

OPERATION BANDANAS

march-april 2010

104,438 Psalm 91 bandanas provided to our troops through Operation Bandanas as of February 26, 2010! Thank you!!

Since my husband is a retired Army officer, we receive a quarterly publication called "Echoes" which keeps us up to date on what is happening in the Army. I was encouraged by something I read in the latest edition. It's a report on a program that the Army has developed for our soldiers called "Comprehensive Soldier Fitness" and the emphasis our senior Army leaders are placing on it. Its aim is "identifying individual shortfalls in five critical areas that comprise the total soldier: physical, emotional, social, family, and spiritual."

Friends and supporters of Operation Bandanas, we are helping respond to the comprehensive fitness of our soldiers by providing an item to aid in their spiritual fitness. But I think our mission can also help meet the needs in the other four areas, as well, as we send out one of God's precious passages from His Word. I am thankful for the opportunity and privilege that we have to serve God and serve our troops through this mission. Keep our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, along with their families and our great nation, foremost in your thoughts and prayers.

WAYS TO GIVE:

Our main source for providing so many bandanas has been through churches, the body of Christ, who have sent donations to OpBan to provide the bandanas to Chaplains and soldiers awaiting the bandanas.

Women's missions organizations from a number of different denominations have done a phenomenal job in getting the word out and donations sent.

I recently had a church who had one of their own deploying soon and took up a collection to pro-

vide 225 bandanas for him and his unit.

I had a gift given in memory of someone's Dad who had recently passed away. He had served in the military himself many years ago, and his daughter wanted to honor him by supporting others who followed in her dad's footsteps of service.

I have people who contact me that are putting together boxes to send overseas and want to purchase bandanas to enclose in them.

Others are donating toward a particular serviceman or woman and their unit to receive the bandanas. Rather than asking for one bandana for one person, they keep in mind their battle buddies also.

I had a group of West Point parents in Texas who purchased the bandanas for their sons' Platoons. They have now passed on to others our mission and we are getting contacted from their sharing.

I have been contacted about Operation Bandanas being their Vacation Bible School missions offering this year.

A Christian school does a yearly fundraiser to provide bandanas for an entire Battalion (600-800 troops).

Individual Sunday school classes and circles take up ongoing donations to send to us.

We have seen an increase in more people going to our website making personal donations.

All of that to say... we have faithful donors who are doing God's work through Operation Bandanas. Through our ministry, we want our courageous troops to be reminded that there is a big God who loves them very much and is hiding them under the shelter of His wing.

Mary Gray Executive Director

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Operation Bandanas is a 501(c)3
tax-deductible organization
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THANK YOU NOTES:

SEE OTHERS AT WWW.OPERATIONBANDANAS.ORG



I just wanted to say thank you for the Psalm 91 bandana. I am currently assigned to the F-15 Strike Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Our Squadron received a package from the Pine View Baptist Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina and it contained the Operation Psalm 91 bandanas. I will now read it and carry it with me daily. Thank you for the constant reminder of God's love and thank you for making a difference in my life!

Technical Sergeant John Coghill USAF

You sent my son enough bandanas for his platoon at Ranger school over a year ago. When getting to his first duty post, my son Michael Noel began ministering to the young soldiers and ended up disciplining two in his home. One was Harrison, a 19 year old PFC. When another unit's outpost was totally overcome on Oct 3 with heavy casualties, Harrison volunteered to go immediately as a replacement.

Last week, an IED exploded and Harrison was miraculously saved and just shaken up. Praise God! Four others died in the explosion; three were his platoon mates. Harrison is trying to find ways to minister to his platoon mates. I want to send Harrison the Psalm 91 bandanas to pass out to his hurting platoon mates. These bandanas are perfect!

My son deploys in March, so I will get another box then. *Penny Noel, Mother of Lt. Michael Noel*

A thank you to Don Landrum, Director of our Georgia Chapter of Operation Bandanas:

Our CSM left a very nice bandana on my desk yesterday afternoon with one of my all-time favorite passages from the Bible, and I hear that you sent them. As a follower of Christ, I trust in His guidance and protection and want to thank you for your kindness and generosity for remembering us here in this land so far away from home. But, it is kind of like being a Christian - we are foreigners, strangers here our earth as our real home is in heaven. Until the day that we meet our Savior, no matter where we are, we are covered with His wings of protection and can take refuge in the shadow of His love... we shall not be afraid, for He is with us. *Sincerely, MSG Mary McNair*



Update on the Carpenter Shop: *(If you have been receiving our past newsletters, you are familiar with this group in Afghanistan):*

The Carpenter Shop is doing well. Got a new coat of paint in the last few months and we're very grateful for that. As well as some new instruments for the chapel we have an electric guitar and something I had never seen but an electric drum set as well. It looks like a bunch of Frisbees on sticks but does sound nice. We have built some new latrines that will be opened up in the next few weeks so all are excited to see them. I am hopeful that we can get some more of the bandanas for our troopers coming in.



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"He who dwells in the shelter 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