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Daily comfort and inspiration for tough times

Chicken Soup for the Soul and Mary Beth Chapman share daily devotions to support you in times of trouble

COS COB, Conn. – Jeri McBryde was overwhelmed by the task of caring for her ill and elderly parents when an “angel” in the form of a cousin miraculously showed up on her doorstep to provide long-term care. The death of Rhonda Hensley’s newborn granddaughter devastated her family and yet united thousands of people in prayer and support during a painful time. Sally Dixon was miserable in her stressful job until she set aside her self-pity and committed to work “for the glory of God.”

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Devotional Stories for Tough Times (Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, October 4, 2011, 978-1935096740, \$14.95) is filled with 101 daily devotions from men, women, and children who have been dealt huge blows in their lives. Some lost a beloved child or loved one and can barely find the energy to make it through another day. Others are dealing with a financial hardship or job loss that threatens their family’s fragile stability. And for many others, life has just thrown them a curveball, and they are merely trying to remain upright. Yet, this book isn’t only about tough times; it is also about hope and support.

In her foreword for the book, Mary Beth Chapman, *New York Times* bestselling author and wife of award-winning Christian recording artist Steven Curtis Chapman, describes her family’s journey through grief following the death of her five-year-old daughter. She says, “May you gain strength and be encouraged as you read stories about healing and encouragement that have been experienced by those who have walked through the cold, wintry forest and into the warm, flower-filled spring.”

The book’s co-authors, Susan M. Heim and Karen C. Talcott, suggest in their introduction that there are several ways in which you can read *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Devotional Stories for Tough Times*. They say, “You can choose to spend a little time with God each day by starting at the beginning of the book and reading a daily story for inspiration. Or, if you’re seeking guidance, hold the book closed and pray for God to guide you to just the right devotional that you need to read that day. Then, randomly open the book and see where the Spirit leads! And, lastly, if you’re dealing with a particular problem, scroll through the table of contents and turn to the appropriate chapter to select a devotional that applies to your situation.”

When Ann Holbrook was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer, she found comfort in the Scriptures and learned what was really important: her relationships with her family, friends and Creator. Kathleen Kohler was devastated by her son’s involvement with drugs and gangs until she saw the signs of “God’s protective hand” in her son’s life and learned to trust in Him. Jennie Bradstreet encouraged her son to take out his frustrations over his father’s illness by breaking her kitchen dishes when she realized that she valued her child’s emotions and wellbeing over any material thing in her house.

Tough times are a part of life and spring up when we least expect them. The words of wisdom from the contributors in this book will introduce you to the personal experiences of others who have gone through difficult times and found new faith, joy and strength, affirming God’s unconditional love and wisdom. If you are facing trials in your life or know someone who needs some comfort or inspiration, *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Devotional Stories for Tough Times* would surely make a welcome gift.

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Devotional Stories for Tough Times (Susan M. Heim and Karen C. Talcott; foreword by Mary Beth Chapman) will be released on October 4, 2011. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, publishes all the latest titles in the famous Chicken Soup for the Soul book series, which are distributed through Simon & Schuster, Inc. Since 1993, books in the Chicken Soup for the Soul series have sold over 112 million copies, with titles translated into over 40 languages. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing also licenses the right to use its famous trademark to high quality licensees. The company is currently implementing a plan to expand into all media, is working with TV networks on several TV shows and is developing a major Internet presence dedicated to life improvement, emotional support, inspiration and wellness. In 2007, “USA Today” named *Chicken Soup for the Soul* one of the five most memorable and impactful books in the last quarter century. For more information visit: www.chickensoup.com.

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To receive a review copy of *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Devotional Stories for Tough Times* or to request an interview, please contact Shelby Sledge at (512) 206-0229 or shelby@sheltoninteractive.com.