

A PLEA for PRAYER – March 1, 2014 - No. 134

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).*

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul... Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You. (Psalm 25:1, 21)

Prayer focus: A Plea for Integrity and Uprightness – In a time of discouragement, David turned from the way of the pagans and his enemies who searched for irrational pointers and means for their guidance. Nor would he today turn to their modern successors, confident in social sciences and relativism to erase their guilt and lead them to the “good life.” Rather, he trusted in the fear of the Lord to receive guidance in the way he should choose as the Lord has promised in His covenants. Proverbs 11:3 reminds us that *The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the crookedness of the treacherous will destroy them.*

He turned to the Lord for truth and salvation in steadfast confidence but not claiming any special personal urgency. Jesus commended this humble, prayerful attitude in Matthew 5:3, *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

There is no radiant victory over the psalmist's troubles in this prayer. But there is assurance that, as we wait on the Lord, learning His ways and paths, we will receive pardon and uprightness in His time and wisdom. The psalm closes with the psalmist's hope unfulfilled. Yet he is still faithful in remembering that God's providence is much greater than his individual neediness: *Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.*

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.

- 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. Please continue to pray for his return to freedom and his family!]

- CAPT Bryan J. Weaver, CHC, USN – Please continue to pray for Bryan and his family while he continues to recover from surgery in late January to remove a cancerous brain tumor and during follow up testing and procedures at the Medical University of South Carolina located in Charleston. 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, Shelly, as she is his primary caregiver and chauffeur (he is not permitted to drive a vehicle at this time). Shelly and Bryan give thanks for the MUSC medical team and their Navy doctor who is their next door neighbor at MCAS Beaufort. The Weaver's are truly grateful for all the support they have received from the OPC and Marine Corps families.

- From LCDR John Carter CHC USN - Just a quick update: I've reported for duty here at Camp Lejeune, NC. I'm attached to 2nd Marine Logistics Group and have been assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 24. I got here just in time to start pre-deployment workups. We leave on Friday for 29 Palms [aka 29 Stumps] where we'll be for six weeks. I am expecting a deployment later this year with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. My family remains near my former base until June. Thanks for all the wonderful prayer support, Grace in Him, JC

- [01/01/14] - From his parents - a note that we missed posting last month - Just a quick note. It is great to see my son's name on the list. Could you update his rank to PFC. He will be leaving Pensacola the end of February, but have not heard yet what his next base will be. He still has more training for airframe mechanic MOS. Thanks again, Ken & Lisa L.

• From Pastor Kim - Bob, Please take #35 - Amn Whitney Colbeth USAF off the list as she is no longer in the Air Force. Thanks for all your work in this! [And please thank Whitney for her service.]

• [02/11/14] From his pastor Gerald - Dear Bob, Thank you a thousand times for your faithfulness in maintaining and updating the military prayer list. I have a name to add from a member in my congregation who is stationed [in] MD. Please add the name of USAF SSgt Richy B. to the list.

• 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, which has taken an oath defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic, 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 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 Phil 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 busy-ness 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 with the Prayer Theme by CAPT Gordon E. (Ed) Kauffman USN, Ret. [Last month we neglected to note that the theme was by CDR Robert B. Needham CHC USN Ret.]