

A PLEA for PRAYER – July 5, 2014 - No. 138

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 (1 Thessalonians 5:17).*

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)

Prayer focus: *I will build my church* - French poet Alexis de Tocqueville said in 1831, "Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power." One cannot talk about the history of America without talking about how the church has had help to shape the morality, work ethic, political, and social views of our country. However, when we look at our churches today we see our churches today shaped by our sinful culture, thus leading to a departure from biblical standards. The current situation in our church and our world causes many Christians today to be discouraged by the wickedness in our churches and in the world. However, we ought to remember Christ word in Matthew 16: 18, "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

As we look at this verse, we notice who is giving the guarantee. It is the sovereign God, Jesus Christ who is making the guarantee. He does not say I might or may build my church, but I will build my church. We often judge the truthfulness of a statement, by who is making the statement. Many people make guarantees but we know from experience, or their inability to do it that we cannot trust their statement. However, when Jesus makes a statement we believe it because we know he is the almighty God. As the psalmist says in Psalm 115:3, "Our God is in heaven and he does whatsoever he pleases". The almighty sovereign God rules by his sovereign pleasure, and it is his pleasure to build his church.

The second thing we see in this verse is that, Jesus says that he will build his church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. That is a remarkable statement, because Jesus is going to build his church despite the opposition coming against the church. For two thousand years, we have seen the enemies of the church bring out their heavy guns to destroy the church, but despite that, the church continues today. Why is it that we have 300+ PRCC Chaplains preaching the gospel on government grounds, using taxpayer money? The enemies of God have used several arguments to get rid of chaplains, namely the separation of church and state argument. So far they have failed, and the reason why is because God is building his church. There are unbelievers whom he wants to save and Christians who need encouragement. I have talked to a number of people, and they share with me how they owe a great deal of thanks to the chaplain who God used to save them or to disciple them. A few

months ago, I had young woman weeping in my office asking me about salvation and forgiveness, and another PRCC Chaplain shared the same experience. God is building his church.

Finally, notice the ownership that Christ takes of his church. He uses possessive pronouns such as the words, I and my. Jesus purchased his church when he died for her on the cross. Because it is his valuable possession, he protects, defends, and watches over her. My Chaplain supervisor purchased a retirement fixer upper home that was built in the 1850s in New Hampshire. Since he purchased the house, every year he uses his vacation leave to go work on his house. He has fixed the roof, upgraded the plumbing, and the electricity in the house. His regret is that he can only spend 3 or 4 weeks a year working on his house, and cannot continually remodel and watch over the house. Jesus, the omniscient God, never leaves his church. He constantly builds, watches over, and defends the church. As Christians in the military, we ought to be diligent in working for Christ, because we have the assurance that Christ is building the church. The fourth stanza of the hymn, The Church's is one Foundation is "The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend, to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end; though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale, against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail."

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 *show 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), 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.

The 81st General Assembly took the following action to encourage God's people in prayer:

In the wise providence of our Sovereign LORD, we acknowledge thankfully, the 31 May release of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl USA from Taliban captivity; and that he is in the custody of the United States Army.

Consequently, for those who ask how to pray, we suggest the following, or similar petitions.

- For grace to resist the temptation to rush to judgment, in the absence of sufficient information.
- Thanks to God for the release of Bowe.
- For Bowe's recovery from any and all ill effects arising from his captivity, with healing as well for his family members.
- That truth will triumph and justice will be done
- That, in the months to come, it might please our Lord Jesus to use the events of the past five years to draw Bowe and his family increasingly closer to Himself and give them His peace.

• Chaplain Bryan Weaver - Please pray for Chaplain Bryan J. Weaver (CAPT, USN) and CCMP member, who will undergo a Gamma Knife Radiation Therapy on Monday, July 07, 2014 at the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston for a second malignant brain tumor. Please remember him, and his family (wife Shelly, sons Grant, Kurt and Trent) before the Throne of Grace, especially that the LORD will be pleased to comfort his heart, to heal Bryan completely and enable him soon to resume his effective ministry to Marines.

• [6/14/14] From Pastor Iain - 2nd.Lt. Raymond G. Z. USMC has been promoted to 1st.Lt.

• [6/16/14] From his Dad, Brad - My son Samuel is now a 1st.Lt. in the Marines stationed [at an overseas base]. Thanks for the updates.

• From Chaplain Carter - Just a quick update: Our son, Ryan, is now an OS3 with the USCG. He was promoted last month and just started at his new duty station in Buffalo, NY. Also, I've got the family with me now, and we're on the road. Staying tonight in Idaho. We're driving to Lejeune. I've got to get two vehicles over there, so we're driving my truck and towing my car behind it. We expect to take 10 days to make it there.

• Please pray for the complete recovery of CCMP Chairman Bob Needham from his knee replacement surgery performed on 30 June. Pray for healing, relief from pain and especially for sleep. Bob's knees were first injured when serving aboard ship in the Viet Nam War. During a typhoon, while reporting to the ship's captain on the bridge, he was slammed into the ladder by a huge wave he was climbing to get to the bridge. He made it, but has paid a price since.

• 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:

LCDR John Carter, CHC, USN, Combat Logistic Battalion 24, Camp Lejeune, NC

(Presbytery of Southern California) I am currently a geographical bachelor. My family stayed behind in the Seattle area while I [had a permanent change of station] (PCS'd) to Camp Lejeune. I expect to bring them here with me as soon as my daughter graduates from high school in June. Until then, I'm staying at a Christian hospitality house in Jacksonville, NC. It's called the Tun Tavern Inn [named after the place where the Corps was founded], and has been a tremendous blessing. I have Christian roommates and we put on a weekly prayer/Bible study/dinner fellowship every Tuesday night for the Marines. I'm largely integrated into the battalion now. I have a number of new duties and am developing relationships that will sustain us through our upcoming deployment later this year with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for a Navy Chief at my battalion who has given his life to the Lord and has asked me to baptize him. We're making arrangements to do that at one of the chapels here at Camp Lejeune. It's always a blessing to see Sailors and Marines turn in faith to our Lord.

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Ch Capt. Cornelius Johnson, USAF, MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL (Presbytery of New Jersey)

Things are going well here at MacDill. We just finished a nice chapel weekend family retreat where we focused on sitting at the feet of Jesus. The members were encouraged to focus on doing daily devotions. It was very well received by the retreat members. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray that God would bless the preaching of the Word. Also, please remember my family in prayer. Finally, my Majors board meets in September. Please pray that God's will be done.

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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 Ch (Capt.) Cornelius Johnson, USAF.