

Chaldean group: Iraq is still dangerous

BY DENITA MENTA
STAFF WRITER

Spending two weeks in Iraq gave six local Iraqis insight on the current situation and what needs to be done for improvement.

His Excellency Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim of the Chaldean Diocese of America led the Chaldean American Humanitarian Delegation on a tour of Iraq. The delegation was made up of the Bishop and five other local Iraqis.

"The situation right now is very dangerous for Americans and Iraqis. We hope these

things will change," Ibrahim said. "There is improvement from last month to this month but improvement is very little."

The group that went to Iraq included Bishop Ibrahim, Joseph Kassab, of Farmington Hills, Fawzi Dalli, of West Bloomfield, Shoki Konja, of Franklin, Steven Garmo, of Farmington Hills and Dr. Noor Mansour, of Orchard Lake.

The group gave a press conference last week at the Southfield Manor, to share their observations of the conditions in Iraq with the media.

"I am very proud to participate in this trip with His

Excellency to go at this dangerous time to do what we can to help our people," Mansour said.

The delegation said the issue of Americans in Iraq is a big one and observed the relationship between the Americans and Iraqis in their home country. "The biggest problem they have noticed is the Americans' lack of understanding of Iraqi culture."

"The Iraqi people believe Americans came to occupy Iraq, not free Iraq. This is a very bad sign," Ibrahim said. "The presence of Americans is needed there, but they don't like the possibility of them staying forever. They are not happy if the Americans there are not doing anything. The important question to them is are you here to liberate Iraq or to occupy Iraq."

Ibrahim said he considers the people in delegation represent both the United States and Iraq and they have loyalty to both countries.

Kassab, part of the Chaldean National Congress, said Iraqis no longer fear people, they fear the unknown.

"They don't know what the future holds for them, they are uncertain of the future," he said. "The people grew up with fear, it doesn't go away easily. The fear will subside with time."

The delegation traveled all

over Iraq and noticed many differences between areas.

"We saw security varies from one way or another. In Baghdad it gets worse," Kassab said. "People are on the edge, they aren't very happy. There are things in place but it's a little bit slow and that is what troubles the Iraqi people."

Another problem the delegation witnessed was between different groups in Iraq, such as the Muslims and Christians.

"All the ethnic groups need to be recognized whether they are the majority or the minority," Ibrahim said.

The group agreed that they all want a secular state in Iraq and rejecting violence and promoting peace will help make that happen.

Shoki Konja said although there are plenty of problems in the south near Baghdad, the northern part of Iraq is calm and has been protected by the United States. What Americans need to do or see on the news is not always true, he said.

Despite everything else, the delegation's main concern is still the issue of a proper government.

"I imagine a city of 4 to 5 million people with no form of government," Mansour said. "First before electricity and other small things, we need a government as soon as possible."

The delegation traveled all

CAMPUS PIPELINE

Albion Grads
The following local students are new graduates of Albion College:

■ **Hans O. Chen** graduated with a degree in computer science, with a minor in economics. Chen is a graduate of Harrison High School.

■ **Elizabeth A. Cassar** graduated with a degree in Spanish. Cassar is the daughter of David and Susan Cassar of Commerce Township and a graduate of Farmington High School.

■ **David P. Crabill** graduated with a degree in economics and management.

He is the son of Preston and Barbara Crabill of Farmington and a graduate of North Farmington High School.

■ **Casey S. Czech** graduated cum laude with a degree in economics and management with a concentration in the Gerstaecker Liberal Arts Institute in Professional Management.

Casey S. Czech is the daughter of Edward Czech and Brenda Czech of Farmington Hills and a graduate of Mercy High School.

■ **Amanda E. Dobkowski** graduated magna cum laude with a degree in Spanish and art. Dobkowski is the daughter of Robert and MaryJo Dobkowski of Farmington Hills and a graduate of North Farmington High School.

■ **Anne M. Polmanter** graduated summa cum laude with a degree in history with a concentration in the Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service and Elementary Education Program and departmental honors in history.

Polmanter was one of only 27 students in a class of more than 300 to write a senior thesis, titled "It Shall Be Thus and So: The Women's Self Government Association of Susanna Wesley Hall, 1926-1936."

For this outstanding achievement, Polmanter was awarded her degree with departmental honors. At the College's recent Honors Convocation, Polmanter was inducted into the Albion College chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

Polmanter is the daughter of Robert and Kathryn Polmanter of Farmington and a graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

■ **Elizabeth A. Vanderveen** graduated with a degree in speech communication, with a minor in Art.

Vanderveen is the daughter of William Vanderveen of Northville and Kara Vanderveen of Farmington and a graduate of Ladywood High School.

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TAKE AS NEEDED - WHEN APPROPRIATE, WHEN NOT

Likely you are familiar with the medical phrase, "PRN." Doctors frequently use the term when writing a prescription. PRN means you take the medicine only when needed.

Using PRN dosing has limits in treating arthritis. The one dose is to control pain. Efforts to take pain medication to prevent discomfort have not worked, and lead to physical dependency on such pain medication such as Duracet. Taking pain medication on a regular basis without regard to the presence of pain is wasteful. However, early response with that medication when pain arises is strongly urged.

Outside of pain relief, you need to take arthritis medication on a regular basis. Skipping medication when you feel well, and doubling up when you arrive home, won't work. You use arthritis medication to stop inflammation. Prevention is the goal, and requires the presence of the anti-inflammatory drug in the blood stream 24 hours a day.

You lose and re-problem when stopping a medicine one day and then doubling up on its use the next day. The body interprets that going from a zero level of medication to a sudden large amount, as overload and requires action to rid the body of the perceived excess. What happens is that drug elimination occurs more quickly than would be the case if you took the medication daily and in a smaller dose. You end up with a lower and less therapeutic drug concentration.

In sum, you are not creative when you take arthritic drugs in a way that pleases you. Instead, you are cheating yourself out of the best of both worlds.

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SPOTLIGHT ON
Orthodontics
by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.
LOOKING FOR TROUBLE

By bringing your child in for an orthodontic consultation at age 7, parents make it possible to avoid dentures and an early interceptive phase of treatment. When appropriate, this early diagnosis and treatment before the permanent teeth erupt reduces the risk of extruding teeth and the orthodontic expense. It can even reduce the complexity of costs of later treatment. And, even if early treatment is not advised, the orthodontist can place the child on a supervision schedule, allowing time for treatment to begin at the most appropriate time. The orthodontist can then monitor the loss of baby and eruption of permanent teeth. This supervision, including recall appointments, may simply add and shorten the time necessary for correction.

Getting your child the gift of healthy teeth is a beautiful thing. By doing this, you are not only ensuring your child good health habits, but you are also fostering a confidence and self-assurance and treatment before the permanent teeth erupt reduces the risk of extruding teeth and the orthodontic expense. It can even reduce the complexity of costs of later treatment. And, even if early treatment is not advised, the orthodontist can place the child on a supervision schedule, allowing time for treatment to begin at the most appropriate time. The orthodontist can then monitor the loss of baby and eruption of permanent teeth. This supervision, including recall appointments, may simply add and shorten the time necessary for correction.

It's signs of orthodontic problems include crowding or overlapping teeth, early or late loss of baby teeth, breathing, and frequent snoring.

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