

Pentecost 2024: Iran Christian Church Born at Pentecost

Memories are short, and important information can get lost over time. That collective memory fog and subsequent events can shape what future generations believe or think, and consequently how they act.

Take Iran, for example. A series of events occurring in Iran back in 1979 profoundly reshaped the country's landscape, namely the overthrow of the shah, the rise of the ayatollah, eruptive protests and the establishment of the Islamic Republic.

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Because of these events, the Western world thinks of Iran as an Islamic nation. But the truth is, Iran is home to the oldest church in the world.

You see, on the day of Pentecost, as documented in the New Testament book of Acts, the global church was born. Iranians were there and among the very first converts to Christ.

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As we read Luke's account in Acts 2, we see that something amazing occurs. The Holy Spirit descends on the apostles and their followers, giving them the ability to speak in other languages. The multitude gathered in Jerusalem for the Shavuot holiday stand, bewildered by what they see, recognizing that these men are from various regions, each with its own

language.

Acts 2:7-8a reads: "They were all amazed and marveled, saying to each other, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that we hear, each in our own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia.'"

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