

A Plea for Prayer – August, 2015 – No. 151

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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And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. (Luke 4:1-2a)

Prayer focus: *Led by the Spirit* - Jesus officially kicks off his public ministry on the heels of his baptism and anointing by the Holy Spirit in the Jordan. And he doesn't go-it alone; he is "led by the Spirit". Mark uses the stronger language of "the Spirit immediately *drove* him out into the wilderness". This verb gives color and meaning to the active role of the Spirit in Jesus' ministry. It expresses the energy and power of the Spirit as the Lord launches his assault behind enemy lines, advancing the kingdom of God into enemy occupied territory. The Spirit guides, directs and sustains Jesus as he battles Satan in the wasteland of the desert, representative of the fallen world. He anoints the Savior with super-human gifts—over-coming hunger, exhaustion and the strongest temptations of the Devil—far surpassing the limits of our human nature. With this victory Jesus regains enemy territory and begins his ministry to cast out Satan's legions. Through this battle in the wilderness the role of the Holy Spirit in Christ's ministry is now evident. As Sinclair Ferguson so aptly describes it, "He serves as the heavenly cartographer and divine strategist who maps out the battle terrain and directs the Warrior-King to the strategic points of conflict. He is Christ's adjutant-general in the holy war that is waged throughout his incarnation".

This same "life-giving" Spirit was promised by Christ and has been given freely to all who believe in Jesus as Lord. According to Paul, in Romans 8:9-11, so close is the Spirit's ministry to Christ's that to have Christ is to have the Spirit; to have the Spirit is to have Christ. The Holy Spirit has been given to believers as our counselor, our comforter, our strength and our shield. Though at times (maybe often) you find yourself weak in the flesh, be encouraged by these truths of scripture, that in Christ you also have the very "adjutant-general" of our victorious Savior to lead you in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

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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, **Neal**, Nicolas, Noah, Paul (two), Rachel, Ray, Robert (two), Samuel (2), Scott, Sebastian, Stephen (two), and Chaplains John Carter. Chaplain Tim Power and Richard have returned safely. New deployments are shown in **bold**.

- From Elder Lars - I wanted to give you an update on Mark L. He has graduated from the Naval Academy and has transferred to the Air Force. [Congratulations, Mark, in joining whose of whom we sing “Lord guard and guide the ones who fly, through the great spaces of the sky...” in our defense.]
- From Pastor David – Two changes, both promotions noting new rank: Major Christopher M. and Captain Neal T., who is deployed for six months starting soon. [Congratulations, brothers!]
- From Pastor Archie – Michael B. has graduated from the USAF Academy in May and was commissioned as an officer in the USAF. [Congratulations, Michael!]
- From your editor – We are glad to note a promotion for a brother from the PCA, who has just completed Recon training and has been worshiping at a local OPC as he trains and awaits his transfer back to his reserve unit. Congratulations, LCpl Charles S.
- From Pastor Archie – Please add Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt) Jason W. H. USAF to the list of those who serve. [Welcome Jason to the prayers of God's people.]
- Please pray for your Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel as they meet in a teleconference on 8 August. Pray for us in a continuing transition on the Committee.

- From Pastor AAA - David T. graduated from Annapolis this year and was commissioned an ensign in the navy. He reports for flight school in August in Pensacola, FL.
- Pray for all these brothers in their witness for their King!
- From LCDR Stephen Parker CHC USN Ret – My wife Carolyn fell from a ladder, breaking both of her legs and sustaining a T12 compression fracture. They put pins in the right leg because both bones were fractured. They are tibia plateau fractures (where the lower and upper leg bones meet). The left leg has just the tibia fractured. The only surgery so far is on the right leg, external rods and pins in the two bones to stabilize the leg until surgery. As soon as the swelling goes down, (the plans have changed daily) they will do surgery to put screws in the right leg, only. Both legs will have braces and will be non-weight bearing for 3 months. The T12 they will let heal on its own and does not require surgery at this time, but there is a brace to wear for stability and comfort. Thank you for your prayers and I will let you know when the surgery is to be done.
- From a Naval Services Dad - I'm writing to inform you (and The Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel) that my older son, Geoffrey R. B, as of May 28th, 2015, has completed his eight years in the United States Marine Corps (active & reserve). He is once more a "civilian", but will (as you yourself know) always be a Marine! Please update your records to reflect this change. Thanks for having kept him on the monthly prayer lists all these years. Additionally, my younger son, U.S. Navy Seaman Richard T. B., is back at [his previous base] from his 10-month deployment on the USS Carl Vinson (as of June 4, 2015). We give thanks to God for their safe return and for their outstanding service. (It was the longest scheduled deployment of a USN vessel since the end of the Vietnam War.) I wish to take this opportunity — once more -- to thank you and the Committee for your faithful work on behalf of our OPC men and women serving in our armed forces, and for your prayers for our two sons. My wife, Carol, and I are very proud of both of them. "Semper Fidelis!" and "Fair Winds and Following Seas!" [We too are thankful for them and their service!]
- From New Reserve Chaplain Andrew Barshinger - . After a lengthy process have I accessioned with the Army Reserve. I got the notice earlier this month, effective June 3rd. I'll be drilling as the Chaplain of the 340th MP BN in Ashley, PA. Currently, I am the associate pastor of Faith OPC in Pole Tavern, NJ. Grace and Peace, [Congratulations Andrew].
- 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 (MAJ) Earl Vanderhoff, USA (Presbytery of the Northwest) Once to twice a quarter I teach a Strong Bonds Marriage retreat. This month I will start teaching Financial Peace University. We will start a mid-week Bible study during lunch. I am now in the preaching rotation at Main Post Chapel. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Last month I went with my unit for a week in the field. I tried to function within my abilities and did not jump in and help put up all the tents. I made it for 5 days before the weight of the cavalier helmet was too much for all the repair work I have had in my spine. I was medically evacuated to the ER with severe spasms and pain. Next week I will see the neuro surgeon again to determine my status. I hope to be able to finish my last 2 years and retire. Now, I am non-deployable which may cause me to go through a Medical Board.

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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 CAPT Michael W. Jennings, USN, Ret.