

IRAQ OPERATIONS CONTINUE



In January I received a request to help secure and send items to Iraqi citizens that were in great need because of the difficult situation they faced for many years and the deprivations caused by war. Throughout this year I have been working with different brethren in West Virginia, Virginia, Texas, Mississippi, and Arkansas who collected items to ship. Our first shipment left the Jackson Mississippi Air National Guard Base in August. We received a great report on the distribution that was covered by the military news network and other international media (This was mailed out and if you did not receive a copy please advise and I will send it to you—it is most encouraging!).

Our efforts continue. We should be shipping loads that were collected by brethren in West Virginia and Virginia very soon. Then we will be shipping the load out of Judsonia, AR.

Over the past week I have been in communication with Colonel Roberto Garcia who was posted in Iraq and was point on the first shipment. Bob's deployment ended in November and he is back home. Below I have combined the emails of the last two weeks and want to share with you Bob's encouraging news. Bob has repeatedly asked me to tell all involved how great an impact the Lord's Church has made in Iraq with the first shipments and the anticipation of future shipments.

As our troops secure the safety for the Iraqi's they are also concerned about securing the welfare and hearts of those that have been severely oppressed. When Christian love is demonstrated it is the most potent factor for securing safety and security. It was the Christian love that conquered the mighty Roman Empire and this love is a force that cannot be overcome. We continue to receive requests to help those in need. If you know of sources willing to help collect items please let me know. Bob's comment is amazing, *"We now have all of Iraq open to us to deliver goods."*

John

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

John,

Happy Thanksgiving. I am finally in the USA back Home. I can't thank you enough for giving me the opportunity to help out families in need. Please once again send my thanks to all the families and organizations that assisted. It warms my heart that we can help. All the donors make a difference. The Iraqi families that the humanitarian goods go to are poor but smart. They know it comes from the American people and they are always thankful. I can't say enough on how much a pair of shoes or a wheelchair helps them but it definitely helps the whole mission.

The Lord is smiling on us. On the day I was leaving Baghdad, in the parking lot of terminal, out of the clear blue the Air Force Master Sergeant who made the transportation happen from Baghdad to NAJAF appears and says, "Sir do you have any more missions?" We now have all of Iraq open to us to deliver goods. Master Sergeant Diaz needs to train the Iraqi Air Force Load Masters on Cargo Operations. I have a great representative who took over my position and he was given a 10 man team to help in these types of mission operations. So he has help and can manage it and get more of the supplies to more parts of the area. The Colonel taking my position is Colonel Gregg Hammond. He is a great officer, and has been in Iraq before. He knows the area, and political scene. He is perfect to continue the operation.



If we have another load ready we can make it happen. WE can make a big difference to assist the humanitarian push to assist all.

Oh, as soon as I get back to work I will start to work on getting your Ambulance to Ukraine. We have been approved by the City for one, and as soon as one comes available it is yours.

Once again have a great and Happy Thanksgiving. John please tell all they are moving mountains. Please relay to all the good they have done.

Be safe,
Bob

LTC Roberto L. Garcia
308th CA BRIGADE