

## Newsmaker Commentary \* Updated 10-23-06



Spc. Shallenberg, from Company B, 103rd Armored Battalion, 28th Infantry Division, gets a boost from a fellow Soldier as they search for a bomb-making lab in As Siniyah, Iraq. \*

The war in Iraq and the continuing struggle with insurgents weighs heavily on all those whose love ones are already serving, or are on their way. There is no way the average person could understand the disruption to their lives, the long separation and the great sacrifices made whenever they are called to duty. In such a time as this, many of us can be self-absorbed, not ever thinking about those around us that need our love and support. We need to reach out to the families of our troops, let them know that we truly care. My heart goes out to each family who has suffered loss or has had a family member injured. Every time I see a member of the military, my heart is moved with compassion. Many have suffered greatly in this war, both mentally and physically. They are, our true heroes in this day and age. They deserve our utmost consideration and respect. I would hope that that the attitude of our hearts would be right. I wish that all of us would strive to comfort those that are shaken and troubled by what they experienced in this war. To give them a warm embrace and help them pave the way to healing. The bible says we can repay all but one debt our entire lifetime, that is the debt of love that we owe to we owe to our fellow man. **Romans 13:8 says: "Pay all your debts, except the debt of love for others. You can never finish paying that!"** Our actions, in many cases, reveal who we are. **1John 4: 7-8 7 Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and every one that loves is born of God, and knows God. He that does not love does not know God; for God is love. We are the sum of our choices. Mathew 15:10 Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "Listen," he said, "and try to understand. 11 It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth." Are our words and actions based in love, or in self-righteousness?** We tend to be the sum of our choices. The choice is on whether we choose do what is right and live up to God's provision or we turn our backs on those who have sacrificed so much by serving our country. **Matthew 25:41-46 41Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' 44 Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' 45 He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' 46 And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."** In what ever we way we have failed to love and serve our fellow man, we have have failed Him (Christ). *Let us not be ungrateful, let us consider carefully our attitude and be thankful to God for what they do, praying constantly for their safe return.*