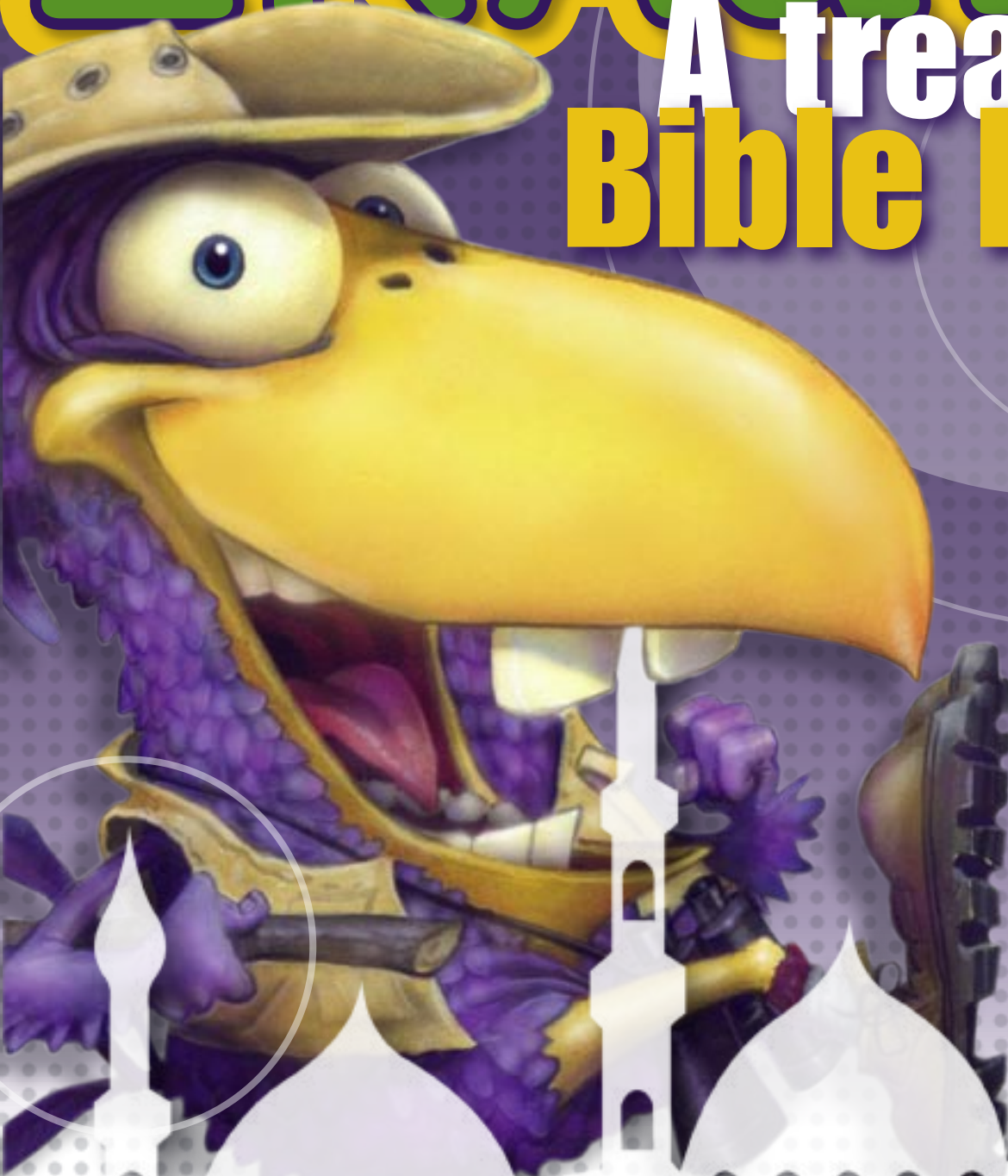




# IRAQ:

## A treasure Bible histo





# trove of ry Kids

today may know Iraq primarily as a place of war. In fact, many children have parents, brothers, sisters and other relatives and friends serving as soldiers in Iraq right now. But Iraq is not known only for war. The country we hear so much about in the news today has a rich and important history — a history you can read about in the Bible.

