub

December 26, 1925 - December 9, 2022

Christo Ayoub was born on December 26, 1925 to Latif and Matil Ayoub in the Achrafieh, a Christian neighborhood in Beirut, Lebanon not far from where his wife Laura was born. He was an only child to parents of limited means and his mom, a well-known seamstress in Lebanon, quickly fell into poor health and could no longer carry on the large operation she had been running. This forced Christo to leave school at age 15 and become the main provider for the family. However, those early years of schooling that he had received at the famous College de la Sagesse Catholic school were enough to awaken in him a love for literature, art, poetry, and writing. In fact a teacher at this school, once told young Christo that he had the spirit of Gibran Khalil Gibran, Lebanon's greatest poet (and himself a graduate of that same school). In addition, God had blessed Christo with other more practical talents such as a head for numbers and great organizational and time-management skills. No one would have known it back then, but God had a plan all along to use these talents to enable Christo to live a life of fruitful Christian service as a businessman, Bible teacher, church elder, missionary, poet, composer, writer, husband, father, and grandfather over the next 80 years of his life.

The turning point that brought Christo to Christ happened around the same time that he ended his schooling. Up to that point, Christo had been a very well-behaved, obedient son raised in the Greek Orthodox church who had no concern about his eternal destiny. Then, one day, he saw a sudden and

shocking transformation in his uncle – from a tough, temperamental man to a gentle-God fearing one. The transformation happened during one single night that his uncle spent reading the Bible. This convinced Christo that the Bible had a special power and caused him to start reading it which led him to ultimately realize that his righteousness was not enough to get him to heaven and that he needed to put his faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and to accept him as his personal Lord and Savior in order to be saved. Immediately after receiving Christ, Christo had a great concern for the unsaved and, as he looked at the faces of people walking the streets, he would ask himself “who will tell them how to be saved?”. So he immediately began writing evangelistic tracts and distributing them on the streets of Beirut and that set the pattern for the rest of his life.

At age 16, he began work in a textile factory and eventually became the general manager responsible for all technical aspects, purchasing, payroll, HR, and every other detail of the plant including the design and construction of a new plant when the business outgrew the original one. While in that position, he led weekly Bible studies with the workers and witnessed to the plant owner through a “verse of the day” that he would drop off daily at the owner’s desk. He worked in that plant for 36 years until civil war erupted in Lebanon in 1975.

On July 6, 1957, Christo married Laura Nassar, whom he had known since childhood. A year after their marriage, they welcomed their first daughter, Amal, and three years later they welcomed Mona. Their son, Mounir, and youngest daughter, Carol, followed. As with all other roles, Christo sought to fulfill the roles of husband and father with all diligence, love, and faithfulness to God. So despite his modest income from the factory, Christo gave his children all the opportunities he could provide for them – from making homelife comfortable with enough dolls and toys, to filling the house with his music, giving the kids music lessons, sending them to top schools, faithfully

teaching them God's word, and above all making sure they knew they were unconditionally loved. God blessed Christo and Laura's marriage greatly and gave them 64 happy years together.

While raising a family and working at the textile plant, Christo's heart was on serving the Lord and he always had a special concern and love for young believers. So, Christo started a youth group in his local church which he led until the beginning of the war. During those years, Christo engaged the young men both in serious study of God's word and through various creative means such as Bible competitions, the performance of plays he wrote based on Bible stories, and outings and field trips he took the men on throughout the country. In 1972, while leading the youth group, the Lord led Christo to begin writing a small magazine for the young men in his class. He called it "Remember Your Creator" and I'm sure he had no idea how far-reaching this small beginning would be later in his life and ministry.

Three years later, in 1975, his life and that of his nation changed completely as a vicious civil war erupted that would last 16 years. Through many miraculous events, this led Christo to take a big leap of faith and bring his family to America with very little money in his pockets and almost no acquaintances to come to. At this point, Christo prayed to the Lord that 36 years of secular work was enough and that he wanted to dedicate the rest of his life to Christian ministry. The Lord answered immediately through an opportunity at the ministry of "Open Doors with Brother Andrew" to work as a liaison between the ministry and persecuted churches in the Middle East. In this capacity he went on several tours of Middle East churches to assess their needs and bring the information back to the ministry which then helped them receive resources and support. Through this ministry, Christo was able to obtain permanent residency status in the US but soon after, the ministry moved their focus away from the Middle East, so in 1982, Christo began

asking the Lord again to let him know what He would have him do next.

