

A Plea for Prayer – October, 2015 – No. 153

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: dickinson.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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Prayer focus: *Being of the Same Mind in Imitation of Christ*

Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. 2 Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." (Psalm 69:9) 4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:1 - 6 NASB)

In our daily lives, especially in church, chapel, Bible study or prayer group, we are called to follow Jesus Christ in bearing the weaknesses of those who are still weak in the faith. Think of Christ's own struggling disciples or of Paul's ministry to the troublesome Corinthians. Let us be thankful for the Scriptures that bring us hope and clarity.

In our willingness to pray for and with and for the weaker brother, we help him grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus and in discernment of the truth when all around are trapped in falsehood and disputing. Building up those without strength builds solidarity of the body of brothers and sisters in Christ and with it the human organizations in which we serve.. Verses 5 and 6 picture the unity and accord that come from God Himself. Praying and striving for like-mindedness and accord in the Gospel help us keep the lies and temptations of the world at bay. Such biblical prayer fosters leadership

When we pray to God according to the Word and when we are willing take the arrows of the evil one as we labor to do what is right in His eyes, God gives us the perseverance and encouragement to be of the same mind in glorifying our Lord and Savior with one voice. In a split second, the three young Christian men who took down an armed terrorist on a French train demonstrated the unity in love and knowledge and purpose that Paul worked so hard to build in the early churches. So it is that we please our neighbor for his good. Romans 15:7 *"Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God."*

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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

Special Note: We are working through the complete lists of personnel, so if you spot any listed as serving that have retired, transferred to reserve status, been discharged, or you no longer have any contact, please let us know of these status.

We have lives precious to us in harm's way: Neal and Samuel. New deployments are shown in **bold**.

- Please pray for Chaplain Bryan J. Weaver (CAPT, CHC, USN) as cancer has returned a third time to his brain in a new location. His medical team at the Medical University of South Carolina at Charleston has developed a treatment plan that included a procedure that took place this past week. He also has cancer on the left side of his face near his eye that requires additional treatment. Please pray that Bryan (aka Battlechaps) will continue to rely on the Grace of God that is his Hope and Stay that has been evident in the some 22 months of this trial. This matter requires our ongoing and continual prayers!

Please pray that these efforts will, by God's grace, provide healing. Please also pray for sustaining grace for his wife and chief caregiver Shelly, his sons Grant, Kurt, and Trent, and the Naval and medical personnel involved in his care and restoration. As an OPC Navy Doctor once said, "Doctors treat, God heals".

- **We need your help updating our list of those serving in our Armed Forces from the OPC. With the downsizing of our military, we suspect there are many currently listed that have moved from active to reserve status, have been discharged or retired from service or have settled outside our circles. The list is attached for your review.**
- 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:

[Linda has 2 reports to include here]

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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, Richard M. Dickinson, for the OPC Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel with the Prayer Focus by CAPT Gordon E. Kauffman, USN, Ret.