

A PLEA for PRAYER – December 1, 2007 - No. 59

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 (I Thessalonians 5:17).*

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. (Psalm 34:1)

Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

Thine, O LORD is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. (I Chronicles 29:10-14)

Prayer focus: Continual Praise and Thanksgiving – We fully realize that Thanksgiving is in November and now it is December and the time to celebrate the birth of the King of Kings. It is also a time that many of our warriors are still deployed or preparing for deployment and will not be with their families to celebrate Christ's birth. And should not thanksgiving be a continued giving of praise to our God for all the blessings we have, not the least of which is the freedom we enjoy and the privilege we have of freedom of worship? So we encourage all to go to our great God and express our praise - *Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.* We are reminded continually of the selfless nature of our warriors in their defense of freedom where almost no complaining exists; where even when wounded they prefer others to their own treatment and if at all possible return immediately to the fight. All of this great blessing comes from God who gives the *power and might* and gives *strength unto all.* *I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

Pray that our warriors will continually depend on our sovereign God who never fails. Pray that God will be their care, their refuge, their deliverer, their strength, their bounty and their portion

forever! Pray that they will be humble, selfless and courageous; the ingredients of genuine heroes. Pray for them as they engage a new phase of intense combat.

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 course. 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.

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: Andrew (two), Ed, Elijah, Glenn, Heidi, John (two), Michael, Nathanael, and Newton. New deployments shown in **bold**. We believe based on particular information or assumptions based on normal duration of deployments by service branch that SGT Doug O., LTC Gary W., Maj Joel S., SSG Sean P., PFC William S. (All USA) and LCpl Joseph C. USMC, LTJG Paul G. USN have returned. Pray for LCpl David W. and Maj Gary A., both USMC, as they prepare to deploy soon. Please give thanks that Chaplain David Bottoms has returned from deployment.

- [11/7/07] Pastor Dan reports that LCpl Joseph C. (wounded in Iraq) and his wife have been blessed with a baby born this month and that Joe was able to be present. Please continue to pray for God complete healing for this warrior.
- [11/12] Pastor Steve reports that LTC Gary Williamson VAARNG has returned to the States (to his family and to our congregation) after a year of duty in Kosovo. Praise the Lord! Gary was promoted to LTC over a year ago.
- [11/1607] A note from LCDR Victor Lin - Dear Friends, My update several weeks ago asked for your prayers regarding my medical residency training. Today I was officially told that I have met the expectations to be advanced to the next level of the training. Praise God! The last couple of weeks have been brutal and exhausting. I had to work a 19 day stretch without day off, and I am working close to 100 hours this week. But it was worth it. I learned a lot and became more efficient (I hope), and I hope my patients did benefit from my care. And today I also easily passed the Navy's semi-annual physical readiness test despite my injuries. Our Lord does hear and answer our prayers according to His will. In Christ, Victor
- By the time this *Plea* goes out, Marine Recruit David I. should be PVT David I. USMC. Welcome aboard David! David is the second to serve from his immediate family.
- We have just learned that Chaplain (1LT) Kyle N. Brown USA will be promoted to Captain on 12 December. Congratulations Kyle!

Chaplains' Reports:

With all of our military might, the greatest weapon we have in the war against Islamic Terrorists is the Sword of the Spirit utilized in the proclamation of the Gospel and empowered by the

sovereign Lord of evangelism. The church wields this weapon best when the expectant prayers of His people accompany it. Pray the Lord of the harvest for the success of the Gospel and for more laborers for the harvest, specifically for more chaplains. Plead for a corps of reformed chaplains sufficient to fill every available opening and sufficient to minister to all of our own deployed warriors. Great petitions to Him bring!

CH (LTC-P) Christopher H. Wisdom, USA, Army Chaplain Center and School, Columbia, SC (Presbytery of the Southwest) There are many challenges here, not the least of which is the anticipated move of the Navy and Air Force Chaplain Schools here in 2010, and the construction beginning in 2008 of new buildings co-located with ours to accommodate them. On a personal note, we are now living in the same city with our oldest son Ben, his dear wife Rachel, and our 15 month old grandchild, Daniel Jackson Wisdom, AKA "Jack". What a joy!
PRAYER REQUEST: I am adjusting to my new duties as the Assistant Commandant of the Army Chaplain Center and School. Please pray for us that God will make us faithful to meet the responsibilities that we are given to fulfill. We are also enjoying very much the ministry of First Presbyterian Church here in Columbia, SC. Pray that we will seek and find appropriate ways to support and encourage the officers and members of the church here.

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Late 2007 Ministry highlights from Chaplain (LTC-P) Chris Wisdom - We are looking forward to breaking ground for the new Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center here at Fort Jackson on 9 April of 2008. When completed, the new co-located facilities will not merge but attach the Air Force Chaplain Services School and the US Navy Chaplains School to the US Army Chaplain Center and School with an additional building housing a 300-seat auditorium that the three services will share. The plan is to complete the facilities in time to begin full training in them in the beginning of FY 2010 (October 2009) It will mean a lot of additional special work and prep for all here. It will be the most important event to take place at the US Army Chaplain Center and School (USACHCS) since the President of the United States, George W. Bush, visited us at USACHCS for an hour on 2 November 2007. Yes- that's what I said! On the afternoon of Friday, 2 November, 2007, The United States Army Chaplain Center and School (USACHCS), Fort Jackson, South Carolina, hosted a private official visit by the 43rd President of the United States, President George W. Bush. President Bush came to Fort Jackson to visit Army Basic Combat Training (BCT), to speak at a BCT graduation, and to visit with Chaplains, Chaplain Assistants and other guests.

