

PRAYER LETTER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2008

Religious Support Team, 2nd Iraqi Army Division Military Transition Teams

High Value Prayer Focus:
Jaber A. Elbaneh

Wanted for providing material support to Al-Qaida. He is believed to be in the Arabian Peninsula. He speaks Arabic with a Yemeni accent. He was one of seven Buffalo, NY residents trained in Afghanistan. He escaped from a Yemeni prison in 2006.

From Defense Intelligence Agency Web Site (2006)

www.dia.mil/site6_images/cards/index.htm

Ask God to give Jaber dreams and visions that will lead him to understanding the true character and nature of God. Ask that his bondage to Satan will be broken. Ask that he will see and experience the irresistible grace of God found in God's provision for the forgiveness of his sins and that he will have the spiritual freedom to repent.



Prayer Requests from 2-IA AOR:

- The Muslim fast month of Ramadan begins on 1 September. Ask God to help American soldiers to show respect and facilitate good will during this time of heightened Muslim awareness and sensitivity.
- Small transition teams are like families in which minor personality differences can become large irritations. Ask God to give team members patience and grace in dealing with one another.
- Conditions and plans change rapidly amidst a lot of battlefield uncertainty. Ask God to give good judgment to team leaders and patience to team members for being flexible and handling ambiguity.

Hebrews 12:2-3

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Devotional Thought on Calamity and Suffering

Calamities are in the majority of human experience. In history and in the world today more people face deprivation than abundance. Americans, who are relatively well off compared to the rest of the world, commonly ask, "How can a good God allow so much suffering?" However, people severely suffering more commonly ask, "How can I be freed from this terrible situation?" Like a parent raising a child, God doesn't shelter us from all the consequences of our rebellion. Rather, he joins us in our condition and shows us the way out. In Jesus, God himself endured calamity, deprivation, discrimination, torture, and death. He doesn't just allow suffering. He himself endures it, and he himself redeems it. We are not better than God. We should not accuse him of wickedness for allowing us to face the consequences of our rebellion when he himself is also willing to suffer from those same consequences? As light pierces darkness on contact, so, on contact in Jesus, God takes us beyond the tragedy of suffering and death to the glory of resurrection and eternal life.