

A Plea for Prayer – June, 2016 – No. 161

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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Prayer Focus

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1, ESV)

The Old Testament heroes of Hebrews 11 lived their faith in the assurance of things for hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 12 describes living above and beyond the patterns of Hebrews 11 by faith in Jesus Christ, the fulfillment of Old Testament hope and the mediator of a new covenant. (See Hebrews 12:1 above)

With saving knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ, his atoning death and his resurrection, we have a great advantage over the Old Testament witnesses in our race of faith, our journey to glory. What are we to do with this knowledge? We are to run with purpose this race on a course we may or may not have chosen, knowing that the Lord we worship and serve will never cast us aside. As we persevere in "the race that is set before us," we have with us the "great cloud of witnesses" who have faithfully run their race and now await in heaven the coming glory of the new heavens and new earth.

Our Lord Jesus, the founder and protector of our faith, does not leave us to find our own way without His leading and help. Not for a moment are we neglected. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our need for forgiveness and repentance from our sin which clings so closely. The worldly weights we choose to carry are not necessarily sinful but certainly distract and impede us. They hinder us in serving God and may supplant His means of grace to us. These are the marks of "...the old self, which belongs to our former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires" (Eph. 4:22).

We read Hebrews 12 for the assurance that we are new creations in Christ. And the Holy Spirit "... makes me share in Christ and all his blessings, comforts me, and remains with me forever." (Heidelberg Catechism, answer 53) "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

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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, John, Neal and Samuel. New deployments are shown in bold.

- From Pastor Doug - Thanks for your continuing good work with the Plea for Prayer for our military members. Two of our own local members have joined the Marine Corps and have recently departed for boot camp in San Diego. Cousins Sebastian Q. and Cody P. were called away from the family at Redeemer, Hawaii, in April to begin their military careers. [That now makes three currently in Marine boot camp.]
- Please pray for Chaplain John Carter for healing of a medical condition that has been caught early and is being treated. Please continue in prayer for the continuing recovery of Carolyn Parker, wife of retired Navy chaplain Stephen Parker.
- Please pray for the Bryan J. Weaver family as they adjust to the loss of their dear husband and father, and that God will sustain them and comfort them in the assurance of Bryan's home going to Glory to be in the presence of Christ our King.
- Please pray for your Committee on Chaplains and Military Personal as they present their report to the General Assembly and for all the debate and actions of the Assembly. Pray for journeying mercies for all who attend. May God be pleased to provide a sweet odor of true humility among the commissioners and committee representatives attending this General Assembly.

- 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 Capt Phil Hollstein III, USAF, 355 FW/HC, Davis-Monthan AFB

I have been re-assigned to Davis-Monthan AFB in Arizona, after a wonderful tour in Thule Greenland. Thank you all for your many prayers as there is a great need in that part of the world. Now that I'm back, I've been re-connecting with people here, and am getting into the groove of stateside ministry with a great team, including another PRCC Chaplain!

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for my family's health, especially my wife who had back surgery some years ago and is experiencing pain again. Also pray for ministry here with the many men and women who fly, maintain, and support A-10s and EC-130s to defend our nation.

EMAIL: charles.hollstein@us.af.mil

CH (CPT) David DeRienzo, USA, 5-52 ADA, Fort Bliss, TX

My family and I have settled into our new home at Fort Bliss. Thank you for your prayers! I am meeting weekly with about twelve soldiers for a Bible Study and doing a lot of counseling. We should be stateside for a while which makes a great opportunity to see soldiers grow and mature in their faith while others come to know Christ for the first time.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray that our weekly lunchtime Bible Study, "Stuff your Faith", will continue to grow and bear fruit. Please continue to pray for my wife as she manages our four small children and finds her way around active duty life.

EMAIL: david.m.derienzo.mil@mail.mil

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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 Gordon Edward Kauffman, USN, Ret.