Acknowledgements

"It takes a village to raise a child."

African proverb

In many, many ways it has taken a community to write this book. Though it is nothing next to the work that has been done, I wish to acknowledge and thank all of those who have helped "raise this book."

First I wish to acknowledge and thank the contributors of their personal stories that add so much both in content and in heart to the book. In the order in which they appear I thank Shari, Lory, Ihsan Ramadan, Naima, Lydia Kelley, Parsa, Khaula and others who did not wish to be listed. Your stories inspire, and your editorial suggestions have been invaluable. Lydia also has additional heartfelt thanks for her proof reading and all her support.

Others also added wonderful editorial input, and I thank them all: Beth Harris, Azar Khan, Margaret Sierras, Donna Udel, Carol Vinson, Sara Sexton, and many others. I especially thank my husband Ralph not only for his wonderful editing, but also for his tireless support and the beautiful photograph that is the cover of this book. Finally, I wish to thank Abdullah Arik for his excellent Foreword, his editorial comments and all of his assistance.

In truth, this book is as much or more yours than it is mine. May it be acceptable to God, to Whom all thanks and acknowledgement is due.