

## Miracles Among the Rubble

Bringing Convoys of Humanitarian Aid,  
Hugs, and Hope to a War-torn Region



Carol R. Gray

Edited by Samantha Richardson  
and Rebecca Johnson

“Carol Gray, who styles herself an ordinary English wife and mother of seven, describes, in this brief memoir, her extraordinary, extensive, and almost accidental war relief in Bosnia and Croatia. . . Braving the horrors of war, she experiences unexpected miracles, ‘content in the knowledge that having given of ourselves, we shall receive.’”  
— Claudia L. Bushman, author of *Contemporary Mormonism*

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and Hope to a War-torn Region*

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155 pages

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Carol Rosemary Gray was a British mother and homemaker of seven children who became a recognized humanitarian leader in Europe and Africa. After receiving the all clear from her first battle with cancer at age 29, she made a promise to her Heavenly Father that she would live every single day to the fullest. This promise was exemplified years later when she began by organizing and transporting relief aid for victims of the Balkan War during the early 1990s, returning more than 34 times in the following nine years. She then went on to found Hugs International TLC, which, through Carol’s efforts, funded the construction and operating of homes, a school, dormitories, a medical center and a sports field in Ghana for the next 10 years. Carol passed away in 2010 at age 66.

This volume comprises a selection of heart-wrenching and inspiring experiences told in Carol’s poetically unique style of expression. Her stories are a testament to the extraordinary achievements of an ordinary mother, who was able to do remarkable things with nothing more than unwavering faith, the help and guidance of the Holy Ghost, and her relationship with the Savior.

**Subjects:** Yugoslav War, 1991–1995; civilian relief; personal narratives; British; women in charitable works; humanitarian relief; religious faith; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



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## Miracles Among the Rubble

*A testament to the extraordinary achievements of an ordinary mother who was able to do remarkable things with nothing more than unwavering faith.*

### Key Themes

- The power of an ordinary mother
- Unifying religions and cultures
- Hope against all odds
- Healing power of love

The gripping stories of Carol's adventures in war zones, the heart-rending portrayals of people in dire need, and the exhilarating accounts of significant successes in the face of daunting challenges will appeal to a broad base of readers. Latter-day Saints in particular will relate to Carol's dedication to her mission and her sense of being guided as she takes one step after another into the unknown. Carol's book will also empower women, particularly those that perhaps feel they have nothing to offer in terms of being of service or may feel unqualified to take up a challenge. Carol's story and experiences do not hesitate to inspire those who hear them. One woman said, "There are several things that impress me about the story. All she did was love people and follow the Spirit and look what she was able to accomplish! Seeing how one ordinary woman with no special training or skill was able to do so much good and affect so many people in such a profound but simple way really makes me feel that perhaps I, who am also an ordinary woman, can do amazing things that effect change within my own sphere of influence."

### Excerpt

The beauty of the area that we now slowly traversed disguised very well the danger that lurked around every corner, but large red signs declared it. Mines! Thousands of mines lay in the grounds of this beautiful area, where families used to enjoy their weekends together, splashing in the water, soaking up the sun, and eating at the now-broken picnic tables. Yellow and black plastic ribbons blew about in the winter breeze, warning everyone not to venture beyond them. Those who had, I was told, were dead or dreadfully maimed from stepping on the cleverly concealed explosives. Although the shells and sniper fire no longer prevailed in this area, death and misery took place every day as the children returning to their homes wandered forgetfully into the area where they had loved to play.

As the commander spoke, the distant echo of a mine triggered and the dull thud of an explosion reached us. Silence filled the air as we all turned in unison and gazed towards the direction from whence the sound came. Our hearts full of sorrowing sent a heavenward plea that it was a stray animal and not a child that had ventured into the wood. Suddenly all the wind had gone from my sails, and my joy of the morning disappeared. In silence, my Sammy and I returned to our truck. Gathering our thoughts and hanging on to what was left of our enthusiasm, we began our journey. (Pages 23–24)

### Recommended Chapters

Prologue - The Yellow Rose, XV

9 - My Little Chocolate boy, 36

13 - None Goes His Way Alone, 60

14 - Evidence of Hope, 65

## About the Authors



**Carol R. Webb** was the only child of parents who were not able to conceive more children. As a consequence, she dreamed of having a large family of her own. Carol happily raised her seven children in the gospel and rejoiced in their growth. Her capacity to love and share that love, knew no bounds. After surviving her first battle with cancer, Carol believed she had been presented with a second chance at life for a reason. That reason, and what was to become the second chapter of Carol's life adventure, came into stark focus one day when viewing scenes of human devastation in war-torn Bosnia and Croatia. Carol spent the next twenty years giving her heart and soul to those in need in Croatia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Ghana. She passed away in 2010 after her final battle with cancer.



**Samantha Richardson** is the second of Carol Gray's seven children. Samantha accompanied Carol on her first humanitarian aid trips to Bosnia in 1992-93 before starting her own family. She is native to England, where she graduated from the University of Hull with a BA Honours Degree in Spanish and French with Translation Studies. Samantha is married with three sons and currently resides in England.



**Rebecca Johnson** attended Brigham Young University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in English Literature and worked as a student editor. After serving a mission in Russia, she received a Master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from George Mason University. She is returning to editing after twenty years of full-time mothering. She lives in Germany with her husband and seven children.