

## A PLEA for PRAYER – March 1, 2008 - No. 62

**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).*

*Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. **He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.** (Psalm 2:1-4)*

**Prayer focus:** *The One to whom we pray* – As you go to prayer, please consider this commentary from David Pitcairn on Psalm 2:4: The expression, “*He that sits in the heavens,*” at once fixes our thoughts on a being infinitely exalted above man, who is of the earth, earthy. And when it is said, “*HE shall laugh,*” this word is designed to convey to our minds the idea, that the confederacies amongst kings and peoples, and their most extensive and vigorous preparations, to defeat HIS purposes or to injure HIS servants, are in HIS sight altogether insignificant and worthless. HE looks upon their poor and puny efforts, not only without uneasiness or fear, but HE laughs at their folly; HE treats their impotency with derision. He knows how HE can crush them like a moth when HE pleases, or consume them in a moment with the breath of HIS mouth. How profitable it is for us to be reminded of truths such as these! Ah! It is indeed “*a vain thing*” for the potsherd of the earth to strive with the glorious Majesty of Heaven.

Brothers and sisters, never loose heart in praying for we come in prayer to the Creator of the universe, the one who *none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?* (Daniel 4:35)! Hope all things, believe all things! (1 Corinthians 13:7) Great petitions to him bring!

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), Brett, Ed, Elijah, Gary, Glenn, Heidi, James, John, Michael, Nathanael, and Newton. New deployments shown in **bold**.

- From Craig W., word that recently promoted Cpl. Caleb W. is preparing for deployment. [Congratulations Caleb on your promotion!]
- From Elder James V. [2/1/08] Please also add 1st Lt. Jeremy C. USMC, he and his wife are members of our congregation.
- From Chaplain John Carter - Just a quick note to let you know that we have a 1st Lt. Gareth H. that should be added to this list... He and his family attend the ... mission work. Blessings, LT John Carter [Welcome to both these Marines – May God keep you in the Hollow of His Hand!]
- Thank you, again, for all of your hard work in compiling this information. I wanted to get you up-dated; and my apologies for it coming after-the-fact for [last month's] *Plea*. If you will please post the following in the next *Plea*, God's people will be praying more intelligently for the Browns. Again, keep up the great work. Grace and Peace, CH (CPT) Kyle N. Brown

I am reminded that "a man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his path." We were given the word in December that my unit would not be deploying in March; in fact, we will probably not deploy until March of '09. So, I now have the joy of learning more of the ins and outs of being a battalion chaplain in garrison! This is yet another example of God's goodness to the Brown's as we continue to assimilate into Army life. I still maintain a consistent counseling load, but I have recently conducted my first marriage retreat. What a blast! Please continue to be in prayer for the families of my battalion who are struggling to survive. Also be in prayer for their chaplain. I feel confident that the retreat was helpful in some very practical ways; I ask you to pray that God would grant me more creativity in making it a more "redemptive" time with these couples. I want to help them improve in their communication skills, yes, but I want them to see the very real need of Christ in every aspect of life. So please, pray that the Lord of the harvest would call many of our soldiers to a saving knowledge of Christ. And as always, pray that the Brown family would continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. Grace and Peace, CH (CPT) Kyle N. Brown

- From recently retired Chief Warrant John Castle USN word that he has taken an opportunity with the Army where he can continue to serve and use his gifts. Pray for John in this transition.
- Last month we continued to ask for prayer for a wounded warrior Jamin M. This word was received from nearby Doctor Matt [2/12/08]: Jamin seems to be doing well. I haven't seen him for several weeks, I stopped by to visit him yesterday and was told that he was out walking around with his family, and he was nowhere nearby. This is quite an improvement from last time when PT had to help him walk down the hall. I will let you know the next time I see him.