Israel is the nation most often mentioned in the Scriptures. Do you know which nation is second? It is Iraq! But in the Bible the nation we know as Iraq was called by different names: Babylon, Land of Shinar and Mesopotamia among them.

Mesopotamia means “between two rivers,” specifically the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. This land is believed to be the home of the Garden of Eden, from which the Tigris and Euphrates flowed (read Genesis 2:10-14).

### Many important Bible stories took place in Iraq:

- Adam and Eve may have been created there.
- Some Bible scholars believe Noah built the ark in Iraq.
- The tower of Babel was built in Iraq, and the confusion of languages took place there.

*Continued on page 12*

An American soldier poses with Iraqi children in Mosul, Iraq. American soldiers have made many sacrifices to be in Iraq, and many say their brightest moments are times spent with the children.

# FAST FACTS

- **Capital:** Baghdad
- **Size:** Twice the size of the state of Idaho
- **Population:** About 25 million
- **Languages:** Arabic and Kurdish
- **Ethnic groups:** Arabs (77 percent); Kurds (19 percent); also Assyrians, Turkomans and others
- **Climate:** Mostly desert with mild to cool winters and dry, hot summers
- **Natural resources:** Primarily oil. Iraq is believed to have some of the largest reserves in the world.

# IRAQ:

- *Nineveh, where God sent Jonah, was in northern Iraq.*
- *Daniel was in the lions' den in Iraq; and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego faced the fiery furnace there.*
- *The Wise Men who visited Jesus may have been from Iraq.*
- *Some believe that the apostle Peter preached there.*

In modern times, the people of Iraq have faced great difficulties, many due to several decades of terrorizing rule by Saddam Hussein, who was overthrown in 2003. Today Iraq is a struggling new democracy; and with help from nations around the world, it is rebuilding and bringing hope to its citizens. Children in Iraq have a brighter future because of the soldiers who are working there now.

Assemblies of God chaplains are also working with soldiers and citizens and bringing the good news of Jesus to the Iraqi people. Although Iraq has only a small number of Christian citizens today — about 3 percent of the population — there is now much greater freedom for Christians to share the love of Jesus.

## ***Children in America can help by praying for the children in Iraq.***

- *Pray that the violence will end.*
- *Pray that children will be protected.*
- *Pray that the good news of Jesus will reach all Iraqi children and transform their lives and their country.*

— **Ashli O'Connell**

**Iraqi schoolchildren play on a playground donated by an American company. Children in Iraq have many more opportunities to learn and play because of the help they have received from the United States and other countries in the world.**



# Assemblies of God

# help Kids chaplains reach soldiers in Iraq



**T**hrough the Chaplaincy Department of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, BGMC has provided inspirational dog tags for the soldiers in Iraq. The military chaplains passed out these dog tags with Psalm 91:14,15 printed on them. The verse reads: "I will rescue those who love Me. I will protect those who trust in My name. When they call on Me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them."

The soldiers were touched, and many wanted these dog tags. Here is a letter sent to BGMC by Chaplain James Hightower. In the picture you can see him handing out dog tags on an aircraft carrier.

*Dear Boys and Girls,*

**Thank you** for the quick response to my request for the inspirational dog tags. A shipment was received intact, and the dog tags were distributed to my Marines and sailors after church services during the first week of Lent and as they began their convoys en route to the Iraqi border.

Words cannot express how positively my Marines have responded to this wonderful ministry tool. Their faces lit up and fear and anxiety disappeared from their eyes. Senior leaders are ecstatic at the tangible response from the troops.

Thank you, boys and girls, for giving to BGMC. BGMC provided the dog tags for the soldiers in Iraq.

**Chaplain James Hightower**  
U.S. Navy Chaplain