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The One Year Yellow Ribbon Devotional is a cup of cool water given in Jesus' name to anyone who faces doubt in uncertain times, particularly our men and women in the military.

DAVE RAMSEY

New York Times best-selling author and nationally syndicated radio talk show host

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In over 35 years of active-duty service, I met few military spouses who matched Brenda Pace and Carol McGlothlin in their passions for God, family, nation, and fellow citizen. Join them as they pour their hearts onto these pages in daily worship—you will be blessed!

PETER U. SUTTON

Major General, USAF (Retired)

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The One Year[®]
**YELLOW
RIBBON**
Devotional

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TAKE A STAND IN PRAYER
FOR OUR NATION
AND THOSE WHO SERVE

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BRENDA PACE AND
CAROL MCGLOTHLIN



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The One Year Yellow Ribbon Devotional: Take a Stand in Prayer for Our Nation and Those Who Serve

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Dedicated to military veterans of the United States of America.

We honor you for the stand you have taken for freedom.

Preface

The meditations in this book have been composed prayerfully and thoughtfully. Our purpose in writing is to bring hope in the midst of tough times. With our experiences as military spouses, our hearts have been especially softened by the challenges facing those who are serving in our armed forces during the present War on Terror. For these, we pray the words in this book will bring encouragement. For others, our hope is that you will be reminded to take an unwavering stand through prayer for those who are serving our country as never before. As Americans, we pray your patriotic spirit will also be ignited as you are encouraged to fight the good fight for the godly principles that are at the very core of our nation's history.

We also pray that the meditations included within these pages will bless *anyone* who is facing challenging times. Each day brings crises of varying magnitudes. As Christ followers, we are called to stand firm when we are tempted to crumble under the weight of difficult circumstances. "The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Thank you to the American heroes in the form of military family members who have shared their hearts with us as we have had the honor to meet and talk with them during the writing of this book. To those who are serving in the armed forces, we salute you. To the resilient and courageous family members, we salute you as well. We are proud to take a stand with you and for you!

~Brenda and Carol

Acknowledgments

Thanks, Rit, for always standing by me. You have listened to me process, lovingly challenged me to develop ideas, and encouraged me in every step of this project. You inspire me as I am privileged to watch you daily walk out a life of godly wisdom and integrity. I'm blessed to be your wife.

Thanks to Gregory and Megan, and Joseph and Danya for your encouragement and support. I love being your mom (and mom-in-law). Thanks for bestowing upon me the treasured role of grandma. Jolie and Noah, you have brought such joy to my life. I love you all.

Thanks, Mom and Dad, for the regular notes of encouragement and help throughout this process. I am grateful for your legacy of prayer and faith. Mom, Pop, and the Paces—I'm grateful to be one of you.

I am a woman who is blessed with faithful friends. To Karen, Ruth, Victoria, Shellie—you are so dear to me. Thanks for your encouragement during this project. Dawn, Kim, Kristen—you spur me on. Cindy and Ann, you are true heroes to me. To Patti, Sandy, Maria, Teresa, Jacqueline, Cindi, Tish, Rose, Diane, Dwight, Cheryl, and John—bless you! Thank you for being willing to share your stories. Susan, your encouragement and insight were especially meaningful. To the wonderful women I have met in military communities around the world—thanks for your inspiration!

Diane and Bobby—how special to have brothers and sisters in Christ like you!

Thanks to the Tyndale House Publishers family. Carol and I are truly grateful to have worked with you on this project.

And Carol, I must thank you for being a faithful friend and writing partner. You inspire me and spur me to *write on*. I am so grateful for your generous heart. You may call it *atrial fibulation*, but I know it to be the beats of a heart that can't do enough for your Lord. It's been a fun and blessed journey.

