

OPERATION BANDANAS

winter 2014

NOT OVER YET! 10,000 Bandanas Needed!

As we begin a new year, Operation Bandanas is thinking of all of our troops still deploying to Afghanistan in 2014. It's not such a happy new year for thousands of military families. Many Americans think that since the big drawdown has begun this year, we are bringing soldiers home, not continuing to send them over. But units that were there in 2013 are redeploying home and units must replace them.

By the end of 2014, our servicemen and women will have been fighting terrorists in Afghanistan for 13 years! They have served courageously and relentlessly, risking life and limb to ensure our safety and security here at home and abroad. Their families have served courageously as well. I have had two sons who deployed numerous times in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, so I can personally attest to the sacrifices that have been made by our men and women in uniform and the families who worry, pray, and await their returns. I can well remember waking up in the middle of the night thinking about them and wondering if they were safe.

I have been honored and blessed to live in Fayetteville, NC, home of Ft. Bragg, and be surrounded by these amazing men and women who serve our nation. I have been privileged to be friends with and go to church with many of them and with many amazing wives who send their soldier husbands off to perform their duty. These young women do a remarkable job of

single parenting their children while daddy is away even though it often makes for long, exhausting days and nights. I have been around the little ones who keep asking mom when daddy will be back. I've attended the high school graduation ceremonies of teens that missed their mom or dad being there. It is heartbreaking, but it is the honorable calling these brave men and women have voluntarily chosen to devote their lives to.

I am personally aware of approximately 2,000 soldiers who have recently deployed from Ft. Bragg with another 3,200 who will be deploying before the spring elections. Other units slated to deploy are the 3rd Cavalry Regiment and the 1st CAV Division headquarters from Ft. Hood, TX. A number of Combat Aviation Brigades (CAB) will be deploying as well, from Washington State to Ansbach, Germany. (This information was made public by the Department of Defense and was written about in



One of our great chaplains and his assistant picking up 800 Psalm 91 bandanas for their battalion of soldiers.

the Fayetteville Observer). Afghanistan is a land locked country, so air will be what gets our troops and equipment out. Our CABs will be sustaining and supporting operations in a number of ways.

It was interesting how I found out about the CAB from Ft. Bragg deploying later in the summer. I was displaying our ministry at a community fair when a wife stopped by OpBan's table and told me her husband would like 800 Ps 91 bandanas this summer. Her husband's unit had received 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

with long life He will satisfy me and show me His salvation.

from us on a previous deployment and wants more for this deployment. We've been around long enough now (7 years) to have repeat customers! And we have our Special Forces units and Marines on the ground.

I am passing this information on to you so that you will know the need OpBan has for your help. With these units and others going to Afghanistan, I'm praying for another 10,000 plus Psalm 91 bandanas to be provided by the end of May. That's approximately \$30,000 that needs to be donated.

Would you please help Operation Bandanas continue to give the gift of Psalm 91 bandanas as spiritual encouragement to our troops? Send a donation today. Involve, motivate, and promote our ministry in your church and other churches in your community. It has been the body of Christ, individuals, churches, and Christian schools, co-laboring together all across this country who have made it possible to provide 236,713 Psalm 91 bandanas to our chaplains, our troops, and their families.

A SOLDIER'S NOTE:

My wife had contacted you a little while back about getting some bandanas for my company in Afghanistan because when I was in Iraq I received one that I still carry 5 years later... Thank you and everyone involved with Operation Bandanas. We appreciate what you do. Putting God's word into a soldier's hands is probably the best gift you could give them.

His last sentence sums up why we do what we do and why we need to continue to do it.

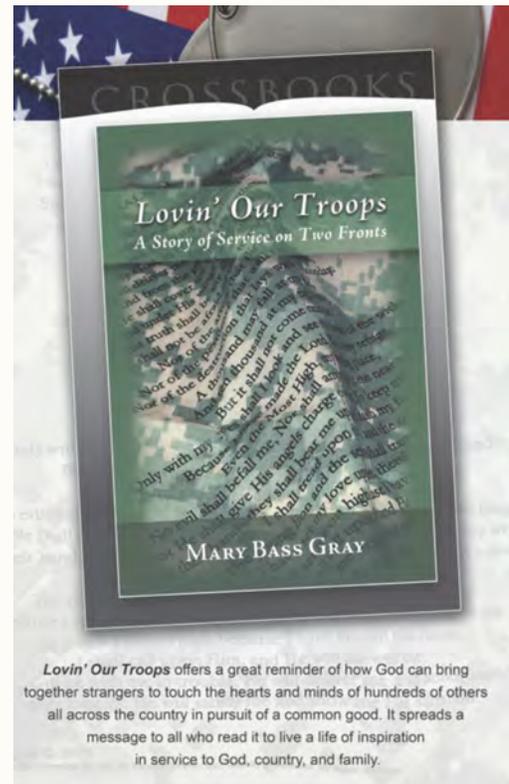
Please respond to the tug at your heart and help us put God's Word into more soldiers' hands. Mail a check to Operation Bandanas or send a donation through our secure Pay Pal portal on our website, www.operationbandanas.com, today. Visit our informative, moving website, to be inspired and to inspire others. Join our Facebook page and share our ministry. If you have received this newsletter via e-mail, forward it on to those in your email address book with a short note of personal encouragement for them to donate to and share in our mission.

I have no doubt that God, through His people, will supply another 10,000 Psalm 91 bandanas over the next few months to catch these units as they deploy. As these men and women continue to perform their duty to our nation, for me and for you, we have a duty to remember them and to show them our love, respect, and appreciation. Giving to Operation Bandanas to provide them with the much requested Psalm 91 bandanas is a way you can do just that. And please pray Psalm 91 over them through 2014. As the drawdown begins, there will be fewer boots on the ground for our men and women to protect themselves and watch one another's backs, so it will continue to be a dangerous time and place for our servicemen and women.

Under the Shadow of His Wings,

Mary Bass Gray,

Founder & Executive Director



Purchase Mary's book on Operation Bandanas' website for yourself and as a gift to others.

All proceeds from the sale of books go to purchasing more bandanas for our troops.



"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