

Healing a Family in Iraq

While my United States Marine unit was serving in Iraq, I had the opportunity to minister to many people. I'd like to tell the story of one family that we were able to help.

Ahmed Azez Selman was the archeologist in charge of the Babylon museum. The Marines protected this historic landmark and stopped people from stealing the precious objects displayed and stored there. My Marine unit was the first on the scene to keep the ruins of ancient Babylon safe. The historic importance of Babylon stood out to me as a student of the Scriptures. As Ahmed and I developed a friendship, he invited me to give tours through the ruins. What a great opportunity to walk where Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah traveled!

Soon Ahmed was sharing with me some of his concerns. We talked about the future of his country and the hopes and dreams he had for his family. One day Ahmed explained that his wife needed surgery. She had a tumor that was growing in her throat, and the tumor was making it more and more difficult for her to breathe or eat. He told me that the surgery would cost \$500. Now to us, \$500 may not seem like very much money, but in Iraq that amount would be 3,000 dinars, a much more costly amount for him.

I e-mailed my wife, Karen, back in the States. She told some family members of this need. I am happy to report that because of an unselfish gift from people in Michigan, Ahmed's wife had surgery! She is healthy and enjoying her husband and children today. The love of Christ, shown through a financial gift, brought healing to a family—and opened up their hearts to the transforming power of the gospel.

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