✧ Brenda

Thank you to my husband, Richard, for understanding when I asked you not to come home for lunch because I wanted to stay focused on my writing. Thanks also for understanding when I got up at 4:00 a.m. and began working on the computer. You have been my prayer warrior and my encourager through the process, and I am so thankful that you still love me so very much after thirty-four years of marriage. I am thankful that you allow me to continue to follow my dreams and take on these challenges.

Thank you to my mother, who has been the most incredible encourager anyone could ask for. You celebrated each time of completion with me, and you prayed for me when the inspiration was slow to come.

And to our sons, Neil and Alex, the answer to your question is, "Yes, I am finished with the book." You have always had an interest in the process. Jen, your encouragement and phone calls blessed my heart.

Thank you to my sister friends, Sue, Diane, Rhenee, Ann, and Reba, who would call and tell me they missed me during this time of commitment in my life. I knew you were always praying.

Thank you to my dear friend, Major Steve, who would call from Iraq and ask if he could pray for me. How humbled I was! You continued to remind me of the purpose in a project such as this and encouraged me to keep on keeping on.

Diane and Nancy, I pray that you are honored as military wives to see your words

written in this devotional. I know your testimonies of faith will bless so many. Cheri, my pearl friend, you are loved, and your wisdom to others will be greatly appreciated. Bev, your positive influence in my life as a young military wife continues as we journey together in our lives. Steve and Jane, thank you for teaching and mentoring us in our faith.

Thank you, Esther, for knowing the need for a book like this and for your efforts in making things happen with enthusiasm and conviction.

Brenda, God has given us yet another opportunity to encourage and exhort. I am so thankful for our journey together.

☞ Carol

Introduction

The yellow ribbon is a symbol of hope for those who are waiting. Displaying it on a car, in a window, or wrapped around a tree is a statement of support for those who are taking a stand for freedom. Our greatest source of hope during challenging times of national war or personal trials is God. We communicate with God through his Word and through prayer. Our hope is strongest when we stand together on the promises of his Word, united in prayer, believing that by his mercy he will sustain and strengthen us.

As a nation, we find ourselves at war. Yellow ribbons dot the landscape of neighborhoods from coast to coast. For those who have said good-bye to a loved one as they leave to fight a perplexing enemy, the ribbon is a symbol that this war is at the forefront of their thoughts. For others, a graphic depiction of war in the news will be a reminder of the sacrifice represented by the yellow ribbon. The call to take a stand in prayer on behalf of our nation, and for those who serve, is one we can all answer.

Scripture is replete with examples of heroes who took a stand in prayer on behalf of others. Abraham took a stand in prayer as he pleaded with God not to destroy his family. Moses stood in prayer on behalf of the entire nation of Israel. King Hezekiah took his stand in prayer for a nation under siege. God's intervention in response to these prayers gives us faith to believe he will hear our prayers too.

Paul urges us in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 "to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity." He further encourages us in Philippians 1:27 to be "standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News." What better way for us to stand together than in prayer?

As you consider the devotional thoughts held in these pages, join us in daily prayer for America and those who serve. As you pray, remember that God promises to stand beside us like a great warrior (see Jeremiah 20:11), watching over us (see Psalm 121) and protecting us (see Psalm 110:5).

May he, as a result, make our hearts strong, blameless, and holy as we stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people. Amen (1 Thessalonians 3:13, paraphrased).

January 1

Stand for Something

Put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. + EPHESIANS 6:13

How will you face this new year? Ephesians 6:13 encourages us to face each day *standing firm*. What does that mean, and how does it happen? We're to stand firm in the power of the Holy Spirit by putting on the whole armor of God. "Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:14-17).

In other words, God is saying, "Okay, I have given you everything you need to stand against the enemy you will face in this world—now stand." The stand we must take is one without fear, without hesitation, and with confidence as we encounter any crisis that may come our way. It is a stand in spiritual armor that is complete for battle, both defensive and offensive.