We also asked for prayer for his grandmother Jennie. The Lord answered those prayers on February 7, when our Sovereign King transferred her to the Church Triumphant. Her memorial service awaits the return of another grandchild who serves as a helicopter pilot from deployment in-country. Praise God for His mercies and please continue to pray for this family.

### **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!

**LT John Carter, CHC, USN, Marine Air Group 24, Kaneohe Bay, HI (Presbytery of Southern California)** This spring I'll be wrapping up my tour with Marine Aircraft Group 24. Soon I'll be heading over across the island to Pearl Harbor. My next assignment will be aboard the USS Lake Erie. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for my wife Linda. She has some ongoing medical issues that are being treated at Tripler Medical Center. Please pray for our family with the upcoming transition.

**E-Mail:** [john.a.carter@usmc.mil](mailto:john.a.carter@usmc.mil)

**CH (MAJ) Earl Vanderhoff, USA, First Medical Brigade Chaplain, Fort Hood, TX (Presbytery of the Northwest)** I will be gaining a brand new Chaplain for one of my battalions. Pray for CH (1LT) Hulshizer and his family as they transition onto active duty, and that the Lord will give me wisdom to mentor him for a successful, aggressive ministry. I am in the process of planning 2 marriage retreats and many more single Soldier Spiritual Fitness retreats. I rejoice that many heard a clear presentation of the Gospel at a Brigade prayer lunch that featured COL Lou Best (Ret) a PCA church planter. Over 30 soldiers heard an encouraging message and were given excellent Bibles and literature during a field training exercise. Weekly I am engaged in counseling soldiers and spouses, providing pre-marital counseling, participating in many official military gatherings, offering prayers, visiting people in the hospital and participating in Chapel services. I had the on-call-chaplain duty for 3 days and received over 50 calls from many people who are in crisis situations. **PRAYER REQUEST:** I continue to praise the Lord for providing this strategic opportunity for ministry in the military community. I need prayer for healing and strength in my back. On August 30, I had surgery to repair a ruptured disk. Daily I still struggle to gain strength and stop the spasms and pain. Pray for wisdom as my doctor looks at more MRIs.

**E-Mail:** [earl.vanderhoff@conus.army.mil](mailto:earl.vanderhoff@conus.army.mil)

**CH Jack Unangst Jr., VA Medical Center, Prescott, AZ (Presbytery of New York and New England)** The Veteran "congregation" at this VA is mainly transient and the challenge is to apply the appropriate "spiritual therapies" to the presenting needs of each patient. I pray for wisdom each day as I face the multi-varied problems of aging WWII Vets, Post Traumatic Stress of Viet Nam/Iraq/Afghanistan, etc. Vets, and the addictive behaviors associated with many of these. Most I meet have little or no biblical understanding and I set times during the week when I teach a "Spiritual Basics" class dealing with four areas: God, Sin, Salvation, Faith & Repentance. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray that these classes will be biblically informative and used of the Holy Spirit to spiritually emancipate self-servers to become Christ's servants.

**E-Mail:** [jack.unangst@med.va.gov](mailto:jack.unangst@med.va.gov)

**CH (LTC) Chris Wisdom, USA, US Army Chaplains Center and School, Fort Jackson, SC (Presbytery of the Southwest)** We are looking forward to breaking ground for the new Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center, including the new Air Forces Chaplain Services School and the US Navy Chaplains School on 9 April of 2008. The plan is to complete the facilities in time to begin full training in them by the beginning of October 2009. It will mean a lot of 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 military families. 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 the President and 30 chaplains and chaplain assistants, and a group picture with the President. His words about how his faith impacts his mission as President, were brief, sincere, and to the point. An unforgettable meeting! **PRAYER REQUEST:** 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 protection from haste and distraction by mere urgency, and for focus on what is eternally important as we accomplish what is temporally necessary to ensure that great training and development of chaplains and chaplain assistants continue.

**E-Mail:** [christopher.wisdom@us.army.mil](mailto:christopher.wisdom@us.army.mil)

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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