

Cathy's Corner

From Cathy's Corner of the World

Our military families, in coordination with Shelton Park Church of God, have been packing care boxes for troops for five years now. It's been a blessing to do so. We started with just a few names of some of our sons in the service of their country and the admonition from Stan Greene of International Services of Hope in Waterville, Ohio to "just do it. God will provide." And indeed, Stan was right. God has provided.

Our men and women in uniform are busy; and we are always thrilled and surprised when one of them takes the time to write us a brief note. We never expect this kind of appreciation. It's not necessary as it's our way of saying THANKS to them! So when one of them writes, it's a treasured letter. We will from time to time post these notes.

I walked into Shelton Park Church of God's welcome area two Sundays ago and was handed such a letter postmarked to our church. I recognized the handwriting immediately, as this special female soldier has written many notes of thanks to our group. In it, this brave female soldier makes a request for us as Christians. As I sat in the church's sanctuary and read her words, I was amazed at her honesty and heart-felt request. Following are her words:

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12 Mar 10

I wish I could truly show you how thoughtful and sweet these packages mean to me. I can't thank you all enough. There really should be more people like you in the world. If you could be so kind as to pray for a few friends I've met here, that would be so gracious of you. I will tell you about them.

As some of you already know, our company is assigned certain Iraqis for our interpreters. There are too many people who think that all Arabic people are out to kill us. Being here has made me realize how many of them really love us and look up to us. The first I will tell you about is Goose. Well, that's his nickname. He's nicknamed after the movie Top Gun. His real name is \_\_\_\_\_. He acts just like us. He is hilarious and very goofy. He can be very sarcastic, but it's all in good humor. He truly is a great guy. Very smart; he knows his stuff. Then there is Leo. Real name \_\_\_\_\_. He is so knowledgeable about Americans. He can read people very well, and he is the sweetest Iraqi I have ever met. They both aren't shy; and they appreciate us more than we as the people in America appreciate Iraqis. They aren't bad people. They only wish for us to all get along. But they think that Iraq will always be stuck in its ways. I only wish more Americans realized that there are only some bad Iraqis, just like there are some bad Americans. We truly are only all humans in this world. The only difference is some of their culture. And even then we have similarities.

I ask that all of you take a minute out of your day to just pray for people in other countries who try and do the right thing. And to not stereotype Arabic people so much. They are fighting right beside us against the bad guys here. They are putting their lives on the line for their country, just as we are. They

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are willing to open their doors to complete strangers to help them out. Can we say the same about Americans?

Thank you again for everything you have done for me and other soldiers too. God bless you, and you are in my prayers!

With love,

A Female Soldier

I wrote our sweet hero a letter today and thanked her for her prayer request. I assured her we would pray. And I included a letter to Goose and Leo thanking them for their brave actions on behalf of our soldiers and fellow troops.

I told her that her words made me think of Jesus. Here we are in the waning shadow of Resurrection Sunday. The soldier's request made me think of Jesus' words on the cross to the three groups of people present there. Certainly there were his closest inner circle: his mother and the other women who were special to His ministry and Him; there were disciples such as John up close and probably Peter and others in the distance watching. Then there were those there just doing their jobs. Soldiers, centurions who by luck of the draw had to be there to do the gruesome work of crucifixion. Uninterested bystanders and scoffing gawkers just passing by on this strange Friday afternoon. Lastly, there were his enemies there to mock and ridicule Him. Pious, religiously-robed, dull-hearted "white washed sepulchers," as Jesus had called them. Yet on the cross, Jesus "walked His talk" as shown in Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing." His words from the cross echoed back from His earlier "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" in Matthew 5:43

Jesus died for ALL mankind...not just Americans. This soldier's prayer request for Goose and Leo and their Arabic nation reminded me of that. There are many persecuted Christian Arabic people who suffer dearly for their faith in Christ. A reminder to pray for our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world is pointed at my heart. And those Muslims who only know Jesus as a prophet and deny His Sonship, they need our prayers as well, for eyes to be opened to the true Divinity of the Son of God... that someday the whole world will bow their knees and confess with their tongues that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

So Goose and Leo, I will pray for you.

From my corner of the world...

4/8/2010