

Simple Toys Show Love

As I serve as a chaplain in the United States Army, God gives me opportunities to show His love to many different people. While I was in Iraq, I was able to reach out to children in a fun and unique way.

When on patrol our soldiers would drive to a village where the officers met with the village leaders. Some soldiers stayed outside in their vehicles, guarding the meeting. As soon as the vehicles stopped, children from the village ran to see the soldiers. Few children spoke English, but the soldiers and children soon learned to communicate in other ways. The soldiers recognized the children from their many visits to the villages, and they became friends.

I was able to help those friendships grow by providing toys and school supplies for the soldiers to give to the children. I received boxes and boxes of school supplies, books, and toys sent by American schools, churches, and families for our soldiers to give to the Iraqi children. The children have so little, and they became so excited when we gave them a Beanie Baby stuffed animal or a small toy.

Many companies helped too. One company sent hidden picture books. We passed out the pages and showed the children how to look for the hidden items. Those puzzles were great because the children did not need to know English to enjoy the fun.

God blessed me by letting me visit many villages where I could meet the people and give something to the children. Most of the children have very little. Their families have very little money, and most families do not have running water in their homes. So when the children were given a toy, they smiled so big . . . WOW!

The Bible says that every good thing comes from God. The joy and happiness those Iraqi children received is one of those good things that comes from God.

Chaplain Randy Curry
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