

In His Love

GROWING UP, I learned a healthy respect for the United States Military because of my dad and my brother. My dad had been drafted during the Korean conflict, though he never deployed. I remember my mom using his old “o.d. green” Army laundry bag for our laundry when I was very young. He used to love old war movies, and my brother and I would watch them with him. He didn’t really say much about respecting the Services and Service Members, but we could sense it. My brother and I played “Army” all the time as kids. He always outranked me. We were always in World War II. We were always the Americans: saving ourselves, our platoon, our battalion, our country. We spent many hours in make-believe battles, and we always won ’cause we were the good guys!

Through my active-duty Army husband, I've learned up close what it means to be a good guy. In the military, laying down one's life for a friend is not just a platitude; it's a real possibility. The sacrifices required of a military life are big ones, even in time of peace. But in time of war, in the heat of battle, lives are often lost—and some are saved, due to the extraordinary bravery and selflessness of others.

It's been said that a soldier fights in battle not for his country, or the flag, or any cause, but for his buddies to his left and right. That's love; and in some cases, it can mean the ultimate sacrifice.



This is meant for women, wives who must endure while their husbands go off to a foreign land in defense of our country. That is where we find ourselves now. I am a veteran of six deployments beginning in 1990 with Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. With a three-year-old daughter and an infant son, I was left seemingly alone to

cope with life's daily routines, joys, and challenges. And, of course, to deal with the fears for my husband, the rest of the service members and families involved, and our nation.

If you have never gone through this, it sounds overwhelming. It seemed, initially, that way to me. But, through that experience, I learned a lot about letting go and turning things over to God. Through that experience I learned to put myself and my family in His hands in a way I'd never done before. It's the way it should always be. We have no control over what others may do to us through their own willful acts; we don't know when our lives will end. But with our Lord in our lives, what others do to us and our mortal shells doesn't really matter in comparison with eternal realities. We must remember that God wants us Home with Him at the appointed time. What men do need not really concern us if we trust in the Lord.

Give your life to God; trust in His mercy and love. Remember, as I learned during that trying time, you are never alone. I am

not going to tell you that you won't be lonely. I have a distinct memory of sitting on the floor in our upstairs hallway with one child in the room at the end of the hall to my right and the other child in the room at the opposite end of the hall. We were all crying. I couldn't take it anymore, I thought. And through my tears and frustration and loneliness and fear, I prayed. And I knew underneath all that pain, God was with me, and He was listening. Now that I think of it, He was probably weeping, too. But I knew He was there. I cannot explain how; it was more than imagination, more than a feeling. It was truth. I believe the Holy Spirit's presence was there. It ministered to my spirit.

That's why I wrote this book—to remind you that God is with you, and you will be ministered to if only you seek Him. Let's seek Him together. Let's look in His Word and find wisdom and comfort and peace.



PRAYER SERVICE FOR OUR TROOPS

I base the following prayer service for our Troops on the Mothers' Prayers service. I borrowed the format and the concept of physically placing loved ones' names in a basket at the foot of the Cross as is done in the Mothers' Prayers paraliturgy. This step is optional, but it is always so moving and meaningful during Mothers' Prayers that I would encourage it for the Troop Prayer Service if the group is small. It's harder to do and more time consuming with a crowd.

The service and meditations follow for your use.

Required items: Bible, Crucifix, words for song(s), lit candle, basket and slips of paper for names if used.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*Holy Spirit of the Living God,
Give us wisdom to know Your Will.
Give us strength to do Your Will.
Give us the words to defend of our faith
and spread the Good News of God's love.*

Holy Spirit, increase our knowledge of You and thus our gratitude will increase. Help us to advance Your kingdom; may we always give glory to Your Name.

Fill us with the peace that passes all understanding, so there is no room for fear, no place for anxiety or apprehension.

We place all our trust in You. In Jesus's precious and Holy Name, we pray. Amen.



Prayer for Protection from All Evil

Father of Mercy, Creator of the Universe, Lord of All—deliver us from evil.

Renew our minds so that we can only recall the might of Your holy arm, Your omnipotence, Your infinite love for us.