Through prayer and the encouragement of his former boss at Open Doors, God made it clear to Christo that He wanted him to start a Christian publication to reach Arabic-speaking people in North America with the Word of God. So, he resumed publication of “Remember Your Creator” but this time on a larger scale and for a much broader audience and including sections in both Arabic and English. The Lord blessed this ministry tremendously as what started as a small magazine sent out to hundreds of addresses free of charge, eventually became a 60-page magazine sent out to nearly 15,000 addresses in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. Christo never spent any time and effort on fund-raising as he firmly believed that, as long as God wanted the ministry to continue, He would provide the needed funds and the Lord did exactly that until the last issue (No. 105), was published in April, 2022.

The driving force in Christo’s life was to always be doing the Lord’s work faithfully and to always be “redeeming the time because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16). So, he always worked for his ministry with urgency and zeal. His happiest times were sitting at his desk with pen and paper in hand, transcribing the thoughts the Lord was giving him into clear prose or poetry that would engage the readers’ minds with the pure milk of the Word of God.

The legacy Christo left behind both in written material and in the hearts of his family, friends, and readers is tremendous. In addition to the 105 issues of “Remember Your Creator”, Christo has left us a book of his poetry and music which he titled “A Bouquet of Lebanese Poetry Based on the Holy Bible.” It is filled with poetry and songs (along with the musical scores) on a variety of topics that he used as divisions in the book.

His Arabic song “I’m Going to Heaven,” which he wrote as a teenager shortly after being born again, grew in popularity all over the Middle East over the

years and new covers of the song were still being posted on social media in 2022.

In addition to his magazine ministry, books, and hymns, for years Christo published evangelist columns in several local Arabic newspapers, put on evangelistic TV spots on local Arabic stations, held a weekly Arabic Bible study for local Arab speakers, and was an elder at an English-speaking church in Fullerton, California.

Through all his accomplishments, Christo's focus was never on himself. He set his eyes upon his love for the Lord and his duty to help others come to Christ. Every visit with someone began or ended with the truth of the Gospel and the importance of serving the Lord while we are still on this Earth. No matter what condemnation he may have faced or persecution, his concern for people's eternal destiny overcame any hesitation or fear of rejection. This is something he also passed on to his children and grandchildren and in Christo's final days before being called home to be with his Lord, he was fervently praying and encouraging his loved ones to serve the Lord and win souls for Christ.

Christo is survived by his two daughters Amal Boland and Carol Sfeir, his daughter Mona and her husband Kamil Antonios and their three children Christine, Joseph, and Caitlin and Christo's son Mounir and his wife Antoinette and their children Christopher, Ryan and Matthew. Through God's fixed promise, we have full confidence we will be with Christo again someday as he reunites with his beloved Laura and enjoys the presence of his Lord and Savior in Heaven for eternity.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 21. 2:00 PM (PT)

Buena Park Christian Fellowship
8591 Roland Street
Buena Park, CA 90621

Tribute Wall



“ *Memory Garden Memorial Park & Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Christo L. Ayoub*



Memory Garden Memorial Park & Mortuary - January 21, 2023 at 01:32 PM

NK

“ In the summer of 2005, I visited Elder Christo and aunt Lor (as we called her) with Hani (my fiancé) at that time. I was received with a very warm welcome and felt I knew them for a long time. We chatted about several topics: origin, family, work, church, faith and ministry. I immediately connected with them.

I started attending the monthly Arabic bible study held at their home and was welcomed by aunt Lor with so much love, care and hospitality. Elder Christo fascinated me with his zeal for teaching the word of God so seriously and wholeheartedly.

He encouraged me to write my testimony and after that few articles to publish in the Arabic magazine, something I never thought of doing on my own. His love for God and his family made him write beautiful poems and songs for almost everything.

To stay connected during the pandemic and lock-down, Hani and I would exchange encouraging poetic snail mail letters with Elder Christo.

His teachings encouraged me to stay close to God and be aware of my walk and talk as I carefully obey His word. The Ayoub's love, care and endurance during aunt Lor's sickness and later Elder Christo is a great testimony to their strong loving relationship with God and their family.

Amal, Mona, Mounir and Carol, you lost your mom and dad and we lost one of a kind mentor and a spiritual father. Elder Christo and aunt Lor's genuine and contagious smile will always be remembered. They will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences to the family.

Nawal Z. Kassicieh

Nawal Z. Kassicieh - January 23, 2023 at 06:12 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Christo L. Ayoub.*



January 17, 2023 at 10:36 PM



“ *Amo Christo and tante Laura were my spiritual father and mother. Tante Laura guided me spiritually to the Bible and invited me to their weekly Arabic Bible Study and Amo Christo taught me the word and made sure I am reading my Bible and staying close to the Lord. When I visited, he will always ask me to sit close to him so he can hear me and asks, "how are you with the Lord."*

They prayed for me and my boys as they prayed for their children and grandchildren.

