

## **A Plea for Prayer – May, 2015 – No. 148**

**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 (1 Thessalonians 5:17).*

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*Joshua 5:13-14, And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?"*

### **Prayer focus: The Commander of the Army of the Lord**

The background of these verses is that Israel was on the verge of going to battle to conquer the promised land of Canaan. After Moses died, God chose Joshua to be the leader, and assured Joshua that he would be with him the same way he was with Moses. God continued to show Israel that Joshua was the one chosen to lead Israel. Right before battle Joshua saw a man with his sword drawn in his hand. Joshua questioned him, and the man said he was the commander of the army of the Lord. Joshua realized that this was God, a pre-incarnate visitation by Christ, and began to worship him.

What do these verses teach us? First, that all God's people are drafted to fight in this spiritual war on behalf of their commander Christ. Joshua was the commander of Israel, but he was subject to Christ. This is why Joshua began to worship this commander. As OPC military personnel not only are we serving our country, but we must remember that we are drafted to serve the kingdom of Christ. We are drafted to fight against our own flesh, and our indwelling sins. We are drafted to plunder Satan's kingdom by winning converts to Christ, and to be salt and light in this dark world. As we deploy all over the world and follow the orders of our military commanders, let us make sure that we do not forget that we have even a greater obligation to serve Christ our great commander.

Secondly, the commander of the army of the Lord is to be served before any other commander. Joshua was the commander of Israel, but there was one greater than he, and that was Christ, the commander of the army of the Lord. Despite our military service, we must realize that we

serve Commander Jesus Christ and his word and commands are to be obeyed above all others. We obey our national military only because Jesus our greatest commander commands us to obey. When there is a conflict there is no question whom we ought to obey, and that is our commander Jesus Christ. His rights, glory, and commands are supreme. We are there to serve his interest. Lord, please give us boldness to serve and stand for you daily as we serve our military.

Thirdly, the sword drawn by the commander is an encouragement to Joshua that God is ready to help Israel to conquer the Promised Land. Joshua heard from God in Joshua 1:9, "For the Lord thy God is with you wherever you go." As people of God we fight by Christ's power and might. As we fight in this battle, Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:10, "to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might", and in verse 11 he tells us to, "put on the whole armor of God". It is not by our power and might, but by Christ's power that we fight. It is important that we realize that God will equip and enable us to fight in this war. We fight with Christ's sword, using Christ's methods, and Christ's equipment. He is ready to help us and aid us with his power. Let us remember that as we serve our military.

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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 (two), Doug, Douglas, Gabriel, Isaac, Jack, Jim, John, Nicolas, Noah, Paul (two), Rachel, Ray, Richard, Robert (two), Samuel (2), Scott, Sebastian, Stephen (two), and Chaplains John Carter and Tim Power. New deployments are shown in bold.

- From Pastor Skip - Thank you. Some new information: Christopher R. has been promoted to MAJ, Issac W. is now in his third year at the Point and Tim W. is now a LT and up for promotion to LCDR.
- From Pastor Mike - Bob, Thanks as always for your work in sending this out every month. It looks like a lot goes into it. I have an addition you may want to add to the list. My younger brother, Dan M., is a West Point Cadet in his final year of schooling. After his graduation and commissioning, Lord willing, on May 23, he will be getting married to his fiancée Sally S. on June 13. She is also a cadet... He is an OPC member. I figured he met criteria to be on this list. Plus he's my little bro and I gotta look out for him, right? Hope this info is helpful to you.
- Our Executive Director, CH (BG) Douglas Lee USA Ret., was interviewed on FOX and Friends show on 17 April to speaking to the secular cultural inroads impacting our various chaplain corps. Here it is from U-Tube - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJ2VasJM3\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJ2VasJM3_4)
- 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 (1LT) Mike Myers, GA Army National Guard, Rock Hill, SC (Presbytery of the Southeast)** Greetings in our Lord and Savior Christ. I find much comfort in the promise that the Lord leads us in triumph in every place and diffuses through us the fragrance of Christ—may it be the savor of life for many. I have successfully completed a transfer into the GA ARNG Guard and am now the BN CH for the 1-214 FA BN. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** This is a matter for thanksgiving, since my unit is now only 25 minutes away instead of 3 hours. Pray that I will be able to minister effectively to the more local population of Soldiers. Also, please be in prayer for a 12-year-old girl in my congregation, Natalie, who has been battling an aggressive form of cancer for the last six months and has recently taken a turn for the worse. Pray also for her family and our church that we would trust in the Lord and find strength in Him during this time.  
**EMAIL: Michael.I.myers154.mil@mail.mil**

**Ch Capt Cornelius Johnson, USAF, MacDill Chapel, MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL (Presbytery of New Jersey)** We are planning a local clergy appreciation day. The purpose of this event is so that the local clergy can better understand the job of a military Chaplain, to discuss the challenges military chaplains face, and possibly to recruit local clergy to become reserve chaplains. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray that God would give us direction and wisdom as regard to future military opportunities.  
**EMAIL: cornelius.johnson@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 Ch (Capt.) Cornelius Johnson USAF.