

## A PLEA for PRAYER – December, 2014 – No. 143

**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.

\* \* \* \*

*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:31-32).*

**Prayer focus: *Abide in My Word*** - In chapter eight of the Gospel of John the Apostle records a remarkable incident in the earthly ministry of our LORD Jesus, specifically on the occasion in which Christ introduced the concept of dwelling (or abiding) in something other than a physical house or similar dwelling place (8:31-32). To a group of Jews who in some way apparently believed in him, He called them to "abide in my word," a simple, and yet profound invitation.

That raises the question as to what Christ meant, for the idea of somehow physically dwelling in Christ's words is not reasonable. That in turn drives us to regard His call as a metaphor or illustration, calling us spiritually to immerse ourselves regularly in Christ's (recorded) words. To us, that necessarily means reading them over and over, listening to them wherever and whenever that is possible, meditating on them, and over time memorizing many of them. Such immersion in our Redeemer's thoughts carries with it a most comforting result, namely that He then regards us as "true" disciples.

However, the estate of being a "true disciple" carries with it the clear implication that there are some, although they are called disciples, who are not in fact, genuine disciples. This implication carried a serious fulfillment soon after, in which we read (verse 44) Jesus' solemn declaration to them, "you are of your father the devil". Sobering.

Wherein then lies the difference? Christ states it well in verse 32, "you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Sadly, His then present hearers reacted defensively, focusing on

their descent from Abraham and the absurd claim that they had never been enslaved to anyone! Not only were their forefathers enslaved to Egyptians, Philistines, Midianites, and Assyrians, to mention a few, but they were in bondage to Rome and so missed His point entirely. Christ was talking about freedom from enslavement to sin.

That glorious freedom from sin, and of course from the cruel power of sin, flows out of knowing "the truth," and that "truth" ultimately is Jesus Himself (verse 36, and John 14:6)! The written Word of God is supernatural and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, and instrumental not only in our salvation, but also in our sanctification (II Thessalonians 2:13). How much more then, is Jesus Himself effectual in making us free through the powerful instrumentality of His Holy Spirit when we engage in reading and hearing His own words. "If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free in truth." May God be pleased to grant us continual thankfulness of heart that in Jesus we are delivered from being slaves of sin, in order to become slaves of righteousness for His glory (Romans 6:5-22).

\* \* \* \*

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, **Richard**, Robert (two), Scott, Sebastian, Stephen (two), and Timothy. New deployments are shown in bold.

- A courageous senior officer deployed to a dangerous location asks for prayer as he witnesses to our future hope.
- From his Dad - My wife and I wish to inform you and the CCMP that our younger son, SN Richard B. ... is on deployment... aboard [a ship]. Rich has been aboard since end of

September. Please be in prayer for our son, as well as for his shipmates and for all who are part of this ... zone of operation. At this juncture, his duties are of such long hours that it has been impossible for him to get to a chapel service, or even to get to a ship's computer to send/receive email. He's in the Word, keeps up on the *Shorter Catechism*, and tries to stay awake in order to pray! Our thanks, once more, brother, for your faithful labors on behalf of all the OPCers serving our nation!

- Congratulations to Raymond P. on promotion to Col.

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 (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](mailto:john.a.carter@usmc.mil)

**CDR Tim Power**, CHC, USN, Deployed to Kuwait (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](mailto:timothy.power@usmc.mil)

**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.

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 CDR Robert B. Needham, CHC, USN, Ret.