A year ago, he wrote me a poem. I will always read it and cherish it. I will miss you both, but your presence with the Lord that you served all your life gives us comfort and peace till we meet again and rejoice in His presence.

Love you both,

Rima Saliby Wehbe

Rima Saliby Wehbe - January 17, 2023 at 10:05 PM

SH

“ We Shukri and Adma Habibi have known brother Christo Ayoub since the early seventies . He was truly a man of God. He was a role model to many youth at the church in Ashrafieh. He was a good Bible teacher who loved the Lord and served him faithfully. Christo and his beloved wife Laure were very hospitable and accepting all believers in their home. I Shukri worked with brother Christo closely to produce the "Remember Your Creator" magazine. We will both miss him and Laure very much. But we know that they are in a better place with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whom they loved and served.

Shukri & Adma Habibi

Shukri Habibi - January 14, 2023 at 04:34 PM

FS

“ I feel extremely blessed for the opportunity that God gave me to take care of Christo and Laura whom I called Mom and Dad! It is difficult to explain the amount of peace that overcame me the moment I walked into the Ayoub's home. All my stress would disappear at their house. I always felt a part of the family because mom and dad called me their fourth daughter. I felt so honored to hear those words. Mom and dad made me love my job because they always expressed their gratitude for the smallest things that I did. I never felt that I was there to just receive a paycheck, but instead, it felt as a second home.

I have taken away so many memories from the Ayoub's. For example, Christo made sure that I am a true believer and he asked me numerous times if I am ready for the Rapture? I have never met anyone who was so positive of where they were going after death. Laura, never stopped worrying about my needs even when she was not well herself. Also, I have never seen children like Amal and Carol who showed such dedication and love to their parents. Actually, watching them brought me closer to my own father because I learned how to be more expressive.

The last two years truly changed my life forever. I have assisted many families in the past but none hold a candle to the Ayoub's. I am forever grateful for the amount of love and affection that they gave me. I can't wait to be reunited with "Mom and Dad" with our Heavenly Father one day soon.

- Flor Sandoval

Flor Sandoval - January 05, 2023 at 01:43 PM

CB

“ After reading the beautiful tribute of Christo, my husband and I were amazed of his full and spiritual life he had for almost 98 years. Whenever Amal, a very special friend, would speak about her parents, I could see the glow and happiness in her face. She was blessed to have had two loving and wonderful parents. I also feel blessed to have in my possession several “Remember Your Creator”magazines that Christo had sent to me. I read the articles and will always cherish his memory. He will be greatly missed, but is now reunited with his beloved Laura and is enjoying the presence of his Savior in Heaven.

carol Brennan - January 05, 2023 at 12:27 AM

MD

“ It has been a privilege and blessing to have known Christo, Laura, and family since the 1980's, and to be able to help in a small way with the Remember Your Creator magazine reaching Arabic-English speaking families for Jesus.

God had been putting a new love in my heart for Middle-Eastern people, and I was praying is there a special reason for this? A friend from church, Susan, who worked at Brother Andrew's ministry introduced me to Christo and Laure. He shared that as they were re-starting Remember Your Creator, one need was they were praying for someone who could visualize and illustrate some of the stories and articles Christo was editing for the magazine. Although I had previously only been involved in childrens' ministry, I had clearly been given a heart to help this ministry, and had some art background, so we gave it a try. I was blessed to help for many years, until online options began to fulfill those needs.

Visiting Christo and Laura are my husband Wayne's and my most precious memories. We left always inspired to serve God with all our hearts, and felt so loved and appreciated, and also were always blessed by Laura's fantastic meals and desserts!

Love and prayers for Christo's dedicated influence for Christ to continue and grow in all of our hearts!

Marcia Davis

Marcia Davis - January 01, 2023 at 05:37 PM

BH

“ Br. Christo followed in Christ's footsteps as his name implies in Greek. A truly man of God, as well as all his precious family. Rest In Peace dear Christo by your wife & Savior, & enjoy the company.

Barnie Hatem - December 29, 2022 at 07:25 PM



“ *Brother Christo was a true man of God who served the Lord he n many ways with his precious wife Laura. Their home was always open for young and old, for Bible study and food and fellowship. His memory will stay with me always. I enjoyed his deep Bible study and fellowship at his home.*

Rhoda Oweis - December 29, 2022 at 07:17 PM



“ *He welcomed me as a friend and fellow believer at a critical time in my life. He was a father, teacher, and friend and I have loved hime deeply ever since. He will be missed greatly. We will meet again on that glorious day the we meet at the feet of the Lord Jesus, our savior and lord.*

Blaine Van Ausdeln - December 29, 2022 at 07:00 PM



pardon my poor typing

Blaine Van Ausdeln - December 29, 2022 at 07:02 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Christo L. Ayoub.*



December 28, 2022 at 02:22 PM

“ God has spoken through the Holy Scriptures; He still speaks through people. The Lord spoke to me through elder Christo Ayoub. Few people have impacted my life as radically and effectively as he did. It was not only his words that affected me, but it was his positive role model demonstrated by a life led in harmony with his teaching.

