

## A Plea for Prayer – July, 2015 – No. 150

**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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*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:6,7.*

**Prayer focus: *Anxiety*** - Our text contains two commands (the first Negative... the second Positive) and one assured consequence.

- 1.) Nothing is more normal for "caring" people than the temptation to be anxious. When the outcome matters... especially if we or someone we care about has a vested interest in it... anxiety comes stalking. This passage, addressed to God's People, instructs us not, under any circumstances, to welcome "Anxiety" into our hearts... or be bullied by it, into doubting God.
- 2.) What we are to do is cast our care on the Lord by presenting our concerns to Him in prayer. We who are His have the privilege of expressing our burdens to our Father in Heaven through the effectual mediation of His Son – our Commander and Chief – Jesus. We can then rest, being well assured that the Judge of all the earth will do what is right and good.
- 3.) As this Spirit wrought confidence is experienced... our hearts and minds are enabled to be at peace... even in the midst of great uncertainty and unrest. Our inability to reasonably describe how this works may cause doubt and provoke ridicule from those who have never experienced it... but we know Who we have believed in and we are more than persuaded that He is as Good as He is Great and as Merciful and He is Mighty! The promise of His Love is signed with the blood of His Son. Praise and Thanks be to God!

Fellow Saint, Deployed or At Home... "cast your **care**\* upon Him, for He cares for you."  
– 1 Peter 5:7.

*\*(or "anxiety" - same original root as Phil.4:6)*

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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 Police Chaplain Dave Bush - Valor Preston Bush (Aug 2, 2014 - June 2, 2015) entered into his eternal rest June 2nd. He was home from the hospital for two weeks and seemed to be doing very well according to the stats on his ventilator and oximeter. Tuesday morning Valor, while awake and in a peaceful state suddenly and peacefully slipped into an unconscious state. We immediately started infant CPR but were unsuccessful in reviving him. Our family is thankful for the covenant promises of God and for such a loving and supportive Christian community.

Please pray for Dave and his whole family as they trust in His precious covenant promises.

- From Pastor Archie - Richard B. is a member of OPC, who has been living in WY, teaching ROTC and attending our church in CO. He is an officer in the Air Force. At the end of January he deployed for six months.
- The 82<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly elected (Ch) Cornelius Johnson USAF and COL Michael C. Cloy USA, Ret. (Ruling Elder, Reformation OPC, Gastonia NC – Presby. of the SE) to the class of 2018 and (Ch) Lt. Col. Richard Dickinson, MEANG, Ret. – (ME – Presby. of New York and New England) to the class of 2016. Pray for us in a continuing transition on the Committee.

- Chaplain Bryan Weaver medical update: On 15 May, doctors informed me that a new cancerous tumor may be heading towards the hypothalamus. Losing some use of right hand and right foot. I am still in the fight. I told the doctors that I am moving out of the surf line and off the beach and heading in land! I am not going to fight this cancer at the surf line! I am going back to MUSC on 13 July in Charleston, SC., for an MRI of the brain. My medical team will make decision on a treatment plan.  
In His Grip, Bryan Weaver aka Battlechaps

Please continue to assault the Throne of Grace in our brother's time of need and include wife Shelly, and sons Grant, Kurt, Trent.

- **Bryan J. Weaver Resolution**

The 82nd General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church hereby resolves to communicate the following to the Rev. Bryan J. Weaver, Captain, Chaplain Corps, United States Navy:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are praying for you in your time of need. We thank God for your life and active service as a gospel minister and chaplain for over a quarter of a century as well as your service on the Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel. Your boldness in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and your faithful service has enriched the lives not only of Navy personnel, but also members of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. In the light of your health difficulties, we pray that you will find comfort in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, that one alone in whom a living and eternal hope is found.

Later Battlechaps writes: Please accept my gratitude and thanks and pass it on to GA. I am humbled by the GA's kindness.

- **Robert B. Needham Resolution**

The 82<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly adopted the following Resolution of Appreciation for the Service to Christ and His Church by Commander Robert B. Needham, CHC, USN, Retired.

Robert B. Needham was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in 1966, and ordained a Minister of the Gospel on 11 June, 1967, in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod. The great- and great-great-grandson of two Scottish clipper captains, he went to sea for a year and a half before he finished high school. He graduated from Reed College, Portland, Oregon, where he was introduced to the Gospel by the son of an OPC ruling elder, met his wife Barbara, and made profession of faith in the First OPC, Portland. After graduation from Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA, he served a mission church in Alabama and an additional pastorate in Pennsylvania, and then was commissioned in the Chaplain Corps of the United States Navy in 1968; called to active duty in 1971. He is a graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School. He returned to serve in the OPC while still on active duty in 1987. He served until his retirement in 1992, when he was "piped off" from his last duty station at the Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton, CA. Then after serving as a Christian counselor in San Diego along with service as Assistant Pastor at Bayview OPC, he pastored a new congregation, New Hope OPC in Hanford, CA, from 1992 until his

retirement in December of 2012. Traveling extensively, he has served numerous sessions as pulpit supply and as an adjunct member of their sessions.

Chaplain Needham was first elected a member of the RPCES Committee on Chaplains in 1976. In 1978, the RPCES, the PCA and the OPC formed the Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel. When the OPC first formed its own Chaplain Committee in 1998, Chaplain Needham was one of the three original members, serving all but one year to date. He has served as Chairman of the CCMP, and for several years as Vice Chairman of the Commission and on many of its committees.

We believe there are few if any who have contributed more succinct, biblical guidance material with a clear military understanding for chaplains and their commanders than Chaplain Needham. At the same time it has provided useful material protective of our various chaplain corps personnel not only within the Reformed community, but also has been used by other church commissions. Chaplain Needham continues to serve as a police chaplain with King's County Sheriff's Department, California.

We thank God at every remembrance of his service and give all glory and praise for his service to the Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, our nation's various Chaplain Corps, and to the church of Christ for his faithful service. His gracious, wise, gentle and humble leadership will be sorely missed by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel.

• 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:**

**LCDR John Carter, CHC, USN, Deployed aboard USS New York (Presbytery of Southern California)** I'm currently deployed to the Middle East with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. We're embarked aboard USS New York (LPD 21). After hitting ports in Israel, UAE, and Kuwait, I'm writing this from Bahrain and we expect to be at sea for the next several weeks. I'm partnering with a Baptist Chaplain to provide ministry to 1,100 Marines and Sailors. Our worship services are packed to capacity and we have several Bible studies during the week. Overall, the Christian community aboard USS New York is thriving, and we're grateful for that. **PRAYER**

**REQUESTS:** Please pray for our upcoming homecoming and reunion with family. This is always a happy but stressful time. Please pray for effectiveness in my teaching ministry aboard ship. I'm teaching a class on Reformed Theology that has been well received thus far.

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

**CH Ken Honken, Federal Correctional Institution Chaplain, Fort McCoy, WI (Presbytery of the Midwest)** As the called Evangelist of our local congregation in Madison, WI, I had the pleasure of hosting the Session at the institution in February. They spoke to my supervisor, my associate warden, and the spokesperson for the Protestant community. They also received a tour. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to see the ins and outs of my ministry here.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please join me in thanking the LORD for my Session's visit. Pray that the influence of the Gospel would increase here, both among staff and inmates, through my work. Pray for those who work in prisons, that they would be able to go home safely to their families every night.

**EMAIL:** [honken.1@opc.org](mailto:honken.1@opc.org)

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) Lt. Col. Richard Dickinson, MEANG, Ret.