

## A PLEA for PRAYER – September 6, 2014 - No. 140

**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: Cole.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).*

**Prayer Focus - If My people who are called by My name...** - Is there hope for a disobedient nation? The root sins of the Israelites of Nehemiah's day were idolatry and apostasy, manifested in numerous violations of God's Law. They were repeating the covenant breaking of Israel and Judah before the exile. Is there still a hope for sinners? Is there hope for churches like Sardis and Laodicea today? Yes! That hope is God's promise of the saving graces of faith and of repentance; repentance whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience. (WSC answer 87).

2 Chronicles 7:13-14, "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (NKJV)

The locusts and pestilence of ancient Israel stand for the epidemics and disasters that plague churches and sinners today. Such chastisement is the consequence of sin. Verse 14 is God's prescription to put feet to our godly sorrow, our longing for relief from the consequences of indifference and laxity in our worship and our witness. God explained in four steps how His people put into practice true repentance with "...full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience."

I must humble myself before God, to seek His face in Jesus Christ, to pray fervently and frequently for God's forgiveness, and to complete repentance by seeking forgiveness of those whom I have offended. As I struggle to honestly and concretely apply Scripture to my own sinfulness, God will hear from heaven will forgive my sin. And so, too, with my church and my nation.

The Corinthians' repentance earned Paul's commendation in 2 Corinthians 7:10-11, "For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, *what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication!* In all *things* you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter."

The OPC Directory for the Public Worship of God addresses prayer and fasting as a special occasion of public worship: Chapter V, A. Prayer and Fasting

1. When great and notable calamities come upon or threaten the church, community, or nation, when judgment is deserved because of sin, when the people seek some special blessing from the Lord, or when a pastor is to be ordained or installed, it is fitting that the people of God engage in times of solemn prayer and fasting.

2. Prayer and fasting may be observed by private individuals and families at their discretion or by the Church at the discretion of the appropriate judicatory. If the civil authority calls for a time of prayer and fasting that the judicatories of the Church deem to be in harmony with the Scriptures, they should consider issuing such a call to their members.”

### **General and particular requests for prayer**

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!

We have lives precious to us in harm's way: Andrew (two), Brett, Bryan, Chris, Christopher, Daniel, David (two), Doug, Douglas, **Emily**, 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.

- 1LT Emily C. has deployed. Please keep her in your prayers!
- BM3 James Jennings USN has received his Honorable Discharge. [Thank you James for your service to both God and Country. May God bless your continued service for Christ!]
- 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.

**CH Wisdom's New Assignment** - Chaplain (Colonel) Chris Wisdom, (US Army, Retired), will formally assume appointed duties as the Vice President of Erskine Theological Seminary in South Carolina at Erskine's convocation on September 2, God willing. Please pray that God will use him and the faculty mightily to train men for the gospel ministry. Please pray also especially for his sustained focus on the issues of God's glory and the eternal welfare of those he serves, especially of our Chaplains and warriors, as God opens the doors to speak and to serve them.

His work week will have him serving three days per week in Columbia, and two days per week in Due West, SC. With the Erskine Columbia campus so closely located near all three of the US military chaplain schools now at Fort Jackson, this will afford him an opportunity to more fully support our OPC Chaplain students and all our PRCC Chaplain students and staff with faithful teaching, encouragement, and counsel from God's Word as we confess it unashamedly in our Westminster standards. Please pray for him, and pray also for PCA minister Dr. Paul Kooistra, the new president of Erskine College and Seminary, and for ARP minister Dr. Brad Christie, the Vice President for Erskine College, as they seek to lead Erskine's college and seminary in continuing reformation according to the inerrant Word of God, our only infallible rule of faith and practice. Please pray for Chris and Ginny in this new task in Christ's service.



**Chaplains' Reports:**

**Ch (CPT) Cornelius Johnson**, USAF, MacDill Chapel, MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL (OPC - Presbytery of New Jersey) Greetings from Sunny MacDill. I am scheduled tentatively to become the Deputy Wing Chaplain. There is no guarantee that I will get the job, but as of now it seems likely I will fill that position. That job will entail me supervising 2 other Chaplains, and being the right hand man of the Wing Chaplain. I hope to be able to continue to be the main preacher at our worship service which is going very well. The people seem to enjoy hearing the preaching of the Word. **PRAYER REQUESTS: My Majors board will meet in September to determine if I will be promoted to the rank of Major]. Please pray that God's will be done in that matter** [our emphasis]. Also, please pray that God would continue to bless the preaching of the Word and He would give me opportunities to proclaim His Word. Please remember to keep my family in prayer.

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**CH (MAJ) Kenny Honken**, SDARNG, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Sioux Falls, SD, and Oxford, WI (Presbytery of the Midwest) We are looking to have the administration hire a secretary for our department so that we can spend the bulk of our time on ministry. I have been instrumental in putting a proposal together for our Warden to this end. My supervisor was very

pleased with it. Praise the Lord! Our Protestant community continues to struggle with being more impressed with the Law revealing of their sin than with the good news about Jesus.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray that our Protestant community would continue to be impressed with the depth of their sin, and even more amazed at the finished work of Jesus on our behalf. [Congratulations Ken on your promotion to Major!]

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**CH (LTC) Graham Harbman**, USAR, 63rd Regional Support Command, Parks RFTA, CA (Presbytery of Northern California and Nevada ) I love my new Reserve assignment supervising and mentoring 16 junior Chaplains. My new position also allows me to preach almost every month. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for many unbelievers to attend our chapel services and please pray that I will invest deeply into the lives of the junior Chaplains. Pray that God will raise up bold and courageous young Chaplains to continue holding forth Christ in our increasingly anti-Christian military.

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**Note:** After several years serving on activity duty, CH Harbman has moved back to service in the reserves. Please pray for him in this service as he prepares for retirement next year.

**CH CPT) Phil Hollstein III**, USAF, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ (Presbytery of Southern California) We are transitioning at Davis-Monthan AFB as we have received two new Chaplains and lost two. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** As we continue through fall, please pray that we can impact other new families as they join our base. Please also pray for those already here, some of whom are going through difficult moral circumstances, that we will minister to them adequately.

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**CH David P. Bush** (Civilian police chaplain, Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department; Sonora Police Department, CA, Presbytery of Northern California and Nevada) - Dave Bush and his wife Jennifer were blessed with a son Valor born Aug 2. Valor has Trisomy 18 (Edwards Syndrome). He has multiple heart defects, a compromised lung function, bilateral reflux of the ureters, and atresia of the ears. God recently and graciously brought them through a fight for life for Valor. Please pray that God would strengthen and uphold Valor and the family.

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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 Focus by CAPT Gordon E. Kauffman, USN, Ret.