

Rangers rescue war-battered Saluki dog in Iraq

THE FREE BURMA RANGERS are a Christian humanitarian organization who work in front-line war zones in Burma, Iraq and other regions. They normally minister to human victims, but below is an account of rescuing a war-battered dog in Mosul, Iraq.

In January we were with the Iraqi army as they liberated East Mosul when we found a Saluki hound starving in a neighborhood ISIS controlled.



DAVID EUBANK

She was very thin, would not or could not stand, and trembled when anyone approached.

FREE BURMA RANGERS

There was a lot of fighting, bombing, machine gun and tank fire, and all the noise and violent death of a full Iraqi armored assault against a dug-in and murdering ISIS. There were dead bodies in the streets, and who knows what Nineveh had seen?

My children hugged her and loved her, feeding her by hand. Someone said she may have been held by a ISIS emir who took her from a villager, but now all in the area were gone or dead.

No IDP (internally displaced person) knew anything more than that, but we really are not sure.

We found her in the same area where we rescued a 6-year-old Yazidi boy earlier this year. The Iraqi general we were with asked our children Sahale, Suu (named for Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi) and Pete if they wanted the dog.



SUBMITTED

Eubank family poses with Nineveh the Saluki in Iraq, above, and later in Thailand, right. From left above are Suu, Pete, Sahale, David and Karen.

SALUKI

- Also known as Persian greyhound
- Originally bred in the Middle East
- Sight hound known for speed in running down prey

"Oh yes, yes, we love her," they said as they hugged her neck and stroked her gently.

The general asked Karen and me, and I said yes immediately as I felt very sorry for the dog, our kids loved her, she needed love, and I have always loved and admired Salukis. And here was one — wow! — so beautiful, elegant, calm,

athletic, sweet and swift.

We named her "Nineveh" for the province Mosul is in. The kids covered her in love, and day by day she grew more lively and happy. She went with us on the advance across the Tigris to West Mosul as my family helped IDPs with our team.

All the IDPs and villagers loved her, as did the soldiers, and every day troops offered to buy her. Members of the Karen (ka-REN) from Burma in our team say she understands human language but just can't speak it.

They said she is part human — and when you look into her eyes you see something deep. I see love, the desire to be loved and a kind of innocent wisdom. But she

can also bite, as other dogs who tried to push her around soon found out!

So we did all the needed paperwork, most of all my wife Karen, who missed flights and had to send the kids back alone to Thailand from Kurdistan, Iraq, so she could get the right-equipped plane and accompany Nineveh back home.

Once in Thailand at our "ranch" with four other dogs, two monkeys and six horses, Nineveh thrived, and races around with no equal. She spends a lot of time swimming in our ponds, too, and loves the water!

Now I am back in Mosul with other volunteers, while most of our teams are helping in Burma.



American soldiers set fine example for Christians

"I am a soldier." There is no more powerful statement than that.

Here is the U.S. Army's Soldier's Pledge:

I am an American soldier. I am a warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat. I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy, the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life. I am an American soldier.

America's Best means every word of this pledge, because I have been among them as each and every day they put legs on their oath.

In war zones like Iraq and Afghanistan, they face life-threatening conditions and know full well when they sign on to serve they are putting themselves into harm's way. But they do because as they say, "I am an American soldier."

Not everyone can do what they do, as it takes a special kind of person to shoulder such responsibility.

To lose one of them is to lose something precious, and every time I see or hear of one going down breaks my heart because they died with their fighting shoes on



BRO. MIKE DYKES

SUNDAY DEVOTIONAL

warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." 2 Timothy 2:3-4

Look, I've seen and not just heard the hardships our sons and daughters in uniform have to go through.

They go out on maneuvers that require sometimes days and nights of heavy firefights, requiring them to literally dig in and fight for their lives.

They go for days without adequate sleep and when given orders move ever so closer to what is trying to kill them.

They have a mindset that says, "I will not quit until this fight is over and I will win regardless."

I've seen them roll back into camp and climb off those big old gun trucks weary and worn and on occasion offload a fallen comrade, because they meant what they said.

I've seen them stagger into my gym/fitness center worn out but to stay in battle shape grab those free weights and pump iron, get on treadmills and run until sweat drips off them like rain water.

They would do the exercise classes like Zumba,

Cross Fit and so many more because they will not allow their bodies to become any less than what they need to be to have the edge over the evil they have squared off to defeat.

Sadly, we receive news like I did recently when I saw the profile of young Tech Sgt. Alexandria Morrow, who went down in Afghanistan doing what she pledged to do.

If they can do this for me, you better know I am going to do this for Jesus in His ongoing war against what is trying to kill us all.

My worst enemy is not Satan or the world but my own flesh. It gives me more trouble than all the others put together and if I can handle me, I can handle them. Case dismissed.

What Paul was telling Timothy was what he had already told himself and acknowledged in another passage, that he was toting around a body of death. When he would do good, evil was present.

Years ago the little cartoon figure Pogo said in one of his funny paper appearances, "We have found the enemy, and the enemy is us."

No, as I head out this morning I must remember first of all I am a soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are some places off-limits to me, and to be at my best, I must maintain my abstinence.

At the same time I must be an example of my Lord's compassion if I am to be the salt and the light He intended for me to be.

Nobody said it would be easy and it's not, but I am a soldier in God's Army. Quit your whining and remember, "I am a soldier."

God bless you and God bless America.

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