

A Plea for Prayer – August 2016 – No. 163

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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For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:20)

Prayer Focus – Citizenship in Heaven

Part of the Oath of Office for military personnel reads, "I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same." As military members we have the great responsibility and privilege of helping to protect the freedoms that we enjoy in our country. Because we love our country we commit to defend it, by being stationed all over the world, and deploying to dangerous places. Many have laid down their lives out of love for our country.

However, while we love and cherish our great country, yet as Christians we must remember that we are citizens of another country. Our Supreme Commander Jesus Christ by his death, burial, and resurrection has given us citizenship in heaven. God has given us the Holy Spirit as a down payment to convince us that our interest, inheritance, and citizenship is in heaven.

The realization that our citizenship is in heaven should cause us daily to represent the interest of our heavenly home to our military community. Our supreme commander has enlisted us to recruit and offer to our military personnel citizenship in heaven by having faith in Jesus Christ. As a Chaplain, every Commanding Officer I ever worked for gives me the same order and that is to take care of the military members. What they mean is to make sure that the people are mentally and emotionally healthy to complete the mission, but as Chaplains our ultimate mission is to tell people the good news of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

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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 Praise God for his continued mercies of protection. New deployments are shown in bold.

- From his dad – SN Phil T. USN (a pastor's son) has graduated from Navy Corpsman school last month and been assigned to the Marine Corps. Your editor was able to visit the OPC congregation where he is now worshipping recently. He is being transporting to and from worship at the courtesy of a member (veteran). Praise God for His gracious providence.
- Please pray for Chaplain John Carter as he is commencing graduate studies for the next year. John is now CDR (Sel) John Carter, CHC, USN. Praise God for the promotion in lean times and pray for John and his family during the time of study.
- From Chaplain Carter – His son Ryan Carter USCG has been Honorably Discharged recently and now is attending college. Ryan, thank you for your service!
- From your editor – a family in our congregation has lost a son, Marine veteran David Irwin USMC, age 27, in an accident on 11 July. Please pray for parents Jack and Janette, his younger brother Joshua and his two sisters Kristina (also a veteran) and Jessica. We buried his grandmother, a dear saint, just this last month. Pray for covenant mercies on the family and the comfort that only Christ can provide.
- 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.

- 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 to 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 [Replace]

CH (CPT) Steve Roberts, Chaplain for 397th BNG BN, Eau Claire, WI. Since joining the 397th here in Wisconsin, I have worked hard to get to know the soldiers in our headquarters unit as well as provide chapel services to our subordinate units throughout the state. This past month, I was blessed to be able to minister to all of the units for three days of training at Ft. McCoy. Some of these Soldiers bear wounds from past deployments and many more of them bear the wounds of broken relationships in a Midwest culture that has not often offered a vital Christianity to help them along. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that the many soldiers who grew up with cultural Christianity would give the *real* thing a real chance and that I would have the wisdom to engage them, by God's grace. Please also pray for our family as we settle into a culture quite foreign from our own!

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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 LT Cornelius Johnson, CHC, USN.