



Guard the hearts of our defenders with God's Word!

January 2017

Dear Compassion Partners,

January is always a time for new beginnings. And for Compassion Radio this is especially true this year!

The first '*new thing*' is the Compassion Project we bring to your attention this month. For the first time in our many years of bible projects, we are reaching out to our military who are serving around the world — some in active combat zones — many others in places which could erupt at any time. Why *this project now*? We became aware that although the military says it provides *access* to Bibles, the supply system is slow and cumbersome. Often the unit budget does not allow enough purchases to meet the needs of all the soldiers. Logistics is also a huge challenge in getting Bibles to remote outposts when they *are* requested. God led Norm's heart very clearly to this issue. As a former Marine, himself, he's very passionate about the need. But we'd also like you to hear directly from two highly respected military officers about this issue:

"When I was on active duty as a pilot, if I had deployed with my aircraft not fully prepared to defend itself and carry out its mission, I would have been seriously derelict in my duty to my country and my fellow Airmen. When I was in Afghanistan, if I had gone outside the wire without ensuring my rifle was fully functional and loaded, I would have endangered myself and those around me. Preparedness is always the key to survival and success.

"Military members who deploy must prepare their minds and body for combat. They should not, however, neglect to prepare themselves spiritually for the inevitable struggles and long absences from home. The enemy attacks through loneliness, boredom, fear for the future and of the unknown, and various temptations.

*"Having my Bible with me when I was away from home and halfway around the world from my country was like having a personal lifeline from my Lord and Savior. No matter what was going on around me, there was peace, safety and power in the Word of God. By making Bibles available to troops preparing to deploy, or already on the front lines, you could make the difference in untold numbers of lives. Build up those already grounded in the Word, and reach those most in need by making sure they have the best weapon we have against the enemy: *God's Word!*"*

Colonel Thomas Huizenga, USAF (retired)

Former Commander Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan



Compassion Radio

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And from a Chaplain currently deployed overseas—near the frontlines in the fight with ISIS— we received this message:

“Army Chaplains are commissioned officers who provide religious support to Soldiers. One of the ways that Chaplains support the USC Title 10 constitutional rights of Soldiers is through the distribution of Bibles. Soldiers have the right to the free exercise of religion possessing and reading the Bible, no matter where they are deployed.

“Recently while I was assigned at Al-Asad in Anbar Province, Iraq, a steady stream of Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Special Operators came through the chapel requesting Bibles. Even I was a bit surprised by the need. “Cargo pocket size” Bibles were requested most. These warriors treasure their Bible and carry it with them — even in combat.

“Over my three deployments, the all-time favorite is THE SOLDIER’S BIBLE with a Special Prayer and Devotional Section for military personnel. This Bible is treasured for a lifetime, I know mine is.

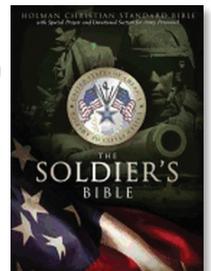
“Your partners can help Chaplains by insuring that every American Soldier who wants a Bible has one, especially on the battlefield. Please thank them for supporting the religious rights and needs of our American Soldiers.”

Maury Millican, Lieutenant Colonel—US Army Chaplain

Friends, neither of these military leaders knew what the other might say on this issue. And yet they reflect the same urgent theme. It is so encouraging to us to learn from first hand witnesses that our soldiers — especially those on the frontlines — are hungry for the Word of God and they understand how valuable it is.

Those is harm’s way train and arm themselves to meet great evil in the world. They’re also discovering their need to suit up for Spiritual Battle. And we, my friends, can help them prepare for the greatest battle of all—the battle for their **souls**. As Colonel Huizenga and Lieutenant Colonel Millican remind us, the troops face real ‘soul challenges’ each and every day. We need to help them face those challenges in the Power of God’s Spirit and Word.

In 2017, will you help us send Bibles to servicemen and women who are hungry for God’s Word? These Bibles have the full text with an extended section of devotionals, prayers, patriotic hymns, spiritual guidance, the words of Christ in red, and the plan of salvation. They come in a trim size, with a durable simulated leather binding that makes them easy to use in the field. Other features include a special presentation page, and a gift box. **Each Bible can be delivered into the hands of a seeker for \$20.00.**



Faithfully,

Cher Nelson and Bram Floria

Our 2nd new beginning, is decidedly bittersweet. While our guiding light is dimming, God is lighting the way to a new path. You may remember that last month we asked you to pray earnestly for Norm. It seems that God has a different answer for us than we had hoped for. We don’t know specifically what the days ahead have in store for Norm, but we **do** know that God holds him close. His vision and passion remain central to who we are as a ministry and a broadcast. We are trusting that you will continue to hold us all up in this season of change as his health forces him to discontinue his daily involvement and on-air presence. The ministry of Compassion Radio is Norm’s ‘living legacy,’ and it’s very much alive! We continue to pray and plan for many more years of passionate projects and powerful programs. To that end Norm will move into a new role as “President Emeritus.”

The Board has unanimously chosen to pass the responsibility for program and ministry direction to Bram Floria as President. This has always been the succession plan, we just didn’t expect it so suddenly. Cher will expand her role on-air, and serve as liaison with Compassion Radio Partners, Partnering Ministries and Special Projects. She will also serve as Chairperson pro-tem of the Board.

We can’t say this enough: Thank you for standing with us as we reach out to the world with the incomparable Gospel, and bring home the stories of those who respond in powerful ways. You’ll hear reports from Bram, Cher and Jim from many new places in the coming months. It gives us great joy to be able to share these new and exciting stories with you, each and every day. Your faithful support is not only appreciated, it is absolutely essential. Thank you for helping us end 2016 in a positive, joyful and faithful manner and financially strong for the challenges and opportunities in 2017.

P.S. Please give today. Our Soldiers need the strength and hope contained in God's Word! The Bibles they receive will change lives! With your gift of \$20.00 or more to the ministry of Compassion Radio this month, we will send to you at your request, either a lapel pin or a car magnet reminding you and others to pray for our troops. This is one of the best ways we can help repay their sacrifice.



4" X 8" Car Magnet



Lapel Pin

Call with your gift today to 1.800.868.2478, or give securely on-line at www.compassionradio.com, or check the appropriate box on the return card and mail to Post Office 2770, Orange, CA 92859