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What we're all about

Reach Out, Columbia is committed to presenting the heart and works of Jesus Christ in clarity and purity. We strive to encourage a deeper, more steadfast love toward others as well as provide a vehicle for the body of Christ to come together as one voice in corporate agreement and expression of faith.



Letter from the
Editor



*Kristen and
Michael Madrid*

For 30 years my family has lived in the shadow of one of the largest military training bases in the country, Fort Jackson, in Columbia. I've attended church with, lived beside, and educated my children with those who serve in the United States Army. I've formed deep friendships with women whose husbands have served in Desert Storm, Iraq, and Afghanistan. But it wasn't until my daughter married a United States Naval officer that I truly began to understand the deep sacrifices these men, women, and families make on behalf of our country.

How would you feel if you kissed your spouse goodbye and knew you wouldn't see him or her for six, nine, or twelve months? During that time your baby will learn to walk, your 5-year-old will complete his entire kindergarten year, and your teenage son will learn to drive—without you. Deployed members of the military sometimes miss their babies' births, children's graduations, and best friends' funerals.

Depending on their assignment and job description, some members of the military are separated from their families for anywhere from three to twelve months at a time.

And while technology like email, texting, Skype, and Face Time helps them stay connected, communication is often spotty or non-existent. Internet outages or limitations mean no email or Facebook messages. Days or weeks pass before soldiers or sailors are allowed to communicate with their loved ones. In the meantime, their families wonder, worry, and pray...

On Saturday, November 11, our country will pause to commemorate the 99th anniversary of the armistice between the Allied nations and Germany at the close of World War I. This armistice went into effect on the eleventh day of the eleventh month and is regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars." Originally dubbed "Armistice Day" by President Roosevelt Wilson in 1918, the holiday was later changed to Veterans Day in 1954. The holiday continues to give us the opportunity to honor American veterans of all wars.

The great debt we owe our servicemen and their families should never go unnoticed. Pam Anderson, in this month's cover article, "Ministering to the Military in our Midst," shares some excellent ways to reach out, individually and as churches, to the men and women who keep us safe. Also in this issue is Part 2 of Jack Easterby's take on Christianity and sports. And don't miss the *A Changed Life* feature. This Columbia pastor's story hits especially close to home. I know you'll find it inspiring.

Blessings,

Lori