

## A PLEA for PRAYER – March 3, 2012 - No. 110

**We would appreciate updates on the location of our military because of continued unit movements.**

Note: This list and plea will be updated and expanded as God gives information and grace. While this prayer plea is posted on the Internet, every effort is made to keep information appropriately private and with minimum information on mission, units and location. All requests, news and update information should be sent to the editor at: Coie.1@opc.org

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13). Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16). And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever (Isaiah 32:17).*

The request continues. Please pray for our OPC men and women, sons and daughters who are in harm's way, about to be in harm's way, and who support those in harm's way. *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (James 5:16b). Pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17).*

*And he [Jehoshaphat] placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken. And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; But sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance. And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah. (II Chronicles 17:1-6)*

*And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper... And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel. So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about. (II Chronicles 20:20b, 29-30)*

**Prayer focus: Righteous Kings and Valiant Warriors, Part 3** – Jehoshaphat followed King Asa and Judah was blessed for the 25 years of his reign as they obeyed God and kept a strong defense. The Levites and Priests taught *the book of the law... and the fear of the Lord fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah (vs. 10). The mighty men of war, mighty men of valour were in Jerusalem (vs. 13b). He had riches and honour in abundance (18:1). When Jehoshaphat had made league with Israel, God reminded him not to be in league with the ungodly (19:2) after God smote the king of Israel (18:33) with the bow drawn at a venture (18:33). The judges were commanded: Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the Lord, who is with you in the judgment, to not be a respecter of persons, and to deal courageously, and the Lord will be with the good (19:6-7, 11). Later when they went to war, God speaking through a Levite commanded them: Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's (20:15b). Judah prospered in the fear of God with fenced cities and strong warriors for their human defense. The way to peace and prosperity is to believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets. Doing so, the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.*

Please pray for our valiant men of war to call out to God continually for strength to enable victory over the enemy. And please pray that our nation will chose righteous leaders who call on the name of the Lord and rule righteously that we might have peace.

Please pray that God will *shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him*. Pray that they will fear only God and not man and be of a good courage. Pray that they will be bold as a lion and that the wicked will flee. (Prov. 28:1)

Pray as we battle forces both foreign and domestic in our long war plead with our God to make a way of escape and that in doing so, God will restore us as a nation to His righteousness. Pray for the gracious and needed gift from God of genuine national repentance; especially from the iniquities of abortion, supporting homosexuality, and rejection of the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Continue to pray that we will recognize the true nature of the enemy. Be not weary in hoping, praying and waiting to see the salvation of our great God whose new mercies come every morning! Pray that the Gospel may continue to have free expression. Pray that the culture of death will be defeated and that our nation will stand united and will endure in the defense of freedom. Please continue to pray for the spouses, children, parents and siblings of our warriors. Pray for the families of the fallen, pray for the wounded and the two captured that they may all endure and come to rest and trust in Christ. May they defend our nation's liberties as guaranteed by our Constitution with stalwart hearts and minds.

May we be “**animated to pray by the certain hope of obtaining our requests.**” Calvin

We have lives precious to us in harm's way: Aaron, Andrew (two), Brett, Caleb, Chris, Curt, Dan, Doug, Douglas, Gabriel, Gareth, Harry, Isaac, Jeremy, Jim, John (two), Michael, Nicolas, Noah, Paul, Rachel, **Ray**, Reservist R, Robert, Scott, and Stephen (two). New deployments shown in bold.

- [02/04/12] From Lt Col Ray P. - I very much appreciate your faithfulness. I'll be deploying to Afghanistan for 6 months starting in March as the J-3 (Operations Officer) with an ... headquarters element [in country]. Next year we'll be off to Vietnam where I'll be the Air Attache at the US Embassy in ... In His Grip, Ray.

- From Pastor David - Just an update on one of our young men: Neal T. is now [in] OK, finally getting his real fight training - learning to fly the "heavies" (which is what he wanted, no "top gun" allure for him). The Lord bless you, David

- From Pastor Archie - Thank you for your diligent labors on behalf of our chaplains and military personnel. Capt. Rylion (Riley) D. Fraas USAF is no longer serving in the USAF. He was just ordained to the ministry of the gospel by the Four Cs Churches (Conservative congregational churches) and this Sunday begins serving Hope Congregational Church in Burlington, CO. May the Lord bless you and your family. In Christ, Archie

- [02/06/12] From CDR Doug Withington, CHC, USN - Greetings from North Carolina. I pray that all is well with you. We have a new name to add to your list. He and his family just transferred to our church from the PCA. His name is CDR Robert W. USN. He's a Navy doctor presently in

school at UNC Chapel Hill studying pulmonary sleep disorders. We will probably only get to keep him for a year. He will most likely deploy next year. In Christ, Doug Withington

- And then this post script from Doug – By the way I'm officially retired from the Navy Reserves as of October 7, 2011 (my 60th birthday). [Doug, thank you for your many years of faithful service to both God and Country! May he continue to bless you as your continue to serve him in the pastorate.]

