

A PLEA for PRAYER – January 3, 2009 - No. 72

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).*

Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! When the morning is light, they practice it, because it is in the power of their hand. And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away; so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage. Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, against this family do I devise an evil, from which ye shall not remove your necks; neither shall ye go haughtily: for this time is evil. (Micah 2:1-3)

Prayer focus: *Evil Times* – The world, including many in our nation, try desperately to color coat evil men as down deep good at heart. In their view those who do evil are misunderstood, those we somehow have abused or perhaps simply those that we have not given enough money. We therefore need to just talk to them and they will be persuaded to change. How foolishly this stands against God's Word. Those who attacked us have done so with *the power of their hand* and continue to fight to kill us all. If it were not for those who continue to defend us, they could have their way. They *devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds.*

Over the life of our country our warriors have by God's grace won and continue to win our freedom from those who hate us and hate the Lord of Hosts. Do not despise these victories against those that *devise evil*. Some of our warriors have survived against incredible odds. Do not despise their valor, but rather love and cherish it. It is a gift from our God. Pray that we as a people will do righteousness that brings true peace. Give praise for victories against those that do *violence*, that *oppress* people and their *heritage*. Pray that the Gospel will continue to have free course that the ends of the earth will come to Christ and come under His dominion.

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: Aaron (**two**), Andrew (two), Brett, Caleb, David, Elijah, John, Michael, Stephen and **Chaplain Doug Withington**. New deployments shown in **bold**. Ed has returned home.

- [12/06] From Ruling Elder Ed Clements: Please remove my son listed as CPT Ed Clements USA from the Active Duty list. Ed is home (Praise the Lord), is now a Major and still with the Maryland Army National Guard. Many thanks for all the prayers.
- From Pastor Doug Watson - Another update from Hawaii: 1st Lt Gareth H. is now Capt. Gareth H. USMC.
- Word has been received that CDR Doug Withington CHC, USN has been involuntarily recalled to active duty for a one (1) year deployment to OIF (Iraq) with 2d Marine Logistics Group (MLG). He reported onboard 01 Dec 08. He will be the senior Protestant Chaplain at TQ, Iraq. And then this word from Doug: So good to hear through you of how all our folks in uniform are getting along. I'm sending this quick note to let you know what's going on with me. I'm now active duty status (as of December 1) and will be deploying to Iraq in January. I'll be the senior Protestant chaplain aboard the Marine Logistics Headquarters camp. My orders are for a year. Please pray for my wife Sharon and for the church [I serve], Pilgrim Presbyterian Church (OPC) in Raleigh while I'm away. We are still searching for an interim pastor to serve in my absence.
- From Maj. Scott K. - Thanks as always for the prayer update. I don't think I've updated you recently. We'll be moving back to [east coast air base] and leaving Spain the end of next week. I'll be rejoining my old unit. We're thankful to be leaving Spain after a wonderful tour and going back to our church and friends in New Bern. On the other hand, I've got to get used to the real Corps again after my NATO "vacation." Next year promises to be interesting and busy.
- On a recent Lord's Day we visited a congregation and renew brief fellowship with SGT Aaron R. who is about to deploy in harm's way. Please keep this brother especially in prayer as he serves with a special unit.

Chaplains' Reports:

With all of our military might, the greatest weapon we have in the long 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!

CDR Douglas M. Withington, CHC, USN, Deployed to Iraq (Presbytery of the Southeast) I have received orders to mobilize and deploy to Iraq for a year starting January, 2009. Though I am attached to 2d Marine Logistics Group, my primary responsibility will be to serve as senior protestant chaplain aboard a US Marine base in Iraq. It will be a tremendous opportunity to

reach many with the gospel of Christ, as well as to minister to believers who are far from their homes and families. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for my wife Sharon during the upcoming separation. My mother Esther and my sister Susan live nearby and are both disabled. Pray for them all in my absence. We are so thankful for the strong community of our church. Pray for the church [I serve], Pilgrim Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC. By the time this report is published we hope to have retained an interim pastor to serve while I am gone. Pray for him and the congregation during this time. Pray for our two elders and four deacons, presently serving a congregation of over 200, that the Lord would add to their number and give them grace and wisdom. Pray that the Lord would equip me to make the most of this opportunity to minister to the troops who are serving their country in harm's way.

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CDR Timothy J. Power, CHC, USN, Naval Base Coronado, San Diego, CA (Presbytery of Southern California) I am approaching my one year anniversary of assuming leadership of the Religious Ministries Department here at Naval Base Coronado. With the help of many the ministry has been excellent. I have been preaching the circuit at the two Chapels here about twice a month. The rest of the time the other Protestant, Chaplain Weaver, officiates. We have been pleased to see new faces at the Chapel services each week and have enjoyed our fellowship times with the communities. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Continue to pray for my leadership at the base. I took a one week leadership class in December and am continuing my other seminar class on Mondays in San Diego. Pray for the family. Janine is still homeschooling and is partnering for some classes and administration services in her first full year with Heritage Christian School. Also, John, our senior, is considering his options for next year and has started undergraduate work in one Jr. College class. Lastly, we'll be making some other school decisions for our other children in the early part of the year.

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CH (1LT) Kenneth Honken, SDARNG, 152nd CSSB, Pierre, SD (Presbytery of the Dakotas) The next year promises to be challenging, but also very exciting. Having been ordained this past October, I have now stepped into the official role of pastor at Bethlehem Reformed Church and will soon be accessioned, Lord willing, as a chaplain in the SD Guard. There is a desperate need for chaplains here in our state: I am the only one below the age of 45! And there is a desperate need for a Reformed and Presbyterian presence in SD as well. My prayer is that these challenges will become opportunities for the kingdom of God to shine brightly into the hearts of those who don't know Him! **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that God would use me as his ambassador in my work with the SDARNG. And please pray that the faithful Presbyterians in our state would not weary in doing good.

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CAPT Bryan J. Weaver, CHC, USN, II Marine Expeditionary Force Chaplain, Camp Lejeune, NC (Presbytery of Ohio) II Marine Expeditionary Force continues to prepare for a major deployment to Iraq at the beginning of the New Year. The Marines will return to Al Anbar Province in Western Iraq. Of the 56,000 Marines assigned to II MEF, approximately 24% are deployed on any given day. Our focus of effort is training and ramping up for the upcoming deployment for a large portion of the MEF. 2nd Marine Division has the lead for the II MEF Command Element. Along with predeployment training, family readiness is a key component. Our chaplains are an integral part of the MEF's family readiness program. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for the upcoming II MEF Forward deployment. Also, pray for those of us who will become

part of the II MEF Remain Behind Element. Please continue to pray for my wife's health. Shelly had open heart surgery in 2007. She is slowly recuperating from that ordeal. We thank our Lord Jesus for our Covenant A.R.P. church home. God has blessed us with a wonderful pastor in Rev. Ed Fleagle. My three covenant sons truly love Rev. and Mrs. Fleagle. I've been slated to detach from Camp Lejeune, NC next June. My next assignment will be Marine Forces Command, Norfolk, VA.

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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 the President Elect as he takes office this month. 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