

A PLEA for PRAYER – October 4, 2014 - No. 141

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).*

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. (Proverbs 1:5; 9:10) Please also read 2 Timothy 1-14.

Prayer focus: “The Grace and Peace that leads to Prayer and Praise” (Colossians 1:1-14)

When things go wrong in the world, and you sense a calling to pray for our Warriors and their Chaplains, how do you respond?

Paul writes, “By the will of God”. Paul knew that he had been released from his captivity to sin, because the church had asked our sovereign Lord for relief from their persecutors (Acts 4:23-31). When a son of the OPC, Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, had been a prisoner of the Taliban for five years, we prayed fervently for his release from his captors. So our Church continued to pray for him, until he was released. And at the same time, we as Christ's Church prayed for his captors. So we see that God delighted to relieve His Church from her persecutors and to turn a Saul into a Paul, by His sovereign Gospel grace in Christ.

God's glorious goal for you as His saints is that His grace and peace lead you to prayer and praise. So Paul prayed for the Colossians concerning God's glorious goals for them in v. 9-14, “9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. 11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Let us do what Paul did. Let us thank God our Father through faith in His Son, and thank Him for His gracious greeting of grace and peace to us as His Church by faith in His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us ask God to forgive us, that we have thought such small and unworthy thoughts about Him, as though Christ's sovereign, saving work was not enough for us.

Let us pray for those who minister to our military as those who speak God's grace and peace freely offered through faith in Christ.

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), Bowe, Brett, Bryan, Chris, Christopher, Daniel, David (two), Doug, Douglas, Gabriel, Isaac, Jack, Jim, John, Nicolas, Noah, Paul (two), Rachel, Ray, Robert (two), Samuel, Scott, Sebastian, Stephen (two), and Timothy. New deployments are shown in bold. Please pray for Chaplain David DeRienzo deployed in harm's way.

- LCpl Samuel M, USMC deploys this week
- Chaplain Bryan Weaver thanks all of you for your prayers on his behalf as he recovers from surgery last Monday. He asks that you to continue in prayer for his relief from pain, and especially for his wife and caregiver Shelly.
- 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.

.....

Chaplains' Reports:

LCDR John Carter, CHC, USN, Camp Lejeune, NC (OPC - Presbytery of Southern California). We're ramping up for a late year deployment with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. I expect to be the ranking Chaplain aboard the USS New York (LPD 21) as we minister to 1000+ Marines and Sailors on a 7-9 month mission to the Middle East. My battalion's specific mission sets include Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief, Non-combatant evacuation, and mass casualty support. Right now we're in the middle of a strenuous predeployment schedule that will prep us for the upcoming mission. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for effectiveness of our shipboard ministry: both formally in the ship's chapel, and informally on the deckplates. I expect to go ashore with the Marines at some point and future ministry will depend on the circumstances. Pray that our team is ready for anything! **EMAIL:** john.a.carter@usmc.mil

CH (CPT) Stephen Roberts, Fort Meade, MD (OPC - Presbytery of Mid-Atlantic). I returned from deployment in late January and am enjoying the blessed sanctification that welcomes a Soldier and his family upon his return. I am also in the process of being transferred to a military intelligence unit at Ft. Meade, which should present a number of new opportunities to share the Gospel. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray that I would quickly form a rapport with these new Soldiers and exercise wisdom and boldness in proclaiming Christ. **EMAIL:** Stephen.L.Roberts30.mil@mail.mil

CDR Tim Power, CHC, USN, Deployed to Kuwait (OPC - Presbytery of Southern California). Our command element at 5th Marine Regiment has been tasked with leading a Special Marine Air Ground Task Force for the autumn timeframe in Central Command. My Religious Program Specialist, Petty Officer and I will be supervising 2 other Chaplains and assistants in a forward base. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for our ministry in a 7-month deployment. The family will expect a routine year during my absence because they've put down good roots again in Southern California. They'll still be attending local schools and participating in local community activities. Pray for wisdom for Janine and comfort for the family. Pray for my follow-on decisions after the deployment. I'm retirement eligible but still have useful years left as a Chaplain if I receive orders that I can execute without moving. **EMAIL:** timothy.power@usmc.mil

CH David P. Bush (Civilian police chaplain, Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department; Sonora Police Department, CA, Presbytery of Northern California and Nevada). (Sept 28, 2014) We continue to thank God for the privilege of caring for our son Valor. Since my last update there is primarily only good news to report. He continues to grow stronger and is putting on weight albeit a bit slower than our local pediatrician and dietician would like. He is now 6 lbs 3.6 oz. We have

noticed recently that Valor is starting to focus on objects. We were getting concerned that he might not be able to see but now we are far more confident that his vision is coming into focus about three weeks behind schedule.

Last week Jennifer met with the Cardiologist for a second appointment. He indicated that Valor was not ready for the diuretics as the anticipated congestive heart failure symptoms have not yet manifested themselves. He wants us to be ready for this to appear at any time. Later she met with the GI doctor for the first time and he suggested a feeding port directly into the stomach if Valor does not make progress in his bottle feeding. We are not ready to consider the stomach port quite yet. Valor's sucking response improves bit by bit and he is able to coordinate the suck/swallow/breathing issue well. So far he has not choked while on the bottle but seems more prone to spit up after he drinks from it.

The next day, Valor woke up with very stressed breathing due to congestion. Jennifer caught a cold a week ago and Valor picked it up. At UC Davis she had them examine him hoping to get medication for his congestion. By the time they got to Valor the symptoms began to wane and he was returning to his normal breathing. Jennifer met with the nephrologist for the first time. He seemed to brush off for regular visits with Valor and does not want to see him until he is old enough to handle surgery on his ureters. That should be when he is at least three yrs. old.

EMAIL: davepbush@sbcglobal.net

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 CH (Col) Chris Wisdom, (US Army, Retired).