

PRAYER LETTER

CHRISTMAS, 25 DEC 2008

2ND IRAQI ARMY DIVISION MILITARY TRANSITION TEAM RELIGIOUS SUPPORT TEAM

This Week's High Value Prayer Focus:

THE VILLAGE OF QAYYARAH

with its surroundings is about an hour's drive south of Mosul on the Tigris River. It is a relatively quiet area with little violence or Dangerous activity. Maybe it is quiet because its people do not tolerate anti-government forces and turn them in, or maybe it is quiet because security forces and insurgents are compromising with each other so that the region remains quiet while simultaneously providing a safe haven for people who are making trouble in Mosul.



Ask God to preserve safety and security for residents of Qayyarah and the surrounding area while simultaneously evicting any terrorists or insurgents who may be sheltering there.

Prayer Requests from Mosul, Iraq:

SITUATION: Extended families use connections and influence to obtain jobs and careers for relatives. Assisted relatives are then expected to channel material benefit back to their extended families. Family obligations trump obligations to employers. What we call nepotism becomes expected etiquette (like standing on a crowded bus so a pregnant woman can be seated) affecting both survival and dignity of the entire extended family. As a result, supplies like blankets and winter clothes, if issued to soldiers for enhancing their quality-of-life and performance, often end up back in the hometown instead of at the combat outpost. As a result, the supply system resists issuing life support necessities to soldiers. As a result, supervisors stockpile supplies and skim portions to benefit their extended relations. As a result, even local hire interpreters on U.S. military outposts hoard what they perceive to be excessive and expendable life support items to take home to their families.

REQUEST: Ask God to give U.S. transition team advisors skill for understanding and accommodating these Iraqi cultural expectations so that they can help the Iraqi logistics system to surmount this particular challenge so that Iraqi units can effectively provide security and stability.

SITUATION: Vast areas of Mosul remain destroyed and unreconstructed. Bombed-out buildings are everywhere. Rubble and trash piles line most streets. Mosul's physical appearance is depressing and disheartening.

REQUEST: Ask God to energize clean up and reconstruction efforts in Mosul and invigorate its residents with expectations for hope and peace.

Devotional Thought on Family Connections

Family connections and ancestry mean a lot in this part of the world as they meant a lot when Jesus was born. Nearly 1000 years before Christ was born, God promised David that his dynasty over Israel would last forever (2 Samuel 7:11-16). Then, roughly 500 years later as Babylon was preparing to destroy Jerusalem, God said to the last member of David's family to sit on a throne, "Record this man as childless, . . . for none of his offspring will prosper, none will sit on the throne of David or rule anymore in Judah" (Jeremiah 22:30). What had happened? Had God recanted his promise? No. Jesus fulfills both conditions, and this is why the genealogies in Luke and Matthew differ in the record of names between David and Jesus. Luke records Jesus' ancestry in the peasant lineage of Mary, through whom Jesus descends from David but lacks a dynastic claim to the throne. Matthew records Jesus' ancestry in the royal lineage of Joseph, through whom Jesus claims David's throne and bypasses the curse placed on Jeconiah because he is virgin born.