



Email “Letter” from Chaplain Patty Jenkins 10/28/16

Thank you for adopting me! I had the privilege of working as the director of a senior community center at a church in Chicago for several years. So I’m excited to be connected to seniors again. I learned a lot about life from my time there, which I have tried to pass along to my Soldiers.

I am working out of Camp Taji in northern Iraq. I am with an engineer battalion, and we have construction projects throughout the area to support the Iraqi army. My chaplain assistant and I spend some time here, and we also circulate through the bases where our Soldiers are working. My job is to provide religious support and services to the Soldiers in my battalion, and to advise my commander on issues related to religion, ethics, and morale. I counsel Soldiers on any number of issues, lead worship at chapel, teach classes on topics such as suicide prevention, healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and so on. Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the dead.

Feel free to call me Patty, and my assistant is Private First Class (PFC) Josiah Williams. We have Soldiers primarily from Illinois, Colorado, Texas, and Washington.

Letters are great! Whenever I get a “real” letter, I try to write one back. I like hearing about what’s happening at home, what people are doing for holidays, what they are learning about, etc. I will ask PFC Williams whether he thinks we could use any holiday decorations. Otherwise, **empty quart size ziplock bags, almonds and other nuts, single sleeve cookies and crackers, small jars of peanut butter are all good items to send. Travel**

size toothpaste, baby wipes, dental floss are good. It is better to have fewer, nicer items than lots of cheap items.

Yes, that is my Facebook page. I send occasional group emails about how things are going and what I'm doing over here. I would be happy to add you two, and anyone else in your group who has email.

My husband Byron Gin and I live in Evanston, IL, just north of Chicago. I grew up in the area, so I have family there. My husband is originally from California. We have a very cute dog named Daisy, who we adopted from a shelter two years ago when I came back from my first deployment. My husband is an artist. You can check out his website at www.byrongin.com. I came into the deployment as a replacement for a chaplain who had to go home due to medical issues. We expect to be home early next year.

I covet your prayers as our Soldiers struggle with austere living conditions in some places, difficulty connecting with loved ones, and getting along when you can't get away from people.

Peace, Patty