

## A PLEA for PRAYER – November, 2014 – No. 142

**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: *Spiritual Fitness* - Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. (Hebrews 12:1-3)**

The military in the last few years have taught the whole person concept. In order for a military person to be ready for war they must be fit physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. While a lot is said about the first three, very little is said about spiritual fitness. The Bible is where we turn to learn about spiritual fitness. For example, Hebrews 12 exhorts us to a race of faith. The writer of Hebrews in chapter 12:1-3, gives us three ways that we can stay spiritually fit as we serve in the military.

The first way we stay fit is to *listen*. In Hebrews 12:1 we read, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses." The great cloud of witnesses is the Old Testament saints found in Hebrews chapter 11. The Old Testament saints' lives testify and teach us how we can persevere during times of trouble. The troubles, trials, difficulties, and doubts that the Old Testament saints experienced are the same ones that we experience today. Those saints were weak, afraid, and at times their faith wavered, but by faith they relied on God. The God who rescued them is the same God who delivers us in times of trouble. Are you in a deployed land away from family and church and feeling intense loneliness? So David, while away at war, in Psalm 84 mourned that he missed being at worship and fellowshiping with the saints. Or maybe God has called you to a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) to a foreign land with a different culture, language, and climate. Abraham was also called to leave his homeland

and go to a foreign land. In all these circumstances God bought these saints through various trials. So He will be with us as well.

The second way to be spiritually fit is to *lose* something. As military personnel, we all have to train hard for the dreaded fitness test. As the test gets closer we cut out certain foods, lose weight, and we increase our workouts. Hebrews 12:1 says, if we are going to run this race of faith, “we must lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us.” Gratifying our flesh and practicing sin will hinder our race of faith. Sin ruins our witness, wounds our conscience, and hardens our heart. We in the military are often exposed to filthy language and behavior, and evil all around us. Often times these things take place in deployed environments away from your spouse and church. Are we crucifying the flesh, denying ourselves, and keeping ourselves pure? Nothing ruins our walk with God like practicing sin. It is excess weight which makes us unfit for spiritual service.

The third thing that we need is to *look*. We read in verse 2, “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” The coaches of long distance running teach that when the runner gets tired instead of looking down on the ground he must keep his head up because it helps him breathe easier. Instead of the Christian looking down at their problems we must keep our eyes focused on Christ by faith. Christ is our example of how we ought to run. No one suffered more than Christ did when he died on the cross. Death on the cross was the most shameful and horrific way to be executed. Christ knew that he would drink the cup of his father’s wrath for the sins of his people. None of these things moved, or dissuaded him from enduring the cross. He knew the reward that awaited him. He kept his trust fully in his Father’s hand. Therefore, we must not only look, but keep looking at Christ as our example in this life of faith. Whether we are in a hostile military combat zone, or far away from family and friends at an overseas assignment, or in a stressful work environment we must keep our eyes focused on Christ and run the race of faith.

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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, 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. Please pray for Chaplain **Tim Power** deployed in harm's way.

- LCDR Tim Power, CHC, USN has deployed into harm's way. Please pray for our brother as he ministers to the Marines in his charge and for safety. Pray for his family as they are separated.

- LCDR John Carter, CHC, USN is in pre-deployment training. Please pray for our brother as he ministers to the Marines in his Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and for God's gracious protection. Pray for his family as they are again apart after months of previous separation.

- CAPT Bryan J. Weaver CHC, USN had a successful second brain surgery on 29 September at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) located in Charleston. The Weavers give much thanks to their Heavenly Father. Psalm 23 and the Lord's Prayer have been a great comfort to Chaplain Weaver. Please continue to pray for his complete healing as he now enters a period of ongoing care and evaluation by his medical team over the next several months since the tumor was diagnosed as cancerous. Please pray for his dear wife, Shelly as she continues to be his primary caregiver and constant companion and also pray for his three sons, Grant, Kurt, and Trent. As you pray for healing, also pray for a lessening of pain and for necessary healing sleep. Should you like to contact them, these circumstances make it best to write them (cards welcome) at their home, 81 Bay Circle, Beaufort, SC 29906.

- 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:

**CH Chuck McIlhenny**, Memorial Hospital Gardena & Coast Plaza Hospital, Los Angeles, CA (Presbytery of Southern California). As HCMA (Healthcare Chaplains' Ministry Association) Area Director (supervisor-teacher), I'm recruiting civilian Chaplains-students for training and certifying, and also looking for Chaplains that are already certified to be Area Directors. Area Directors supervise whole districts which can range from the size of L.A. County (12,000,000

pop.) to whole sections of the country, i.e., multiple states. Unfortunately they are NOT paid positions - yet! But they are very needful for the work we do supervising Chaplains over multiple hospitals and Chaplains. I'm going back to Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh for my 2nd year of doctoral studies in counseling. My first doctorate, D.Min., was under Dr. Jay Adams 30 yrs. ago! This one is in counseling and critiquing the vast secularization training in "CPE" - clinical pastoral education. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Pray for my studies - I'm 30+ yrs. older and slower and grumpier, but still loving education and research.

**EMAIL:** [dminrev@gmail.com](mailto:dminrev@gmail.com)

**CH (MAJ) Earl Vanderhoff**, USA, March Reserve Air Base, Riverside, CA (Presbytery of the Northwest). I await official word on my next assignment. I am told it may be in January. I continue to be amazed of the Lord's goodness and grace in this wonderful ministry serving our country as a Chaplain. I have countless opportunities to talk with people about their spiritual need for a Savior. I lead a Bible study that continues to be fruitful as we consider how the Scriptures point us to Christ. On a personal note, we had a great time of rejoicing in God's providential provision for my youngest son's wedding. PTL for Marilee! **PRAYER REQUESTS:** In April I had vertebrae L4-5 fused and decompressed. I am thankful for the healing and relief from pain. Continue to pray for recovery. Pray for a man named Dan who is coming to the Bible study and seeing the Gospel explained. Pray for grace in making the arrangements for our upcoming move and relocation.

**EMAIL:** [earl.vanderhoff@dma.mil](mailto:earl.vanderhoff@dma.mil)

**CH (1LT) Mike Myers**, SC Army National Guard, Newberry, SC (Presbytery of the Southeast). I recently pinned on my cross and become a real Chaplain in the SCARNG. I also continue to labor as a church planter in northeast GA for the OPC. The Lord is blessing the labors and I am finding great encouragement in His promise to grow His kingdom. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray that the church here will prosper and minister effectively to our needy community. Please also pray that I will learn to balance well the work of Chaplain ministry with my calling as a pastor. Praise the Lord also for the birth of our third son, Elijah Joseph, on May 9.

**EMAIL:** [Michael.I.myers2@us.army.mil](mailto:Michael.I.myers2@us.army.mil)

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 (Capt.) Cornelius Johnson USAF.