The USACHCS Command Group, including the Commandant, the Command Sergeant Major, and myself as the Assistant Commandant, received the Commander-in-Chief gladly and briefly with salutes, handshakes, and greetings. We were then led into Fox-Poling Training Labs for a meeting to hear the President's remarks, share a brief prayer circle with President and 30 chaplains and chaplain assistants, and a group picture with the President (Photos to follow!). His words about how his faith impacts his mission as President were brief, sincere, and to the point (More to follow on that too).

Among the Chaplains selected to meet the President were C-4 students CH (CPT) Paul Berghaus (OPC) and CH (CPT) Matt Krider (PCA). It was an unforgettable meeting!

Prayer Requests: Please pray for us as we prepare for the changes that must surely come with the construction of the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center. Pray for our protection from haste and distraction driven by mere urgency, and for a focus on what is eternally important as we accomplish what is temporally necessary to ensure that great training and development of chaplain officers and chaplain assistants/religious program specialists continue. Please pray also for my continuing faithfulness and progress with my Army War College Distance Education

courses and research paper. If I complete all successfully, I will graduate next July at Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA with a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies. Pray finally for a growing prayer partnership with Chaplain (LTC-P) Ken Bush, (PCA) who will continue at USACHCS until next summer. Ken is rightly esteemed by myself and others as perhaps the most gracious and gifted senior leader at USACHCS. I have rediscovered the value for myself of listening to digitally recorded sermons and sacred music while I am exercising and/or doing chores. Time is tighter than ever, and hearing God's good news while doing physical training or labor also refreshes the soul.

Ch Lt. Col. Richard M. Dickinson, MEANG, Bangor, ME (Presbytery of New York and New England) Like "the pebble in one's shoe", irritations don't have to be huge in order to create real problems. The impact of "little stressors" is often magnified by "suspense of the unknown". This is where Military Personnel (Active, Guard and Reserve) and their families live. How precious to have the Changeless One at the helm of our small barque - guiding and guarding us! Nothing takes Him by surprise. Though uncharted to us, He is fully acquainted with all our ways; and He will safely guide His people through them all. Thanks be to God! **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that I will be a faithful witness to the Life and Love of the Lord Jesus every day, that the challenges of my Unit's "equipment conversion" will provide many opportunities to share the Gospel, and that "Gospel Seeds" recently sown will bear the fruit of sinners being saved. Praise to God for the healthy birth of our fourth grandchild.

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CAPT Bryan J. Weaver, CHC, USN, Second Marine Expeditionary Force Chaplain, Camp Lejeune, NC (Presbytery of Ohio) My wife, Shelly, underwent open-heart surgery at Duke University on 11 July. We marvel at God's Providence in preserving her life and we are grateful for the gift of medicine and a skilled surgeon's hands in repairing her damaged ascending aortic artery and replacing her defective aortic valve with a biologic valve. We are grateful to our Lord for our Camp Lejeune military community and our Covenant Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, NC rallying around our family during our time of need. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for Shelly's continued healing and recovery from open-heart surgery, and for the Lord to use me greatly in the hearts and lives of Marines. Pray for our Marines & sailors from II MEF deployed to OIF.

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CH Chuck McIlhenny, LAC/USC Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA (Presbytery of Southern California) Well, we're off to spend a week in Mexico - to be exact Tijuana, Mexico with an Hispanic Christian family to learn Spanish - more than we did 45 years ago in high school. It's called Immersion Language Study!!!! We've had too much Sprinkling Language Study...it's time for the deeper-life....katch my driphthttt....We recognize the need to learn the language fluently (or close to it!!!!) when so many of my patients are Spanish-Mexican speaking....I can fumble through a brief polite conversation now, but we need to be able to minister in Spanish. All the Catholic chaplains study and speak Spanish as a matter of course; we Evangelical-Protestant chaplains don't! So Donna and I are going to learn "more better"...at least so I can preach, pray, counsel, advise, joke with, minister to our Spanish speaking patients....I'm determined to learn this language so that they'll be shocked to know a gringo-looking white-guy really does know another language other than American! As you know the illegal immigrant problem is quite intense in LA and we get many illegals at the hospitals. They should know English, but, in the meantime, we need to know Spanish, if we're to minister the

gospel of free grace and salvation to them understandably. Every once in a while I get an enthusiastic "Catholic" patient who's willing to help my "Spanglish" while I help his/her English - I can at least read the Word to them in Spanish - not much else – but it's a start. **PRAYER REQUEST:** So pray for us. We know a week isn't enough - maybe a month would scratch the surface but for now that's all we can afford. This gracious Spanish family is taking us in sight unseen - we'll have a great time with them but it has to be alllllll in Spanish...K'pish!
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Pray that our President, George W. Bush, will be kept on his knees in prayer and 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