

A Plea for Prayer – February, 2015 – No. 145

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.

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Prayer Focus

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. (I Peter 1:16)

In that great hymn, *Take Time to be Holy*, William Longstaff challenges us to set regular time aside to grow closer to the Lord through prayer and the reading of His Word, so that we might be sanctified through His Spirit. That we should "run" (1 Cor. 9:24), "labor" (1 Cor. 16:16), and "cleanse ourselves" (2 Cor. 7:1) are Scriptural imperatives. "Because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). Bishop J. C. Ryle's 19th century work "Holiness" exhorts us to labor in following the commands of Scripture to lead Christ-like lives. "Follow Christ for His own sake, if [we] follow Him at all. Be thorough, be real, be honest, be sound, be whole-hearted. If [we] have any religion at all, let [that] religion be real." From *Holiness*, J. C. Ryle, www.texset.com, p. 138.

Taking time to be holy is especially challenging for members of the armed forces, particularly those stationed far from home and overseas. Military units are models of efficiency. Only mission essential billets are created and filled for every unit. As a result, every serviceperson works long hours. That is especially true for deployed units; 15 or 16-hour work days, seven days a week, for months at a time, are common. Even taking a few moments to attend a chapel service requires permission to leave a post. Added to the work regimen is the inevitable strain of personal issues back home, aggravated by the frustration of poor communication. There is great temptation in all these difficulties for believers in the armed forces to put any yearning for holiness on hold. But there is even greater power in the Holy Spirit to overcome these impediments and draw service men and women ever closer to the Lord. Our faithful chaplains play a vital role in this environment. Not only do they provide worship services, but timely

counseling, fellowship, encouragement, prayer meetings and Bible studies. Uphold them in prayer!

Pray: that believers serving in the Armed Forces would be given strength and personal time to be holy, to continue fighting the good fight and laying hold on eternal life (1 Tim. 6:12). Pray for encouragement in their faith, that they might find group opportunities for fellowship, Scripture reading and prayer. And pray for faithful chaplains; that they might be available to minister and encourage them in their walk with the Lord.

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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: **Aaron, Adam**, Andrew (two), Brett, Bryan, Chris, Christopher, Daniel, David (two), Doug, Douglas, Gabriel, Isaac, Jack, Jim, John, Nicolas, Noah, Paul (two), Rachel, Ray, Richard, Robert (two), Samuel, Scott, Sebastian, Stephen (two), and **Chaplains John Carter and Tim Power** . New deployments are shown in bold.

- From his RE Dad - As an update my son Corey S. was recently promoted in rank to 1LT. Thanks so much for your work in maintaining this vital prayer resource for our family members in arms.
- From Pastor Shane – Greetings in Christ! Just wondering if you could add two service men to your prayer list: Adam and Aaron R. on active duty [who are deployed]. [Added]
- From his Mom - Please remove Jason Annese from the reserves list. He is officially out of the USMC. [Thank you, Jason, for your service!]

- From his Dad - MAJ Ed C. MDANG is now Lt. Col. Ed C. MDANG. Thanks for your prayers for the military. [Congratulations, Ed, on this promotion!]
- From his parents - Thank you for your continued work on this list. I am happy to let you know that our son Matthew L. has earned the rank of LCpl and is stationed in [a warm climate] (so much for West Michigan winters). He was able to come home for Christmas which was a great blessing to our family. Thanks again and God's blessing on you and your family in 2015!
- From Pastor Pete - Hi, Bob. I trust you are well in the Lord. I have one name to add to the list "Please Pray for Those Who Serve" under Active Duty: LT David S. USN. David is a member of Reformation Presbyterian Church (OPC), a mission work of our Presbytery of the SE.
- Also Sgt. Nathaniel H. VAARNG. Nate is a member of our congregation. Nate has been promoted to Staff Sgt. He tells me that = SSG

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 CAPT Bryan J. Weaver, USN, Command Chaplain, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC (Presbytery of Central Pennsylvania) Thank you for your faithful prayers and supportive care for the Weaver family that has come from the OPC, PCA, RPCNA, ARP, and the RPTS community.

We are truly grateful for the wonderful care and support that the medical staff at the Naval Hospital, Beaufort provides to Bryan. We couldn't navigate the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) bureaucratic maze without the support of our naval hospital staff. We are blessed by the tremendous support and encouragement that is given to us from our Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island and Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort Marine families!

I am still under the care of a Neurooncologist at the MUSC, Charleston, SC. Even though I am still battling brain cancer, I had a very encouraging medical report on Friday, 23 January, from my Neurooncologist. The results of the brain MRI showed a shrinking tumor due to the six weeks of radiation and chemotherapy treatments taken in November and December, 2014. For the next year, I will be on a maintenance chemotherapy treatment protocol for five days per month. I will undergo an MRI of my brain every two months at MUSC for the next year. I am by

no means out of the woods; my Marine combat boots are still on my feet! Shelly and I praise the Holy Trinity for their sustaining grace and this recent positive medical report. My hope and comfort is found in Psalm 26, "*Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart. For your loving kindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Your truth.*" Personally, I have flung my anger, grief, and fear overboard, and I just keep moving forward. The Weavers appreciate cards and notes. Thank you.
81 Bay Circle, Beaufort, SC 29906

CH (1LT) Mike Myers, SC Army National Guard, Rock Hill, SC (Presby. of the Southeast)

The Lord continues to show Himself faithful in every situation, something which ought not surprise us but often does due to lack of faith. My work as a Chaplain will be transitioning away from the SCARNG as I look to transfer to a local Field Artillery battalion with the GA ARNG. This will open many great ministry opportunities because I live only about 20 miles from the unit. Also, my work as a church planter has been going well overall. We just secured a new building right in the busiest part of town – what a blessing!

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray that the transfer goes through smoothly and quickly. Pray for the increased opportunity I will have as a Chaplain to soldiers who live locally. Also, please continue to pray God's blessing on the work of the church and protection on my family.

EMAIL: Michael.I.myers154.mil@mail.mil

Ch Capt Phil Hollstein III, USAF, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ (Presby. of Southern California)

I have been blessed to attend Squadron Officer School, which is a five-week class preparing Captains for the field grade ranks. It has been a good opportunity to meet with officers from other career fields and learn about each other's career fields, as well as hone my own leadership skills. [We have just learned that Phil will be PCS'ed (permanent change of station move) in June from sunny Arizona to Greenland for a "remote tour" – seems the Air Force has its own sense of humor.]

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for my family back at home since separations are never fun; and also for the ongoing ministry of the Chaplains at Davis-Monthan AFB.

EMAIL: charles.hollstein@us.af.mil

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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 Col. Mark W. Rogers USMC Ret..