

OPERATION BANDANAS

october - november 2009

What better time to give a donation to Operation Bandanas than the month of November as we remember our veterans on Veterans Day. A gift to Operation Bandanas in honor of or in memory of a veteran, both past and present, would be a fine tribute to them. Perhaps your church and/or missions organization would promote our mission throughout October and receive an offering on the Sunday preceding or following Veterans Day. And as we celebrate Thanksgiving in November, giving a gift of thanks to those serving in uniform would be appreciated more than we'll ever know.

I spent a week this summer in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the wedding of my youngest son, Andrew, (who is now a veteran of two tours of duty to Afghanistan and is a survivor of Flight 1549 that crashed into the Hudson River in January!) and his beautiful bride, Stephanie. While enjoying the reunion of family and friends and all the excitement that goes with the activities and festivities of a wedding, my mind was focused on the joy of the moment. There were no thoughts of troubles in the world for that week, no thoughts on health care and the economy, no housework, no job, no worries... just pure, unadulterated joy.

On our flight back home to Fayetteville, NC, flying through Atlanta, it didn't take long for me to move back into the real world. There were soldiers in uniform everywhere I looked, and my heart began to sensitize again to the tremendous sacrifices being made so that I could fly safely to my son's wedding and enjoy the religious freedom of a ceremony honoring to God. It's these sons and daughters of



Village Christian Academy had a fundraiser in May to provide Psalm 91 bandanas to CH Coen's Battalion who recently deployed. Mrs. Montouth, VCA MS Principal & Mary Gray, Executive Director of OpBan, presented the bandanas to CH Coen.

America who have been making the sacrifices for us since the American Revolution; those now serving in uniform continue the tradition of service to their nation, bearing our flag and defending it against enemies, both foreign and domestic.

Our young men and women in uniform need spiritual encouragement and support more than ever. They are weary of multiple deployments; wounded physically and emotionally; recovering in burn centers and rehabilitation hospitals; families grieving because of the ultimate sacrifice of their loved ones; homes dealing with the struggles of separation and the adverse impact on their family relationships. These are difficult times for our military. These men and women of our Armed Forces deserve our respect, appreciation and admiration. The sacrifices they and their families are making for us to continue business as usual in America by securing its safety and freedom are tremendous.

Keeping them in our prayers is a priority and supplying them with tangible evidence of our appreciation, something they can hold on to and receive from grateful Americans, particularly reminding them of God's presence with them, can be a powerful thing. Our little gift of a simple bandana printed with God's words of strength, courage, comfort, and protection could well be just what is needed in the pockets and helmets of our troops on the battlefield today... spiritual armor for inspiration and encouragement. One soldier told me he had two bandanas and put one in each boot... standing on the promises!

Mary Gray *Executive Director of Operation Bandanas*

Operation Bandanas
PO Box 9550
Fayetteville, NC 28311
910-578-8840

www.operationbandanas.org

Operation Bandanas is a 501(c)3
tax-deductible organization.

THANK YOU NOTES:

SEE OTHERS AT WWW.OPERATIONBANDANAS.ORG

I attend the Carpenter's Shop chapel at Camp Wright, Asadabad, Afghanistan. I wanted to thank you for all that you have done for our modest little church. We have been blessed with a small church made of plywood and tin there at Camp Wright. My coworkers and I often pass out the Psalm 91 bandanas and the small cards that give the guys and girls that are traveling between the bases some comfort not only from the Lord but they also let us know that we have not been forgotten back home. Thank you again for all that you have done for all of us at the Carpenter's Shop.



CH Andrews & SPC Rhodes of the 82nd ABN Combat Aviation Brigade standing in front of a Kiowa helicopter. Your gifts through Operation Bandanas provided CH Andrews with Psalm 91 bandanas to cover his entire Battalion. Your gifts also provided the CAB Brigade with 2,000 bandanas before they deployed this Spring.

I am a soldier in the British Army serving in Afghanistan at the moment. I just wanted you to know that I have one of your bandanas. I got it at a church service here, and it's so refreshing. It gives me some sense of inner peace. I just love it. Ps 91 is a personal Scripture I came on this tour with. I have

written it out and placed it under my body armour, so to come and get the bandana in addition makes me know every day that I am not here alone. Thank you once again for the good work. God richly bless you all.

I received one of your bandana's today. I'm serving in Afghanistan and am constantly in hostile territory. Thank you for the bandana, I'll keep it with me always.

Sgt. RB

Hi, I'm a soldier currently stationed in Iraq and would love to have one of your bandanas. I would really appreciate it if you could let me know how I can get one, if you need money or whatever. If you have a few extras I'm sure I can find guys to take them with no problem. I'm in the Texas National Guard out of Irving, Texas. I found out about your organization by Googling Psalm bandanas after seeing one on another soldier. I'll let my friends/family know about your website. Thank you so much for supporting us, it means more than you can imagine.

Camp Adder (Tallil)

God bless and protect our military and their families.
May they feel His comforting presence near to them.

- Mary Gray, Executive Director

*"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