

# **PRAYER LETTER**

## **SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2008**

Religious Support Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Iraqi Army Division Military Transition Teams

Special Featured  
Prayer Need

### **Description and Prayer Request for Mosul:**

Mosul is a cosmopolitan city with a mixed population of Kurds and Arabs. Mosul is also a gateway city to the predominantly Kurdish northern part of Iraq. Therefore, the Iraqi Army units performing security and stability operations in Mosul are predominantly Kurdish. Most of the Army, throughout Iraq, however, is Arab.

The local Kurd and Arab news is reporting that the Army central command is trying to replace the mostly Kurdish senior Army leadership here in Mosul with Arab leaders.

Remember that in the 1990s America supported Kurdish efforts at autonomy against brutal treatment by Saddam Hussein who had used chemical weapons in the 1980s to subdue them.

Imagine if after the Civil War the Union had formed some units out of Confederate soldiers and put them under Generals like Robert E. Lee to stabilize a city like Atlanta against an insurgency. Then, imagine if two years later the Union tried to replace former Confederate Generals like Lee with Union Generals like Sherman. That theoretical scenario is like what's happening here in Mosul.

I can't really comment on the wisdom or foolishness of such action, but you can see how tension would increase creating potential for serious conflict both within the Army and civilian population.

As threats from Al-Qaeda diminish, new threats from entrenched rivalries are emerging. Please ask God that Kurds and Arabs won't antagonize one another but will work out their differences peacefully.

### **Romans 10:10-11**

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

### **Devotional Thought on Honor and Shame**

Before Adam and Eve sinned they were naked and felt no shame (Genesis 2:25). Afterward, they felt ashamed (hid their nakedness – 3:7), fearful (hid from God – 3:10), and guilty (blamed another – 3:12-13). Most Americans will sacrifice honor (accept shame) to preserve integrity (freedom from guilt). Most Iraqis, however, will sacrifice integrity (tell lies) to preserve honor (freedom from shame). Guilt comes from doing wrong. Shame comes from being caught. One comes from what we do. The other comes from who we are (a state of being). Americans closely link their identity to what they do (achievement). Iraqis closely link their identity to who they are (status). Did you know that God cares deeply about both? He is both righteous and honorable. We fear God because of both what we do and who we are. Therefore, peace with God must address both our guilt and our shame. This week's feature verse reveals that God cancels our guilt (justification), removes our fear of punishment (salvation), and restores our honor (will never be shamed). Jesus fixes everything that Adam and Eve messed up.