

## A Bullet was Stopped at His Feet

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Tags: Syria, Church Growth, Bullet, Protection



Syria is perhaps the greatest humanitarian crisis in the world today. All Syrians have been deeply impacted by a war which has left large scale devastation in its wake. Christians have not been exempt from this destruction and have, at times and by some, received additional targeted persecution because of their faith.

Raouf shared how he and wife became the pastor of a small church in Damascus. At the time the church had four in attendance. This small church was desperate for a pastor and a path forward. When Raouf became pastor he agreed to serve without payment as long as he could help the church begin a more public witness. Over the last ten years and in the midst of all that has transpired inside Syria, this

church has grown from four to over one thousand.

This growth has not come easily. There have been secret police and middle of the night questionings. One morning in early 2017, Raouf left his home and was heading to his office at the church when he heard the crack of a sniper's rifle. Instantly, he heard a dull "thunk" at his feet. He looked down and a bullet was stopped at his feet. He bent down and picked up that bullet and said:

"I will continue to be faithful to what God has called me to do because God will continue to protect me until my assignment has been completed."