

*This letter sent by email from Rick Bouge*

Sorry for taking so long to get back to you. We were in the process of moving from Nuristan to Kandahar and the mail got lost in the system. I just received the box a couple of weeks ago. Thank you so much for the box the items were well received. Having someone thinking of you while over here is worth its weight in gold.

Kandahar is a very different place than Nuristan. Nuristan is in the Hindocush Mountains and the people are very different there than the rest of the country. Of a country that is very poor Nuristan is the poorest in the country. They make a very unique cheese and are known for red hair and blue eyes.

Kandahar is in the desert in the southern part of the country and we are at Camp Nathan Smith which is located in Kandahar City. The City is 800,000 people and has no municipal services. No water system and no sewage systems next to no electrical power. The buildings are a combination of mud structures and more modern buildings, but there has been no maintenance in 30 years so it is in real bad condition.

The area is also the birth place of the Taliban so it is a mixture of supporters of the Taliban and of the Afghan Government so it is a difficult place to do work.

Email is a better medium for me to stay in contact since we only get outgoing mail service once per month.

I attached a picture taken in Nuristan at a small mountain village we visited. Thanks again and I am looking forward meeting you.

Rick