

# OPERATION BANDANAS

December 2012



# THANK YOU!



Operation Bandanas

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Please share our newsletter and website with others who can give and receive the blessing of serving and supporting our troops through our mission. Ongoing gifts are greatly appreciated too, since we have ongoing deployments and ongoing requests!

Operation Bandanas is a 501(c)3 tax-deductible organization EIN #260284959



### **TWO POIGNANT NOTES FROM THE FRONT:**

*"I was feeling lost and alone for a while and my chaplain noticed. He gave me the handkerchief and it reminded me that I'm never alone. Thank you for thinking of soldiers like me."*  
Sincerely, SSG Gina Giles, Operation Enduring Freedom 12-13

*"I lost my first bandana I ever had a while ago, but I still carry the prayer card and photo everywhere I go around the world in my pocket or rucksack since 2009... may I have another, and thank you for all you do for us... you have no idea how much it helps."*

Those simple notes say so much. No, we have no idea how much it helps or the comfort we have provided over the course of six years. But as we equip our troops with a piece of God's armor, we pray that each one will gain strength, courage and encouragement along with God's protection as they draw near to Him. What a blessing for us to know that we have been a blessing to our troops through our simple gift.

### **NEEDS:**

Someone recently asked me if we still need donations for the bandanas. I think he was thinking that since we no longer have troops in Iraq, we don't have many requests. I told him we have requests for 6,000 from the 101st ABN Division chaplain at Ft. Campbell, KY, and 1,000 from Ft. Stewart, GA, multiple requests from Ft. Bragg, NC, in addition to other requests for 12 to 150 to 400 at a time to include requests from our Marines and Sailors. I informed him also that we have many of our soldiers deploying to Afghanistan this fall and early next year. The fight is still on and our soldiers continue to give their lives and limbs, shed their blood, and sacrifice time away from their families to keep us safe here at home and abroad.

The answer to the question is a resounding "Yes, we do need donations"! If you are able, would you please consider giving a special year-end gift to help us meet these requests and continue to encourage our troops through the ministry of Operation Bandanas? If you are not able to give by the end of this year, then please think of us early next year. Our gifts of Psalm 91 bandanas let our troops know they are not forgotten and are appreciated and loved. Thank you for lovin' our troops.

### **REVIEW:**

*"I cried, I smiled, I felt convicted and guilty for not praying more. I have come away with an understanding of the enormous sacrifice, although I could never fully know their hurts and struggles. Thank you for opening my eyes that I may pray more and more effectively for those that give their all and their families. Your faith has moved me to minister in a new area."*

This was an e-mail I received from someone who had finished reading "Lovin' Our Troops: A Story of Service on Two Fronts." You will definitely come away with a glimpse into the extraordinary service of our men and women in uniform who have served in Iraq and have served and continue to serve in Afghanistan and the families who await their return. You'll be stirred reading notes and e-mails about what our "bandana ministry" came to mean to military chaplains, tens of thousands of our troops, and their families. And for all who have had any part in our ministry, this is your story, too, because the subtitle, "A Story of Service on Two Fronts" refers to service on the home front and the battle front. "Lovin' Our Troops" spreads a message to all who read it to live a life of inspiration in service to God, country and family. This book would make a most excellent Christmas gift to family and friends!

You can order "Lovin' Our Troops" through our website or through your local bookseller or preferred online retailer in addition to the publisher at [www.crossbooks.com](http://www.crossbooks.com). Every penny from the sale of the book goes back into providing more Psalm 91 bandanas to our troops. Soft cover ISBN # 978-1-4627-1470-4 or hard cover ISBN# 978-1-4627-1471-1.

Keeping Christ in Christmas & praying  
for our troops & their families,

*Mary Bass Gray.*

Founder & Executive Director