In the year 1995, three people directed me to the man I consider a spiritual father: Firstly, while attending a Bible study meeting at a local Assyrian church, Mr. Jack Badal handed me a copy of the publication "Remember Your Creator" when he found out that I grew up in an Arabic-speaking environment.

Also, while attending class at Simon Greenleaf University (later merged with Trinity International University) in Anaheim, a student by the name of Mike Connor told about and encouraged me to attend a local church where a Lebanese elder serves.

Thirdly, a distant Lebanese cousin of the Shiber clan spoke about a godly couple from Lebanon by the names Christo and Laure.

Looking back, I realize that the Lord was directing me to the Ayoub family and their ministry of the Gospel. My father, Shafik, and I started regularly attending the weekly Bible Study sessions held by elder Christo at Grace Bible Chapel. At the time, the study was a verse-by-verse journey through the Book of Job. Once completed, the book of Proverbs was next in line, and it was also presented in a detailed manner with real-life application that brought the Word to life. Mrs. Ayoub never failed to have refreshments and a tasty home-made cake ready at the completion of the study. My father and my mother, Lilian, became regulars at these small-group meetings and were blessed by the Word and the fine company present at such meetings. When I was engaged to be married, my beloved wife, Nawal, her mother and older sister also became regular participants in the Bible study meetings which were held at the Ayoub home. This warm Christian family gained the love and respect of all of my family members.

During the early days of our acquaintance, elder Ayoub made an agreement with me: to pray for one another. He would ask me from time to time if I were still praying for him, and would remind me of our agreement. I know that he has been faithful to keep his part of our agreement, because I have sensed the results of the effectual fervent prayer of this righteous man in my life.

Brother Christo encouraged me to serve in church ministries (to which I complied). He told me that the Dead Sea has no living creatures in it because it has an inlet but no outlet. A believer is alive and productive when he has an outlet of service in his church.

Brother Christo also taught about the importance of walking circumspectly, and being careful about the one's words. He was fond of telling us about the "non maaleish" sign which he erected at the plant that he had managed in order to remind workers not to cut corners while running the factory machinery. Every detail needed to be followed through. For a believer, every detail of one's life needs to be conformed to God's will and for His glory.

Brother Christo asked me to translate English articles for publication in the "Remember you Creator" magazine. Later on, he assigned my wife and me topics to write for publication. Looking back, I realize that the process of writing or translating was as much for my own spiritual benefit as it was for the readers.

Elder Christo and Mrs. Ayoub have left behind a beautiful Christian legacy in the persons of Amal, Mona & Kamil, Mounir & Antoinette, Carol, and the beloved grandchildren who carry the same burden of being salt and light in this world.

Hani S. Kassicieh

FN

“ So proud to have had a 'Ammo' like you - you also wrote a poem for me once and I was so touched - I feel blessed you were a part of my life even though we parted when I was still very young - but we kept in touch and your smile is always with me - I hope you can watch over us now and pray for us - I love you so very much.
Fadia

Fadia Nassar - December 26, 2022 at 12:54 PM

MW

“ Your father had lived a remarkable life after reading the obituary page that you had shared, Mounir. He is forever in your heart and let his memories warm and comfort your heart. Please accept our prayers to you and your families. *Emmanuel.*

Margaret Wong - December 24, 2022 at 09:32 PM

MC

“ My wife and I first met Christo, and his wife Laura, over thirty years ago. I had the privilege of serving on the Board of Elders at the Assembly at which we all attended. I came to love, admire and respect Christo as a brother in Christ who loved his Saviour and had an unwavering zeal for sharing the gospel in a desire to win souls for the Lord.. To spend time with Christo was to spend time discussing the Word. No topic was of greater interest to him, and all who knew him knew of his dedication to sharing the Word. Remember Your Creator - a magazine in Arabic and English - was a ministry which he started back in Lebanon and continued up until the time the Lord called him home. Christo has left a legacy which will continue way past his time here. He has been an inspiration not only to his family who all have the same love for the Lord, but to all with whom he came in contact. He will be missed but we have the assurance that we will be reunited at the rapture of the saints and look forward to that great reunion.

Mickey Carter

Mickey Carter - December 21, 2022 at 01:59 AM