

A story from Iraq ...

A child's need and a soldier's compassion

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

Here is a report that brings some good news at the end of this week. We are currently involved in a number of Iraqi projects and one of the actions focuses upon a group that has been going into the communities and helping the Iraqi citizens in various projects. One of these groups recently visited a group of handicapped children. Below is an email string detailing their visit and subsequent discovery and request for special crutches to help a ten-year-old girl. At Judsonia we had received a large quantity of crutches from WestArk's C.U.R.E and this included several boxes of children's adjustable forearm crutches. I immediately sent a pair of these to Iraq but the results continued to unfold in amazing ways. A military support group in Huntsville, AL (*Military OutReach & Encouragement [M.O.R.E.]* led by Ed Linebaugh) contacted a number of orthopedic contacts and obtained a pair of crutches for the girl as well. In the course of this developing action I thought that FedEx might be willing to ship small packages of such items into Baghdad on a regular schedule so our troops would have a continuing supply to help the vulnerable populations with whom they are working to secure the land. Contacts in Memphis, TN have presented FedEx with my proposal and we trust that it will be accepted. Continue to be prayerful of our troops and support personnel who are in harm's way and be thankful for their actions and good hearts! Read below the unfolding story that will help your heart be filled with joy as you realize the wonderful cooperation from different sources that brought success...

From: Moyer, Clinton R LTC 287 SB Civil Affairs Officer
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 3:54 AM
To: Bukowski, Christy L SGT 287 SB HHC Human Resources SPC
Cc: John L. Kachelman, Jr.

We are working the customs issues with the PRT's, USAID and our S4 Shop. I hope to have an answer in a day or so. I think this will go a long way toward fostering continued goodwill among Iraq and the US.

I have attached a few pictures from our medical event with the handicapped kids. We REALLY need to find a pair of crutches for the little girl pictured. According to our docs, she will not grow anymore. She is 3 feet tall. I don't have a good way of measuring her since the school she attends is a three hour drive from here. Thank you so much for helping with this. We have a few pairs of adult crutches but nothing that would fit her. The ones she have are about to crack. If you know of anyone that could send a pair now that would really help.



Thanks,

From: John L. Kachelman, Jr. [<mailto:jkachelman@centurytel.net>]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 5:37 AM
To: 'Moyer, Clinton R LTC 287 SB Civil Affairs Officer';
Subject: Need for children's crutches

We have you covered. Do you have her approximate height and measurements needed for fitting the crutches? I have adjustable children's regular crutches plus some children's forearm crutches. How do I

get them to you ASAP. Do you know of any in-coming troops that I could send them? Surely someone can take them—they are aluminum and weigh practically nothing. Hope your day is going well there!
John



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The greatest trees stand today because some "nut" held its ground!

From: Moyer, Clinton R LTC 287 SB Civil Affairs Officer
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 12:59 AM
To: John L. Kachelman, Jr.
Cc: Bukowski,Christy L SGT 287 SB HHC Human Resources SPC
Subject: RE: Crutches sent

John,
I received the crutches in today's mail. Thank you and all of your supporters for them. We will be going to the school in about two weeks and I will take them to her and let them know who they came from. I will also get some pictures for you. *You guys are unbelievable.*

Please thank everyone involved for me.

Clint



From: John L. Kachelman, Jr. [<mailto:jkachelman@centurytel.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:45 PM
To: Moyer, Clinton R LTC 287 SB Civil Affairs Officer
Subject: Crutches sent

I mailed you a set of children's forearm crutches in today's mail. I sent it PRIORITY so I hope it will arrive quickly. I am not sure these will work but if not you will find someone else that needs them. I am still in search of a regular pair of crutches that we will send for her. It is more difficult than I thought to locate a pair for that size a person! I have guys working on it in Little Rock, Memphis, and Huntsville, AL. The guy in Huntsville is retired military and is a certified orthopedic technologist. He is biting at the bit to come over and help those children. I have a warehouse in Judsonia, AR where we ship out humanitarian aid shipments all over the world and have some new crutches but could only find a single that might work for this girl. Still waiting on FedEx to say they'll ship into Baghdad...patience is not my forte. Keep safe!

From: John L. Kachelman, Jr. [<mailto:jkachelman@centurytel.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:04 PM
To: 'Ed Linebaugh'
Subject: crutches for Iraq

Hi Ed,

More on the little girl in Iraq needing crutches...I thought I could find her a pair here very easy but it is not happening. I do have a pair of forearm crutches that I have sent via US Postal Service (I used the Col's APO address). But I do not know if they will work. The girl essentially is affected by growth deficiency and is only 3 feet tall and will grow no taller. I have looked in every med supply/equipment place in Searcy and have found nothing. The shortest crutches are for those around 4 feet tall. I have some physicians checking in Little Rock and also Memphis.

Do you think you could look in the Huntsville area and see if you could find a pair of crutches there? Do you think the church there would be willing to buy & send them via US Post Office?

I am attaching info that you can send to the church to validate the need. It has Clint's APO address.

Please advise.

Thanks for any help!
John

From: Ed Linebaugh [<mailto:edlinebaugh@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 1:47 PM
To: John Kachelman
Subject: RE: crutches for Iraq

Dear friends,
Got 'em gratis!!! Through His providence, the Lord provided me with a FREE pair of pediatric-sized aluminum forearm crutches for young *Duaa Adnan Atawi*. These were donated by *Probst Home Health Services* here in Huntsville, AL.

LTC Moyer, I will ready them for shipment tomorrow via USPS to your APO address. Once received and delivered on your end, let me if they will fit her okay. If they are not appropriate for her size, let me know and I'll search for another pair.

Thanks to you and your troops for the great work you're doing over there! Hooah!

ED

P.S. If possible, I'd like a picture of *Duaa* with her new crutches to share with our church, ministry team, and especially *Probst Home Health Services*.

From: Ed Linebaugh [<mailto:edlinebaugh@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 3:54 PM
To: LTC Clint Moyer
Cc: John Kachelman
Subject: RE: crutches for Iraq

LTC Moyer,

Thanks for sending pics of your last school mission. It takes my breath away to see the innocence in their eyes and to think what they're up against in their culture. Thank the Lord for caring GIs like yourself and your military team in Iraq, as well as like-minded people back here in CONUS.



Reference my last shipment: personally, this was my first one directly to you via the U.S. Postal Service (they verified the attached customs form). The crutches were simple boxed with your APO address and custom's labels affixed. You should receive the package without any problems. At this point, I'm unsure what other info you need from my end.

Please tell everyone hello from Huntsville/Redstone Arsenal communities! I look forward to hearing from you again soon!

Your fellow soldier,

Ed Linebaugh

Ministry Director

U.S. Army (Retired)

GOD'S ARMY STRONG

From: Matt H

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 9:42 AM

To: John L. Kachelman, Jr.

Subject: RE: Plea for FedEx to help Iraqi children

Thanks so much for the details. I will send this information to the team that is in charge of these activities and get back with you as soon as I have news. I think this is an awesome opportunity. I am not sure how these types of requests are handled, but I will do what I can to push this through. More to come.....

(Later received)...Got it. I just wanted to make sure I needed to continue to follow up. I got a preliminary response from the professional that works on the team that handles these requests and she thought it sounded like a good opportunity and a great cause. She is going to follow up with her manager and let me know something next week. I will let you know as soon as I hear back. I have my fingers crossed. Thanks for the update!

Matt H, P.M.P.

Senior Marketing Specialist - FedEx Services

