

OPERATION BANDANAS

Spring 2016

Welcome 2016! A new year of opportunities to support our troops!

Operation Bandanas is beginning its 10th year of ministry providing encouragement to America's servicemen and women with gifts of Psalm 91 bandanas. As of December, 31, 2015, Operation Bandanas, through your generosity and the generosity of churches, organizations, and friends and families of our military, has provided **257,991 Psalm 91 bandanas!** From Afghanistan to Iraq and Kuwait; Niger, Qatar, Djibouti, and Honduras; across America and all over the globe, we are encouraging and drawing many to the comfort, care, and protection of our great God. We are touching hearts and minds in ways we will never know with a simple bandana. As a testimony of that, please read this very poignant e-mail that I received at the end of last year:

"I AM PART of a reserve Army rigger unit stationed out of Fort Bragg. Myself along with 24 other reserve soldiers from my unit deployed mid-September to a base in Qatar. We are not directly in danger, but we resupply those that are in danger with food, water, and fuel for vehicles. We build loads to be flown in and air-dropped to soldiers in need. I'm usually not the kind of person to write others, but on Thanksgiving some of our soldiers and I went to a prayer breakfast held by one of the chaplains here on base. At the end of the breakfast they handed us all these prayer bandanas. And it meant so much to me. I am going through issues at home and I know of a few other soldiers with the same problems. ***Your deed doesn't just shield soldiers in battle. It shields hearts from the pain of life.*** So I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for doing what you do. For showing that even though a lot of soldiers are having problems, there are people like you that still care for them and their protection. So again, **THANK YOU."**

I was so moved by what this soldier shared as I was reminded, yet again, that there are different kinds of battles our men and women in uniform face day after

day, both on the home front and on the battle front. This soldier laid it bare that he and other soldiers are "going through issues at home." Emotional pain is just as real and difficult as physical pain and perhaps even more harmful and longer in healing. If God's words of Psalm 91 can help "shield soldiers in battle" and "shield hearts from the pain of life", then we need to continue our mission! Together, let us continue to do God's work through our time and treasure providing gifts of love and appreciation to a very special group of great Americans.

IDEAS FOR PROMOTING THIS MINISTRY TO YOUR CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS NOW AND IN THE MONTHS AHEAD:

February, the month to express love, is a wonderful time to send your gift of love to our troops.

March can be set aside as a month to "March for the Troops."

April, leading into May and Memorial Day is a beautiful time to honor the memory of those who gave all.

June, leading up to July 4th, America's biggest patriotic celebration of all, is a great time to honor and remember our patriots.

I can provide you with brochures, a sample bandana, and a video to help! I also enjoy speaking and sharing personally about tHIS mission! Check out our website, www.operationbandanas.org and get inspired!

Thank you, friends. May God keep you and yours under the shelter of His wings,

Mary Bass Gray,

Founder & Executive Director

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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

REQUESTS & THANK YOU'S:

“MA’AM, I AM with a deployed unit (26th Marine Expeditionary Unit). We have some Marines and sailors asking for these bandanas now that we’ve left home... I would like to furnish every Marine and sailor with us with a 91st Psalm bandana... I appreciate what you do and what you have done for service members of all branches. Keep up the good work.” (Praise! They are *asking* for them!)

“HOW CAN MY platoon or company receive the bandanas with the Psalm 91 on it? I know my soldiers would greatly appreciate having a bandana close to their heart as we conduct our operations. I know this will brighten up a soldier’s day and when in a hardship, they can always read it and feel at ease.”

“THANK YOU AGAIN for the bandanas!! They came in just in time for our trip to Niger. It’s the rainy season now there and with that a lot of dust storms and heavy winds. So they went away like hot cakes and a bunch of SFS guys were seen wearing them, myself included! We hope to make a trip to Djibouti where a lot of the Army guys are located and see if they are as much of a hit as they were in Niger!”

“THANK YOU FOR dedicating your time to serve God and the US military families. My husband has served for the last 8 years. My family and I have memorized Psalm 91... We are on a special duty assignment to recruit the next generation of US Marines. This recruiting assignment has had a lot of spiritual issues... I believe your bandanas would help remind the US Marines and their recruits how God is protecting them. It would be such a blessing to us if we received a box of your bandanas for the recruiters, the young men and women enlisting, and our recruiting family. Please let me know how to obtain them. May God Bless you!”



UNIT MINISTRY TEAM STORYBOARD



He Who Dwells In The Secret Place Of The Most High!

WHO: CH (MAJ) Robert Kinnune, Task Force TQ UMT / 82nd Airborne
WHAT: Handing out Psalm 91 bandanas to the Task Force
WHERE: Al-Taqaddum, Iraq
WHEN: 10 Oct 2015
IMPACT: A solid reminder that God is near and He is mighty to save!



CH (MAJ) Kinnune reading Psalm 91 to the guard tower

CH (MAJ) Kinnune encouraging a soldier with a Psalm 91 bandana



“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