

“Support our troops”

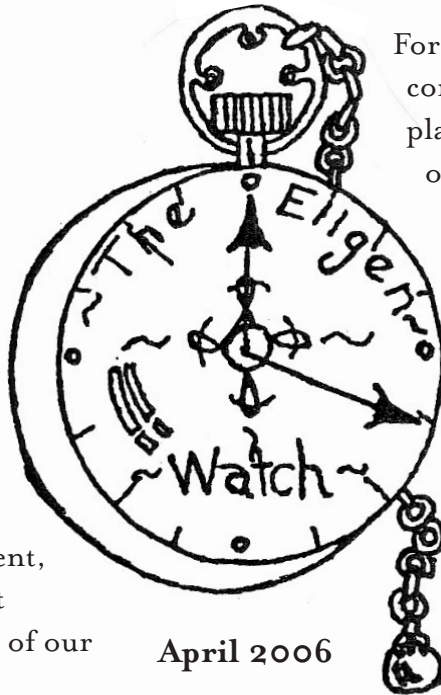
Dear Ellgen Watchers,

Does it seem to you that bumper sticker and sentiment is seen everywhere? Do you ever find yourself thinking, “I do, or at least I want to. After all, our troops are far away, in a hostile environment, facing constant danger? But how?” What would support of our troops look like, really?

My friend, Ronda, has asked me often, “what does that word mean?” So, with her in mind, I looked up “support.” There are many definitions depending on usage:

Support – 1) to endure bravely or quietly: BEAR; 2) to keep from fainting, yielding or loosing courage: COMFORT; 3) to pay the costs of: MAINTAIN.

However, one meaning I find captures the situation of the soldier himself: **1) to endure bravely or quietly: BEAR.** Today’s soldiers are bravely and quietly in a foreign land on a mission to secure freedom and defend the defenseless.



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For Brad and me the military community has long had a tender place in our hearts, and we find ourselves in a position where we are freed up to do something tangible that will “support our troops.” We have sought council and wisdom from those who know us well, and after much prayer, we have joined Cadence International to again run a Hospitality House ministry. This will position us to offer another definition of support: **2) to keep from fainting, yielding or loosing**

courage: COMFORT. We are targeted to go to a Hospitality House in Baumholder, Germany.

The men and women there face a doubly difficult assignment. Initially they are stationed in Germany, a place far from

home with a language and culture foreign to them. Then, they get “forward deployed” into a combat zone for months at a time. For the single man or woman this is doubly unsettling; for the married, it adds the extra stress of leaving a spouse and perhaps children, alone in a foreign place without the support of



family, friends or home town. This very disruption, however, serves to plow up the soil of their hearts to be open to the love of God, or for the believer, to deepen their faith. Our form of support then, is to teach, strengthen, love, and listen to them, in essence to provide them a “home away from home.”

But, there is another definition of support I found in the dictionary, and this is where YOU play a role. **3) to pay the costs of: MAINTAIN.** Most of you cannot GO, but you can be vitally involved in supporting our troops. You can give, and you can pray.

The costs involved in all three cited definitions are high. A soldier may give his/her life as the price demanded for support. Brad and I give less than that by being willing to leave America, to live far from home ourselves for the sake of these dear men and women. Can you give, too, time in prayer, and finances in support of these troops and let us be your representatives/missionaries?

Jesus said, “Trust Me, I have everything under control.” Believing Him, we start this part of the journey of discovering a team of people who will pray and give. Cadence has set the amount of monthly support needed at \$6,721. In addition to our monthly support, there will be significant moving and start up costs that we are looking for the Lord to provide. These amounts are huge to me, but confident that it is worth it, we share this vision with you, and ask you to join our team and “support our troops.”

We shall write again soon, but won't you join us on this new adventure?

With love,
Brad and Debbie
Brad & Debbie Ellgen

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RESPONSE SLIP

Enclosed you will find a slip we would like you to complete and return in the envelope provided. You can choose one or all of the following options:

- 1) Indicate a special one-time gift and enclose a check.
- 2) Indicate monthly support and enclose your first check.
- 3) Indicate your monthly support and what date you can begin your support.

If you send a check you will receive a tax deductible receipt soon after you mail in your first contribution. You will also receive an envelope for your next contribution along with instructions on how you can arrange for funds to be transferred electronically on an automatic basis if that is your preference.