- Praise God for a useful and blessed meeting of both our OPC Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel and the Commission meeting held this last week. Thank you for your prayers.

- The revision of DADT presents difficulties for many Christians, both those serving in line positions and those serving as chaplains. Therefore we urge you to pray:

1. For all who serve in our military who name the name of Christ,
2. For all Christian chaplains who serve not only the military but also their churches under creedal statements of faith and belief,
3. That the implementation of this legislation will be just and righteous,
4. That the heretofore moral standards of our military will not be severely denigrated by those of good moral character leaving this godly calling,
5. That the Committee and Commission will have wisdom in order to protect those who serve. Praise God that the Commission has adopted additional protections for our chaplains. Thank you for your prayers! Please pray that God will grant a powerful and sustained protection for our Chaplains from this revision.
6. That our military, serving in one of the last bastions of the defense of freedom, will not be diminished or perish,
7. That this trial will not also in time descend on the pulpits of our land.

- Please continue to pray for one of our warriors who needs much prayer for strength to continue in the fight and for true peace of God in his heart. Finally, please continue to pray for a number of our Marines and soldiers probably engaged in current offensives in one of our theaters of operation. Pray that God will keep and preserve them!

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**Chaplains' Reports:**

With all of our military might, the greatest weapon we have in the long war against Islamic terrorists is the Sword of the Spirit utilized in the proclamation of the Gospel and empowered by the sovereign Lord of evangelism. The church wields this weapon best when the expectant prayers of His people accompany it. Pray the Lord of the harvest for the success of the Gospel and for more laborers for the harvest, specifically for more chaplains. Plead for a corps of reformed chaplains sufficient to fill every available opening and sufficient to minister to all of our own deployed warriors. Great petitions to Him bring!

From **Chaplain (Col) Chris Wisdom USA** – A special prayer request:

- 1) Give thanks to God for our renewed opportunity to serve the Lord in the Chaplaincy through June 2014,
- 2) Pray that our medical travel back to the USA will be timely and safe, and that Ginny's medical procedure successful (during March),
- 3) Pray that brief reunions with children, grandchildren and friends would be blessed by God so that we may love God and each other more as a result.

**Ch Capt Phil Hollstein III, USAF, 355 FW/HC, Luke-Monahan AFB, AZ (Presbytery of the Southeast)** Christmas was a great time to relax and be with my family in Texas. The kids also enjoyed it. Since my last report, we've found out that we're expecting again! (This will be our third, due in June). **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for mom especially that she will get needed rest, and be able to be spiritually fed as she is pulled in many directions. Please pray for our chapel staff, that despite strong personalities and work-philosophy differences, we would work together as a team.

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**Ch Capt Cornelius Johnson, USAF, 633 ABW/HC, Langley AFB, VA (Presbytery of New Jersey)** I am leading a mid-week Bible study in my unit on the Westminster Confession of Faith, and also preaching sermons on it as well at Chapel. I have been able to teach the Airmen the basics of the Reformed Faith. Many people have commented about how much they are learning from the study. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Continue to keep my family in prayer, and also that God would continue to bless my ministry here at Langley.

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**CH (BG) Doug Lee, USA, RET, Executive Director for the PRJC, and MNA Coordinator for Chaplains for the PCA (PCA – Potomac Presbytery)** It's a high honor to "*Catch, Credential and Care*" for our chaplains. I am amazed at the caliber of men God brings our way...and for the quality of ministry they provide for our troops and civilians around the world. Over the next few months I will be also partnering with other Endorsers to ensure religious liberty is not denied to any chaplain or military person as a result of their religious beliefs. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray that our chaplains will continue to be bold and fearless when opportunities for the Gospel come their way. Pray also that military chaplains' families will weather their husbands' absences and that God will call more men to other institutional chaplaincies in prisons and hospital, hospices, businesses, nursing homes, etc.

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Pray that President Barack H. Obama, will guide us as a nation in righteousness that is according to God's Word, and that he will *be just, ruling in the fear of God* (II Sam 23:3b). Pray for those who lead our warriors, from those in the cabinet to the NCO in the field, particularly for all those who name the Name of Christ.

**Pray for those who serve us, that their courage, strength and wisdom will not waver or fail, that their actions will be swift, victorious and bold as a lion (Proverbs 28:1), that God will grant them safety and bring them home to their families. Pray for their wives and families, that as they are without their loved ones, they may endure and support them. Pray that we will minister to the families in the stead of those who serve. Pray for their testimony to the lost. Please pray both publicly and privately.**

Pray that our **chaplains will be bold** in the ministry of the Word – that precious Word that not only tells how we can have life eternal, but also instructs how we are to live! Pray for all our members who serve, that the light of the Gospel will burn brightly in their lives.

In His hands,

Robert M. Coie, for the OPC Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel