

## A Plea for Prayer – November, 2015 – No. 154

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](mailto: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 (I Thessalonians 5:17).*

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*Prayer Focus: Acts 2:43 "... and awe came upon every soul."*

One of the primary blessings of the early church was the evidence of many people being filled with the awe of God. In the Westminster Confession of Faith we see a picture of this awe when the confession describes the effectual calling of men by his Word and Spirit by bringing men out of their state of sin and death and by enlightening their minds so they can spiritually and savingly understand the things of God. This is the "awe that came upon every soul" that we read of in the book of Acts.

Where else do we see evidence in the scriptures of awe coming upon souls of men? More specifically, where do we see a man of the sword, a military man, having awe come upon his soul?

The New Testament provides us many examples of Roman Centurions who became followers of Christ but probably the most detailed example of a man of the sword having his mind enlightened so he could understand the things of God is the Centurion who oversaw the execution of Christ when we read in Mark 15:39, ***And when the Centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "truly this man was the Son of God!"***

This Centurion was more than likely responsible for all the soldiers who beat, mocked, prepared Christ for and ensured his execution and subsequently confirmed Christ's death to Pilot. As a leader of these soldiers he was required to not only carry out orders but also to understand the context of the orders and the greater dynamics of the who, what, when, where and the why that went beyond the how of the execution. This continual assessment is known today by the military

term “situational awareness” or, said another way, it is an understanding of reality as it comes to life before a leader while in the process of completing the mission.

The Centurion’s situational awareness helped him to sense the culminating effects of Christ's promise of “*today you will be with me in paradise*” to the thief on the cross, Christ’s “*my God, my God why have you forsaken me,*” cry to his Father, his “*it is finished*” pronouncement, followed by the darkening of the skies and the earthquake. The awe that came upon him was therefore a soul shaking realization through the enlightening of his mind that he was complicit in the death of this man who was indeed innocent. The awe that came upon his soul was the witness of Word and Spirit as he “*stood facing*” Christ when Christ breathed his last and he then confesses, “*Truly this man was the Son of God!*”

The key element in the awe coming upon the soul of the Centurion was the coming face to face with the Christ. There at the foot of the cross, the Centurion was literally confronted with the Word and the Spirit, the Son of God, as he “*stood facing*” him.

This month’s plea for prayer is that our Chaplains as ministers of Word and Sacrament, and those men and women of our military who confess Christ as Lord, would be used mightily by God to bring other centurions to stand face to face with the Word and Spirit so that they might confess that “*truly this man is the Son of God*” and that “*awe come upon every soul*” unto salvation.

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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

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**Special Note: We are continuing to work through the complete lists of personnel, so if you spot any listed as serving that have retired, transferred to reserve status, been discharged, or that you no longer have any contact with or should be noted as deployed, please let us know of these status. Many thanks for all of you who have graciously responded.**

**Please see the updated list attached to the separate email "Please Pray for Those Who Server and Their Families"**

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We have lives precious to us in harm's way: **Cody**, 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 recently. 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".

From his Dad – a request to add Aaron M. C. USAF, who is in weather technician school.

From Pastor Steve – please add several from our mission work: LT Cameron C. USN, Capt. Jack C. USMC, and PO3 Maurice P. USN

From Supporter and Veteran Ken - Capt. Nate C. USA, SGT Seth L. MIARNG and SP4 Travis M. USA

From Pastor Ron a request to add PFC Nick D. NJARNG

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 Gordon Cook Jr., MidCoast Health, Brunswick, ME.** I continue to serve as the Spiritual Care Coordinator for Mid Coast Hospital, and Mid Coast Senior Health Center. We are currently involved in the merger of Mid Coast Hospital with Parkview Adventist Medical Center. This brings several additional Chaplains into a growing team and expands the area of coverage that the Spiritual Care Program provides.

**Prayer Requests:** Pray that God would use the ministry of both professional and volunteer Chaplains to touch the lives of those who are hurting. Pray for the smooth transition to a larger program as we now include the pastoral needs of another hospital within our program.

**Email: [gcook@midcoasthealth.com](mailto:gcook@midcoasthealth.com)**

**CH Kenny Honken, Federal Correctional Institution, Fort McCoy, WI.** I continue serving in both the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the US Army Reserve. Both are unique and challenging fields of ministry. In the prison, I have the privilege of leading the Protestant service on average twice a month. In the Reserve, I lead a service once a month with my division headquarters and, once a quarter, I lead the Garrison Protestant service. I also fill in for our congregation's pastor from time to time.

**Prayer Requests:** Please pray that the Lord's strength would be perfected in my weakness. My schedule is very busy, and sometimes my energy level cannot keep up. Please pray for my wife as she often is on her own during evenings and weekends when I am away. Please pray for the effectiveness of my ministry. Pray that the Spirit would use my albeit weak efforts to produce a harvest for His glory.

**Email: [khonken@bop.gov](mailto:khonken@bop.gov)**

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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 COL Michael C. Cloy USA Ret.