

A PLEA for PRAYER – February 1, 2014 - No. 133

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).*

*The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus *said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly. (John 4:17-18 NASB)*

Prayer focus: *Our Thirsty Land* – In the earliest part of His public ministry, our Lord Jesus spoke these words to the Samaritan woman who had come to draw water from Jacob's well, "... but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." (John 4:14 NASB)

We learn early in life that severe thirst can best be assuaged by cold, pure water, and that physical thirst is a paradigm of our spiritual thirst which can be satisfied only with the water of life, as Christ so well stated, "... I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." (John 6:35)

Probably most of us do not give much thought to where our drinking water comes from, but in a time of very severe drought sufficient water can become (even to the apathetic) a very serious concern, as it now is in the San Joaquin valley of central California. Droughts are not a new phenomenon, clearly addressed in Scripture, as in the days of Elijah when God withheld rain for three and a half years to discipline the idolatrous Israelites (James 5:17-18), even as Solomon had earlier warned (II Chronicles 6:26-27).

Without sufficient water people can be in danger of physical suffering, or even perishing. In the Southwestern and Western states millions are already facing severe water restrictions, even as millions are already perishing of spiritual thirst in the midst of a great drought of godliness and righteousness.

So what is the inspired remedy? What is our realistic hope? What is the call to God's people who have not bowed the knee to Baal (and there are many baals worshipped in the United States today)? What from us has the potential to move our Lord's heart to end the great droughts in our beloved country?

The biblical answer is "PRAY"! To pray for the gift of repentance unto life and saving faith in those who are strangers to Christ, and especially for those who are in leadership over us (I Timothy 2:1-4). Pray for the gift of renewed heartfelt repentance, lively faith and a heart of earnest supplication in those of us who, by God's loving grace, do believe. Pray for a great awakening while it is still a day of mercy. Pray that our glorious Saviour and King will cause His will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven. And pray especially that those who serve in our military services, Chaplains and all others, will have a testimony to the kingdom Lordship of Jesus Christ so powerful that our Father in Heaven will use it, instrumentally, in bringing an end to both droughts in our thirsty land (James 5:16)!

Please pray for all in authority over us and in particular those who serve to protect us as ministers of authority under God and our chaplains as ministers of God to those serving in a lost and dying world.

Please pray for our valiant men of war to call out to God continually for strength to enable victory over the enemy and that they will continue to be well equipped for battle. And please pray that our nation will be led by humble 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 from defeat, from losing heart in the battle 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, the widespread disregard of the fourth commandment 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 and for the wounded 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: Andrew (two), Bowe, Brett, Bryan, Chris, Christopher, Daniel, David (two), Doug, Douglas, Gabriel, Isaac, Jack, Jim, John, Nicolas, Noah, Paul (two), Rachel, Ray, Robert (two), Scott, Sebastian, Stephen (two), and Timothy. New deployments are shown in bold. Please pray for Chaplain David DeRienzo deployed in harm's way. Praise God for the safe return of Chaplain Stephen Roberts.

- From Bowe's family – The Bergdahls continue to rely on their faith in the Sovereign God who sustains us by His Providence in history. May our lives be a testimony to this SDG, DV. [Bowe has been a prisoner of war since June 30, 2009.]

- CAPT Bryan J. Weaver, CHC, USN – Praise God that Bryan came safely through surgery on 25 January to remove a brain tumor. Bryan has been at peace with this providence in his life and testifies to several remarkable opportunities in conjunction with this illness to bear witness to the Gospel of Christ. Please pray for his wife and family, give thanks for the medical team and continue to pray for his full recovery.

- From his Dad - My son Bradley W. was promoted to Capt (USA) in October. Thanks and God bless you for the service you are providing.

- From Pastor Edd - A1C Olivia H. C. USAF is now SR Airman Olivia H. C. USAF, C/1C Isaac C. USAF....is no longer a reservist but will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 2014. [We give our congratulations to all on their promotions.]

- One of the warriors we pray for has received this nation's third highest medal for valor. SSGT Tim W. received the Silver Star and a Purple Heart (separate engagement). Tim was credited with 5 enemy kills in an engagement where he rescued his unit leader whose life was spared, and lead a 30 hour battle that exposed him for long periods to intense enemy fire. Praise God for giving us such "mighty men".

- We have received word that Lynn A. is now Col (Sel.) i.e. selected for promotion to Colonel, and that Toby C. has been promoted to LTC. [Congratulations brothers!]

- 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. Please pray that God will grant a powerful and sustained protection for our chaplains from this revision.
6. That our military by 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.

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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!

CH (CPT) Stephen L. Roberts, USA, Recently redeployed from Afghanistan (Presbytery of Mid-Atlantic) I have returned from deployment to Afghanistan from July to January and was separated from my wife and baby boy for eight months. While the separation was difficult, the

time abroad was clearly marked by God's gracious providence. I led chapel services and Bible studies every week, had over a hundred counseling cases and ample opportunities to have evangelistic and apologetic discussions. God not only blessed the work out there, but reminded me that it is indeed His ministry. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Pray that I would desire to see Christ exalted on the home front as He was on the warfront. Pray also that God would give me wisdom with regard to family, pastoral work, and future Chaplaincy opportunities.

Email: Stephen.L.Roberts30.mil@mail.mil

Ch Capt Cornelius Johnson, USAF, MacDill Chapel, MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL (Presbytery of New Jersey) Greetings from MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL. My family and I have settled in very nicely here at Tampa. I serve as the Senior Protestant Chaplain in charge of the Protestant worship services and religious education classes. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Pray that many would come to know Christ through the preaching of the Word and the various Bible studies. Pray that God's blessings would be on our family. Pray that God would protect and give the Chaplains wisdom as we deal with various attacks on our religious liberty.

Email: cornelius.johnson@us.af.mil

Ch Capt C. Phillip Hollstein III, USAF, 355 FW/HC, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ (Presbytery of Southern California) We enjoyed the holidays and were able to spend time with family in TX. Also we are thankful that the busyness of the chapel holiday season is behind us. Now looking forward to Easter, and waiting to hear if we will move this summer. Please pray, as always, for our spiritual care to Airmen. In the Air Force, the ratio of Chaplains to Airmen is very low, so it is harder to give good coverage and ensure spiritual care on a personal basis.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray that God would bless and guide our engagement with the Airmen in their work areas ("industrial ministry") to get the maximum benefit.

Email: charles.hollstein@dm.af.mil

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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