Because we live in a fallen world, we will encounter Satan's attacks on our mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. We must remember that he is a defeated foe and that through Christ we have all we need to stand against him. We are to stand and refuse to move from the ground that has been taken through our acceptance of Christ as our Savior.

Scripture tells us the Word of God is our offensive weapon and that we are to pray at all times in the power of the Holy Spirit. Make a commitment this year to study the Bible and learn its directives and promises. Then stand on those promises—in prayer!

Throughout this year keep in mind the stand that military men and women are taking around the world. They are standing for our nation and the principles on which our country was founded. They are standing for a better world for our children and hope for the future. Commit to keep them and their families in your prayers throughout this new year.

Take inspiration from this prayer of Peter Marshall, chaplain of the U.S. Senate in 1947: "Give us clear vision that we may know where to stand and what to stand for, because unless we stand for something, we shall fall for anything."¹ ~Carol

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Father, I commit to stand on your promises in the new year. I pray for the brave men and women who have made a commitment to stand firm for freedom and liberty through their service in the military. In Jesus' name I pray. + Amen.

¹ Peter Marshall, *Mr. Jones, Meet the Master* (Revell, 1952), quoted in Frank S. Mead, comp., *12,000 Religious Quotations* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989), 465.

January 2

Morning Watch

Listen to my voice in the morning, LORD. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly. † PSALM 5:3

I admit I'm not always the most congenial person in the morning. The older I get, the more time I need to ease into the day. My grandson, on the other hand, is the epitome of a morning person. He awakens with bright eyes wide open and a smile on his face. He greets the day with a cheerful and emphatic "Good morning!" Whatever misery he may have felt the night before has been crucified as he slept, and each new day is a happy resurrection.

Even with my morning challenges, I have found that the best way to begin a day is with Scripture reading and prayer. The great preacher Charles Spurgeon said about prayer, "Let us take care, while we are fresh, to give the cream of the morning to God." Giving God my first thoughts of the day helps me grasp my priorities and focus on what is truly important. Often my prayers are a natural flow from what I read in the Bible. Writing them in a journal has been a helpful tool; the physical act of writing keeps me focused and protects my thoughts from drifting. Having these written prayers also provides a tangible record of God's faithfulness as I record answers or return later to trace the work of his hand in a particular situation.

Developing the spiritual discipline of prayer is a necessity for a Christ follower. The psalmist who penned the words of today's passage obviously had a regular habit of beginning his day with prayer to the Lord. In the original language he paints a word picture of an archer shooting a bow and arrow. It can be assumed that the prayers the psalmist prayed were like arrows that he watched expectantly as they sped to the center of the target.

As a young Christian I struggled to have a disciplined prayer life. Today, I cannot boast by saying I never miss beginning a day with prayer, but the Lord has helped me develop consistency. While discipline plays a role in my prayer life, the goal is not about completing a task. The goal of prayer at any time of the day is to nurture a personal relationship with my heavenly Father. "It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening" (Psalm 92:2). *~Brenda*

★ ★ ★

Father, I thank you for a new day to worship you. I ask for consistency in my prayer life, not as duty, but to be in an ever-closer relationship with you. I give you this day. I pray for military personnel who are on patrol during the night. Surround them with your protection as they stand watch on behalf of others. In Jesus' name I pray. † *Amen.*

January 3 Living Word

The word of God is alive and powerful. + HEBREWS 4:12

Do you believe the Word of God? Do you believe his Word is our offensive weapon against the enemy of our souls? Do you believe it is alive and just as applicable today as it was when it was written? I do! I have never in my life been so in love with God's Word. I have never in my life experienced such sensitivity to the relevance of God's Word for every situation today. I have never in my life experienced so many teachers and mentors who are so excited about sharing the Word with others.

In January of 2005, my mother, then eighty-three, was encouraged by her church to read through the Bible in a year. She has known the Lord since she was a teenager but had never actually read through, day by day, the entire Bible. She began that first day of January 2005. From the beginning of this experience she had a new excitement and joy that was undeniable. She would call us at night and say, "You will not believe what I just read!" Or she would tell me to go and get my husband, a loving student of the Scriptures, so she could ask a question about something she had read. It was amazing how each word, each book, and each day brought new insight as she fell in love with God's Word.

In September of 2005 my dad passed away. He was the love of my mother's life for sixty-two years. God had prepared her for what was to come as she faithfully hid his Word in her heart that year. She had such peace and such understanding of a better eternal home for my dad. She continued, letting God comfort her as she finished the last word of Revelation on December 31, 2005.

In 2006 my husband and I were challenged by my mother's renewed love of the Bible to also read it through in a year.

What a blessing to fall in love with the living Word all over again! It is his gift to us. *~Carol*

★ ★ ★

Lord, you speak to me through your Word, and I know that you are the Creator of the universe. All things are under your command. Help me to go to your Word each day for peace, understanding, and wisdom. Lead those in harm's way throughout the world to your living Word, providing for them in every conflict and every trial they face. + Amen.

January 4

Forgetting the Past

No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead. + PHILIPPIANS 3:13

The results of the commitment my husband and I made to reading the Bible in a year were amazing! We fell more and more in love with the Bible as we read it each day. We would sit across the table from each other and say, “Wow” many times over. We had read pieces of Scripture all our Christian lives, but to read it book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse was truly a spiritual experience.

Here we are beginning a new year. The Word is hidden in my heart. Just as my mother had no idea that God was comforting her through his Word in order to get through the loss of the love of her life—her husband, friend, and father of her girls—so my own year-long Bible-reading experience is enabling me to live with renewed passion for God’s Word in my heart.

While reading that year, I found myself crying through the side notes I had written with names of my sons or of places we had traveled. I had recorded those notes beside specific verses in God’s Word to remember how he had brought us through so many challenging times in our lives.

But I can’t dwell in the past. Forgetting the past is a directive from God to let go and let him take over. He doesn’t want us to dwell on our past sins or mistakes. Remembering how God led us through those times, however, gives us great comfort. He loves us unconditionally, and his presence is a reality.

I pray that you will fall in love with him every day as you are encouraged in these messages of hope and prayers of faith. I can only encourage you to go to God’s Word. Let him speak to you. It is his mode of communication with us, and as we practice it we get to learn how to live in victory along the way.

Bless you today! *~Carol*

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Father God, let this be the year for me to fall in love with you and your Word. Help those who are separated from their loved ones during the conflict in the world. May they pick up your Word daily to receive the message of hope it contains. + *Amen.*

January 5

Managing Time

During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost. + JOHN 17:12

My friend just said good-bye to her husband for a year as he began a deployment to Iraq. I sent her a note to ask how her first week was going. She responded that she was getting some things checked off a list of tasks that she had been compiling for the last year. She knows she has at least twelve months that her husband will be absent, and she is setting a goal to use her time wisely by accomplishing things she wants to get done while he is away.

Today we have people who are time-management experts. There are countless books, seminars, and tools to aid us in managing our time, but the reality is time can't really be saved or managed. John Maxwell suggests, "Since you can't change time, you must instead change your approach to it. Time cannot be managed . . . time just is."¹ I understand this to mean we cannot manage time, but we can manage what we do with the time we've been given.

Jesus knew his time on earth was set by the Father. His primary mission was to go to the cross, but before that happened, he wanted to use his time for positive impact on people's lives as is evident in today's passage. None of us knows the exact number of days we have here on earth. Our focus is not to be on how many days we have because that is something we can't manage or control. We can manage and control what we choose to do during the time we are given.

Perhaps it would be helpful to make a list now of those things you would like to do this year. Choose actions that are helpful to others. Spend your time wisely, and begin doing those things you plan.

My friend is turning a challenging crisis in her life into a productive time. She could have chosen to be miserable for the next year. She could easily have given in to constant worry about her husband's well-being and wasted valuable time God has given her. Instead she is choosing to turn it around and be productive even as she misses her husband. In the midst of crisis we still have a choice: to be stuck in self pity or to move forward with the task at hand. ~Brenda

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Father, thank you for sending your Son to fulfill his purpose here on earth. Help me to use my time wisely, making the most of each opportunity you give me today. I pray for spouses of deployed military personnel. Help them to trust you during this time of separation. In Jesus' name. + Amen.

¹ John C. Maxwell, *Today Matters* (New York: Time Warner Books, 2004), 67.

January 6

To-Do Lists

Look here, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.” How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone.

+ JAMES 4:13-14

I believe in making a plan and being prepared. I am a list maker, and I enjoy seeing checks beside tasks I have accomplished. Yet as a Christian, I sometimes have mixed feelings when it comes to making a detailed plan for the future. How much do I plan for the future, and how much do I leave the future to God’s divine providence? If I do not make some plan for my day, I seem to fritter it away. If I am controlled by my to-do list, however, I may miss spontaneous opportunities that would have eternal significance. My daily challenge is to not be ruled by my own plans.

In today’s passage, James is addressing the mistake of those who do not even consider the will of God in their daily plans. Their mistake is twofold: first, in thinking they know what is best and can determine their own future; second, in failing to acknowledge that God is sovereign and the One who knows what is best for them.

I have found that my solution to the planning quandary is to daily commit my to-do list to the Lord. I ask him to help me discern his will for each day and make me available to accomplish his plan.

What’s on your list today? Whatever it is, commit it to the Lord—and see what happens! *~Brenda*

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Father, thank you for the plan you have made for my salvation. Forgive me for any plans I have made without considering you. I acknowledge your sovereignty, and I trust you to direct me as I commit myself to your will. I present to you my plans for this day and invite you to rearrange them if you see the need. May I glorify you in all I do. I pray for those who are directing military plans and operations. May they, too, look to you for help and guidance. In Jesus’ name. + *Amen.*

January 7

National Take Time off Day

Then Jesus said, “Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.” He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn’t even have time to eat. + MARK 6:31

One day during a particularly physically draining season, I wrote in my journal, “After bemoaning my laziness yesterday, I decided to give myself permission to have a day of rest. It was impossible! I must not think it is okay to rest, because when I do, I feel guilty. As a result, I feel tired.” The night I wrote that I got a chuckle when I read the online news banner announcing it was National Take Time off Day! On an officially sanctioned day, I still couldn’t take the time to relax.

Even Jesus in his short time of ministry intentionally pulled away to quiet places for rest in order to recharge himself physically and spiritually. In today’s Scripture, he directs his disciples following an intense time of ministry: “Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.” The original word for rest in Mark 6:31 implies refreshment.¹ If Jesus needed rest to be refreshed in body and spirit after his labors, wouldn’t you think we do as well? And if it was okay for him to do, wouldn’t you think it would be okay for us, too?

For those who struggle with the idea of taking time off to rest, the term *power nap* has been coined as a management principle that claims increased productivity. Long before power naps were in vogue, however, my mother-in-law practiced a thirty-minute nap in the middle of the afternoon to feel refreshed for the rest of the day. Her energy has always put mine to shame. Whatever name you use to describe rest, the truth is that we need it to rejuvenate ourselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

It has been said that “if you don’t come apart and rest, you will come apart!”² Include some rest as a part of this day. It’s okay—Jesus said so! ~Brenda

☆ ☆ ☆

Thank you, Father, for the example of Christ in Scripture. He accomplished your will in his short life on earth, yet he found time to rest and be refreshed. Help me to take time today for moments of rest, making my service to others the best it can be. I pray for military personnel in the medical corps today who are working long hours to bring health and wellness to others. + Amen.

¹ *Biblesoft’s New Exhaustive Strong’s Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary* (Seattle: Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc., 1994).

