



Kurdistan, N. Iraq

# Church Profile

# Available Position

## Senior Pastor:

This position is for the career worker, retired couple, or anyone in between. It is a unique opportunity to shepherd an ever-changing English-speaking congregation with attendees from the six inhabited continents! The pastor would lead the international church by preaching each Saturday and providing spiritual care to the members of ICS. He will work directly with the elders and board to lead in ministry to English speakers in Slemani, as well as be a resource to the Kurdish pastors in this city.

This position is available in 2025.

## Pastoral Responsibilities:

- Work with church board and elders to lead the church
- Organize leadership and vision of the church
- Organize weekly services, including assuming the bulk of the preaching load
- Initiate Bible studies, small groups, and service projects
- Be a resource for local Kurdish pastors
- Make disciples who make disciples



## **Required Qualifications:**

- A recognized bachelor's degree
- Minimum of two years pastoral experience

## **Preferred Qualifications:**

- Master's degree with at least some focus in intercultural studies
- Cross-cultural experience, having lived and ministered in that context

## **Biblical Characteristics Desired:**

- Kingdom-minded
- Biblically grounded
- Spirit-dependent
- Competently skilled
- Self-aware
- Self-disciplined

## **Application Process:**

- After contacting ICS (Contact person: Russell Massey at [rusmassey@gmail.com](mailto:rusmassey@gmail.com)), submit initial application
- Conversation with the ICS pastoral search committee head to answer questions
- Submit longer questionnaire
- Submit references/references received
- Online interview with pastoral search committee
- Visit to ICS
- Committee recommendation to ICS Board
- Presentation of recommendation to ICS members
- Position offered
- Support raised
- Arrive in Sulaymaniah (Slemani)



# About Our City



This is a stable region of a country not known for stability. This city of 800,000 is known for being more progressive and open to new ideas compared to other cities in the region.

The region is very mountainous. Summers are very hot and dry. Winters are moderately cold, and snow typically falls 2–3 times in the city each year. There are a growing number of Western-style stores, cafes, restaurants, malls, grocery stores, and parks, with some amusement parks, a bowling alley, and also a cinema.

There are 100–200 local believers in this city of 800,000 who are involved in some sort of Christian fellowship. There are others who have confessed Christ but are not connected with other believers. There are three small locally led churches in our city and several other small local-language churches that are led by foreigners.

There are also many additional English speaking expats in this city, so there is potential for growth at ICS.





# Living in Slemani

**Health Considerations:** Candidates should be in good health to thrive in this environment. There is a local foreign-staffed private hospital and a few good specialists, but public health care in general is sub-standard. Pharmacies carry most medicines, including some name brands. Any routine procedures can be done locally. Any major non-emergency surgeries should be done abroad.

**Education:** Local public schools are available but do not offer a great education and are not recommended. There are many good private schools, most of which educate in English. Homeschooling is an additional option. There is also a home school co-op that many at ICS attend.

**Housing:** The church provides a small 3-bedroom, 1 bathroom parsonage apartment above the church building, perfect for a couple or family with one or two children. Larger families would need to raise additional funds to rent a home that fits their family's needs. Nice, larger apartments are readily available.

**Visa Requirements:** The pastor and family will get a 30-day visitors visa before arrival. They will then receive an annual visa that is easy to obtain.

**Compensation/Support requirements:** Our church pays \$1200/month and provides a parsonage. Any additional needs will be met through personal fundraising. We generally recommend around \$2500 per month to live on.

# About ICS

## Founded in 2008



ICS 's purpose since 2008 has been to establish and grow the church in Slemani and Northern Iraq, glorifying God by making disciples of Jesus Christ who make disciples of all the nations. The ICS church building was purchased in 2014 and seats 80-100 people.

## Our weekly church service



The congregation of ICS is a mix of people from all around the world averaging about 75 people each week. While the services are in English, local people often attend as well. Worship, Biblical preaching, prayer and fellowship fill the services.

## Our Affiliations



- The Iraqi Alliance Church
  - The Alliance World Fellowship
  - The Christian & Missionary Alliance
  - We function independently, yet choose to affiliate with these organizations for the purposes of accountability and association.
- \*It is not required for the pastor to have a specific affiliation.*

# Ministries of ICS



**Saturday  
Service**



**Youth and Children's  
Ministry**



**Women's  
Ministry**



**Community  
Outreach**





# Statement of Faith

- There is one God, who is infinitely perfect, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 5:48, Matthew 28:19).
- Jesus Christ is the true God and the true man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest. He will come again to establish His kingdom, righteousness and peace (Philippians 2:6-11, Luke 1:36-38, I Peter 3:18, Hebrews 2:9, Romans 5:9, Acts 2:23-24, Hebrews 8:1, Matthew 26:64).
- The Holy Spirit is a divine person, sent to dwell, guide, teach, empower the believer, and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 14:15-18, John 16:13, Acts 1:8, John 16:7-11).
- The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice (2 Peter 1:20-21, 2 Timothy 3:15-16).
- Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God; he fell through disobedience, incurring, thereby, both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The portion of the impenitent and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment; and that of the believer, in everlasting joy and bliss (Genesis 1:27, Romans 3:23, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, Revelation 21:8, Revelation 21:1-4).
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- It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly, being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service. This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion (1 Thessalonians 5:23, Acts 1:8, Romans 6:1-14).
- Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body. Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age (Matthew 8:16-17, James 5:13-16).
- The Church consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church, which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations. The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Ephesians 1:22-23, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:41-47).
- There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life; for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment (1 Corinthians 15:20-23, John 5:28-29).
- The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent and will be personal, visible, and premillennial. This is the believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service (Hebrews 10:37, Luke 21:27, Titus 2:11-14).





ICS Mission:

The International Church of Slemani (ICS) exists to be a nurturing spiritual home for believing, English-speaking expats and locals and a lighthouse of hope for those who do not yet know the life that is in Jesus.

# International Church of Slemani



The International Church of Slemani at  
[internationalchurchofsulaimaniyah.com/](http://internationalchurchofsulaimaniyah.com/)

Contact person: Russell Massey at  
[rusmassey@gmail.com](mailto:rusmassey@gmail.com)



The Christian and Missionary Alliance  
at [cmalliance.org](http://cmalliance.org)