

OPERATION BANDANAS

summer 2013

God Bless America!

Friends,

As I write this newsletter, we have just completed celebrating the day that our nation declared itself independent from a foreign nation's rule over us, the day that our patriots drafted our Declaration of Independence. Fifty-six courageous men signed that Declaration. Their conviction resulted in untold sufferings for themselves and their families. The American Revolutionary War continued for seven more years, until 1783, with more suffering. The 13 colonies were resolute in their purpose and steadfast in their duty to achieve freedom from oppression and were willing to do whatever it took to free us from the tyranny of another.

"War is a terrible tragedy, and we must do all we can to strive for peace in our world. But sometimes the only way to achieve peace is to fight those who would take it from us."

- Rev. Billy Graham, Memorial Day 2011

The altar of freedom is covered with the blood of courageous patriots throughout our history. And so it continues today as we have present day warriors who bear arms to continue to preserve and protect our freedom and to bring freedom to the oppressed around the world. They are not eager nor are they looking for opportunities to wage war on others. They are defenders who respond to threats. If need be, they will fight to achieve peace (from *Lovin' Our Troops, A Story of Service on Two Fronts*).

Let us honor and remember these servicemen and women as they have volunteered to serve wherever they are called. We have heard it quoted many times, "*Freedom is not free,*" but never let those words become trite and meaningless to us. A huge price has been paid since the birth of our country and continues to be.

Thank you to all who serve our nation in uniform. We appreciate your dedication, determination, and call to duty. May you dwell in the secret place of the Most High and abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1)

For Him,

Mary Bass Gray,

Founder and Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Operation Bandanas is to give our servicemen and women serving in hotspots around the world a fighting chance at salvation. Through the revelation of God's words of Psalm 91 printed on a camouflage bandana, we hope to draw many into the presence of God and the revelation of Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

I was sent this picture in 2009, but it is still one to celebrate today as it fits our mission statement! Lives were and continue to be changed as a new found freedom in Christ has been shared and accepted by many during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Thank you to our chaplains who bring God to Soldiers and Soldiers to God. His truth is marching on!



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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

Lovin' Our Troops!

FROM ONE OF OUR BATTALION CHAPLAINS PRESENTLY SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN:

"I would like to thank you immensely for the Psalm 91 bandanas you have provided for our Warriors. I will distribute them to all the soldiers presently deployed in our area. Your bandanas arrived at a perfect time. We are about to enter the toughest portion of the year in Afghanistan, and I know my soldiers will need every bit of help to stay mentally, physically, and spiritually strong. These bandanas represent so much to our soldiers. It shows soldiers that while they are committing themselves to fighting for our country, that they aren't the only ones. We have faithful, and committed Americans back home fighting to keep us strong while we're away. For that, I am truly grateful, and I deeply appreciate all the efforts put forth in this project.

Please continue to pray for all the soldiers deployed in Afghanistan. We wouldn't be as strong as we are without people like you to support us. Thank you again for all that you do, and have done! I pray that God continues to bless you and your family and ministry."

- CH(CPT) Jae Y. Chang, 4/17 Infantry, 1st BCT, 1st ID

NEWSWORTHY NOTES:

- Operation Bandanas, through the body of Christ, has now provided 228,213 Psalm 91 bandanas to our troops!
- Operation Bandanas has a new website that just "went live" this week. Biz Tools One is a full-service website design company located in Fayetteville, N.C. It has an extensive portfolio of clients as far north as New York and west to Oregon. We are pleased that they are now managing our site. Special thanks to Al Lunt, our OpBan Board President, who first created a website for OpBan and brought us to the world! You're the best, Al! Please visit our website at www.operationbandanas.org.
- Operation Bandanas was recently featured on "Today's Issues" on American Family Radio (AFR). Mary was given 15 minutes of air time to speak about our ministry. A number of responses and donations have been received from that exposure.
- Mary participated in the Local Author's Showcase recently with "*Lovin' Our Troops, A Story of Service on Two Fronts*". "*Lovin' Our Troops*" is a piece of history from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with a different perspective than books written on a particular battle of the war. If you have been involved in any way through our ministry, this is your story! You need to add this one to your reading library. Order through our website. Book sales have totaled approximately \$7,000.00, and every penny provides more Psalm 91 bandanas for our troops! Quote from a reader: "*After reading your book, I feel as if we are on a first name basis! What a privilege to hear you speak and be able to purchase this great book. Each photo is so heart-warming, full of love. God bless you and your military ministry.*"
- Thank you to our donors who help us continue our mission! Please continue with your gifts and share and involve others in our ministry. Our troops in Afghanistan are still in the fight and our chaplains continue requesting the bandanas. We have recently been receiving a number of requests from different parts of the Middle East and Africa as well.



"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.' " - Psalm 91:1-2