² Vance Havner, *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton, IL: SP Publications, Inc., 1992).

January 8

Wait Expectantly

When you came down long ago, you did awesome deeds beyond our highest expectations. And oh, how the mountains quaked! + ISAIAH 64:3

We live in a world of expectations, and the bar is usually set pretty high. I love a challenge, and I love to continually seek to achieve great things in my life. My husband and I have great hopes and expectations for our sons, which cause us to pray constantly that God would honor them with personal, relational, and financial favor. However, we often put too high of an expectation on ourselves and those we love, and that's when things get out of order.

Psalm 5:3 says, "Listen to my voice in the morning, LORD. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly." The expectations I have for myself should be measured by God's expectations for me. Why do we run ahead of all that God has for us? He knew we would. Often we expect an answer to come quickly, a relationship to take hold, a job offer to come in. But these expectations suggest that we have a God who simply grants wishes. We are to wait on God, not merely on his answers.

First, our prayer to the Father during times of conflict and in situations beyond our control should be that we are giving all to him. Second, our prayers and attitudes must place our expectations on him and measure them by the standard of his mercy and grace. Expectations in our humanness can only lead to disappointment and discouragement.

Finally, our expectations should be as Scripture tells us in 1 Peter 1:3: "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation." ~Carol

★ ★ ★

Lord, teach me to wait expectantly on you. Give me a heart that is willing to trust, not one that is thinking *I deserve* or *I expect*. Give me a heart to continue to lift to you each day my expectations of an end to the likes of war, poverty, and disease. In your name I pray. + Amen.

January 9
Missed Opportunity

There they will say, "Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, is a loudmouth who missed his opportunity!"

✦ JEREMIAH 46:17

There is not one of us who has never missed an opportunity. Several weeks ago, I read a story in the travel section of our local newspaper about a hotel in the heart of New York City that had just been remodeled. A special promotion offered rooms for \$19.31 in honor of the year the hotel opened. It was Sunday afternoon, and I got busy—and failed to follow through in checking it out. Two days later, my husband called to tell me our friends had just made reservations for the weekend in New York City at a great hotel for only \$19.31 per night! He asked me to quickly go online and make reservations for us so we could join them. But when I made the attempt, I received the message that there were no more rooms available at that price. If only I had acted on the offer when I first saw it in the paper days earlier! I had missed my opportunity.

In today's Scripture, Jeremiah speaks of Pharaoh, whom Matthew Henry describes as either a coward or a bad manager following his promise to send an army to support his people.¹ The enemy came, and Pharaoh failed to send his army to provide help. He missed a great opportunity to prove himself a powerful leader and back up his words with action.

The New Testament Epistles challenge us not to miss the opportunity to do good and bless others:

"Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

"Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days" (Ephesians 5:16).

"Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity" (Colossians 4:5).

In the words of H. Jackson Brown Jr., "Nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity."² Look for opportunities the Lord may send your way today!

~Brenda

★ ★ ★

Heavenly Father, thank you for making me your child. I pray that I would have eyes to see each occasion you provide for me to do good for others. Don't let me miss the opportunity to be a blessing. I pray for soldiers, airmen, sailors, marines, and coastguardsmen as they serve you around the world. Provide them with opportunities to hear your Word and be encouraged. In Jesus' name I pray. ✦ *Amen*.

¹ *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition*, Electronic Database, CD-ROM. Hendrickson Publishers, 1991.

² *Life's Little Instruction Book* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2000).

January 10

The Power of Prayer

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

+ JAMES 5:16

Webster's dictionary defines power as "ability to act or produce an effect."¹ As an adjective, it is defined as "of, relating to, or utilizing strength." The mere definition gives the image of strength in anything one does. The dictionary defines prayer as "an address (as a petition) to God" and as "an earnest request or wish."

