



## ***PSALM 91* by Peggy Joyce Ruth**

### **Book Review written by a Marine's Mother**

One of the ways that God has lovingly guided my husband and me to a deeper relationship with Him is through the yearly themes that Colonial has emphasized in the past several years. We have benefited from reading the Bible, meeting in small groups, learning about finances and praying. I know it is God's timing that we have our second year of prayer during our son's first deployment as a Marine to Afghanistan.

I had taped "Do Not Worry" from the title of a sermon series on my refrigerator and was praying throughout the day for David when the world's reality gave my heart a kick one Saturday morning soon after he left. A fellow meeting participant that Saturday had just pledged to support me in business from the meeting when I impulsively said that I could use help. I asked her to pray for my son in Afghanistan. She quickly assured me that she would and that he would be ok. She urged me to pray Psalm 91 for him.

My husband and I were comforted by this "soldiers'" psalm. I penciled in 21<sup>st</sup> Century updates to the ancient words—bullets instead of "arrows", IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) in place of the "trapper's snare" and PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) as "the pestilence that stalks in the darkness." That week we received *Psalm 91* by Peggy Joyce Ruth from that sister in Christ.

Ruth dissects the meaning of this psalm verse by verse in each of the short chapters in the first half of the book. She illustrates the importance of these promises with a liberal sprinkling of other Bible verses and with personal stories of hope from both military and nonmilitary points of view. She underscores the final line of the psalm, "and let him see My salvation" (Ps. 91:16) with Bible verses that show step-by-step what one must do to be saved. The second half of the book contains testimonies of protection and faith. Finally, there is a copy of the psalm in the back of the book with blanks where the name of the person for whom you pray can be inserted. I have typed out this page with my son's name inserted and can read it during my daily quiet time.

This book has been such an encouragement to my husband and me to live in faith rather than fear that we plan to give it to others who have loved ones defending our country. Instead of being fearful when I read of the unstable government in Afghanistan or of our uncertain leadership in this war, I can claim God's promise in Psalm 91:4—"His faithfulness is a shield and a bulwark." We will be praying Psalm 91 for all of the active duty military listed in our bulletin, on the military bulletin board at Quivira and in each of the prayer rooms.