

A Plea for Prayer – January, 2016 – No. 156

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).*

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. (Proverbs 1:5; 9:10) Please also read 2 Timothy 1-14.

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Prayer focus: "...New Mercies..."

*"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed. Because His compassions fail not. **They are new every morning**; Great is Your faithfulness! 'The LORD is my portion', says my soul, Therefore I hope in Him! The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him." Lamentations 3:22-25*

We've stepped over the threshold of a New Year and many, if not all of us, are looking... hoping... praying for healthful change.

- We are still a Nation at war with many serving far from home and loved ones...
- This is an election year and social/political tensions are running "high"...
- Many are wrestling with illness, injury or age health issues... and are hurting...
- The cost of living is challenging all to make adjustments and do more with less...
- Relational commitments are being challenged and threatened from within and without...
- We feel the need/desire to make measureable progress in our sanctification and service...

For all these reasons and many more our Lamentations passage is full of hope and encouragement for every soul that is looking to and trusting in the True and Living God. Every generation has its challenges and difficulties (See the context of Lamentations). We are no exception.

What a blessing to know and experience the ever-new Life & Love of our Savior. He lives to keep us close to Himself. He never grows tired of imparting strength to us, enabling us to turn from temptation and sin to pursue holiness and practice godliness. He loved us and gave

Himself for us and will, by every means at His disposal, have us with Him and like Him forever. The Holy Spirit is working powerfully within the hearts and lives of His people conforming them more and more to the likeness of their Savior. Thanks be to God!

- May our hearts be steadfast and declare daily **“The LORD is my portion”**.
- May we never be ashamed to say **“I hope in Him”**.
- May we look for opportunities every day to point others to Him attesting by life and by lip that **“The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul that seeks Him”**.

His mercies are new every morning! Great is His faithfulness!

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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: Cody, Neal and Samuel. New deployments are shown in bold.

- We asked you to pray for the presentation to Chaplain Bryan Weaver of the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary Alumni Faithful Servant Award. Your prayers have been graciously honored. Seminary President Jerry O'Neill made the presentation, and Doug Lee also made a presentation of PRCCMP Eagle Award. The Command of MCAS Beaufort could not have been any more supportive and hospitable.

- His wife Shelly's verse through all of Bryan's serious health trial is Romans 12:12 - *Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer*. Bryan's cancer treatment is progressing well at present as treatments continue. Thank you and please continue in prayer for complete healing for Bryan and for his family as they support him.

- Please add two new warriors – PO1 Seth deB., and CPO Sterling R, both USN.
- 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:

Capt Cornelius Johnson, CHC, USN, 29 Palms Marine Base, Twenty Nine Palms, CA. I just completed my first week at 29 Palms Marine Base. I will be working at the communication and electronics training school. I and another Chaplain will be responsible to care for over 3,000 marine students. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray that God will bless my ministry and all the Chaplains' ministry to the Marines and their families. Also please pray for my family's transition to the new base.

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CH Ralph Rebandt II, Farmington Hills Police Dept. & Beverly Hills DPS, Farmington, MI. I am leading a Bible Study at one of the police departments I serve. They are watching and discussing The Truth Project. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Pray for fruit from our efforts as we interact on a deeper level with administration and patrol.

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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, Ch (Lt. Col.) Richard M. Dickinson, MEANG, Ret. for the OPC Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel with the Prayer Focus by Chaplain Dickinson.