I have to admit there are times when I cry out to God, "What can I do? How can I make a difference in the world?" As Christians, we cannot physically do things for our military personnel who are in harm's way. We cannot even know when danger is imminent. However, through prayer we can affect them spiritually and do battle in the heavenly realms on their behalf. Each of us has this power through the Holy Spirit. As a direct result of prayer, there are many who have come to know the Lord while fighting the War on Terror.

God honors our prayers. As we make prayer a priority, we can make a difference for those who serve our country through military or government service. Prayer in the power of the Holy Spirit can change the direction of local churches and shape worldwide missions. Being on our knees can strengthen our families for the battles we face each day.

Prayer gives hope to the hearts of mothers as their children face the bombardment of the enemy each day—because they can know that the sovereign God is listening. Discouragement and disillusionment can then be replaced with prayer. In a culture where we are constantly connected by cell phones and the Internet, we must not forget that the only connection that matters is the connection we have with God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit in prayer. *☞Carol*

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O Lord, too often I find time to do lunch with my friends or be involved in many good activities but can't seem to schedule time to spend with you. Forgive me for my negligence, and give me a renewed heart of commitment to earnestly seek you. Please protect the men and women in harm's way, and help me remember to lift them up to you daily. + Amen.

¹ Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc. 2003).

About the Authors

BRENDA PACE

Brenda Pace has a BA in elementary education from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, and an MEd in early childhood education from Columbus State University, Columbus, Georgia. She is presently a student at Liberty Theological Seminary studying Christian Leadership.

An active speaking ministry has allowed Brenda opportunities to address a variety of audiences here in the United States, as well as Japan, Korea, Germany, Italy, and Turkey. She has been involved in the development of a weeklong summer conference for wives of deployed soldiers. This conference, which ministers to women and their children, has had a positive impact on military families.

Brenda has served in various leadership roles for military organizations. For ten years, she enjoyed serving on the national board of Protestant Women of the Chapel-International, where she held the positions of USA president, vice president, advisor, and most recently resource coordinator. She would tell you that her greatest joy, aside from being a wife, mom, and now grandmom, is sharing with women the message that God can use their lives for his Kingdom work!

Brenda lives in Washington, D.C., (military move number thirteen!) with Richard, her husband of thirty-four years. Richard is a U.S. Army chaplain assigned to the Pentagon as the director of personnel for the army chief of chaplains. He was deployed for one year with Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom while serving as the Division Chaplain for the 82d Airborne Division. They are the parents of two married sons and the proud grandparents of two.

As a result of her desire to encourage military spouses, Brenda has coauthored a devotional book entitled *Medals above My Heart*.

CAROL MCGLOTHLIN

Carol McGlothlin earned a BS in psychology from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, and studied speech pathology and special education at East Tennessee State University. She has been trained in personality styles, group development, conflict management, and the stages of grief.

Throughout her husband's military career, Carol has served in many volunteer positions, including board positions with the Protestant Women of the Chapel, Officers' Wives Club, and Musettes, as well as facilitator for the Pre-Command Spouse Orientation Program at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. She is part of the national leadership team for Wives of Faith (www.wivesoffaith.org).

For many years Carol has spoken to Christian women's groups and led Bible studies in the United States and overseas. She currently still enjoys a connection to military wives' groups. She has a heart for encouraging women to love and support their husbands and pray for their families. Carol has led marriage classes, and she and her husband have led pre-marriage classes.

Carol has also found great joy in challenging community groups and churches to reach out to the families of active-duty and retired military personnel. The publication of *Medals above My Heart* (Broadman and Holman), also co-written with Brenda Pace, has provided numerous opportunities to share her passion for those who serve and have served their country so selflessly. She enjoys writing for various Web sites supporting the military family and for various Christian magazines.

Carol and her husband, Richard (U.S. Army, Retired), have been married thirty-four years and have two grown sons and a precious daughter-in-law. They are actively involved in their church and community in Huntsville, Alabama.

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