

A PLEA for PRAYER – February 7, 2009 - No. 73

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 exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. (I Timothy 2:1-4)

Prayer focus: *For kings, and for all that are in authority* – God's Word commands us to pray for those in authority over us. This *Plea* has endeavored to ask God's people to do this faithfully. We are to make *supplications, prayers, intercessions* for them, yes and even to give thanks for them for there is *no power but of God (Rom. 13:1)* and they are *not [to be] a terror to good works, but to the evil (vs. 3), a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil (vs. 4)*. This is God's command so that *we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty*. Pray for the new Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces that he will grow in his understanding of God's Word *that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty*. We live in troubled times, but as we ardently follow God's command to pray for him and plead that *all that are in authority* will act so that *we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty* and that the Gospel will continue to go forth unabated.

Remember the admonition and declaration of the Psalmist: *Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him (Psalm 2:10-12).*

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, David, **Doug**, Elijah, **Gareth**, **Harry**, John, Michael, Stephen and Chaplain Doug Withington. New deployments shown in **bold**. Caleb has returned home.

- [01/03/09] Cpl Caleb W. USMC has returned to his stateside base after participating in joint exercises with our allies over the last six months.
- SGT Harry L. was redeployed to Iraq for another year on Saturday, December 6, 2008. Thanks for your prayers! Pastor Jeff.
- We have a couple more updates from Hawaii. I'm pretty late with the first one: MGySgt Doug T. deployed right around the first part of Nov. to Afghanistan. Capt. Gareth H. is scheduled to deploy to Iraq in a few days. Thanks for your faithfulness to this task. In Christ, Pastor Doug
- [01/05] From his wife - Tim W. has advanced from ENS to LTJG. Thank you for your continued prayer for our troops! [Congratulations Tim!]
- [01/20] If you would I would appreciate your entering the name of a new member of our congregation to the OPC Prayer list for our soldiers. SPC Nathaniel H. is serving in the Virginia National Guard. Thanks. Pastor Pete

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!

CH (COL) Christopher H. Wisdom, USA, US Army Chaplains Center and School, Fort Jackson, SC (Presbytery of the Southwest) I continue to enjoy the blessings of God in my ministry at the United States Army Chaplain Center and School as a fellow-heir with you of "the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus" (Revelation 1:9). I am being challenged daily, along with my fellow leaders, to transform USACHCS into a "state of the art" educational institution while we train unprecedented numbers of Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants. In addition to my other duties as Assistant Commandant, I supervise the team that is overseeing the construction of the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center. Progress continues in anticipation of the move of the Navy and Air Force Chaplain Schools here in January of 2010. Thus far, delays have been overcome in answers to fervent prayers amidst many challenges, and inter-service chaplain officer training is already being planned for when the Center assumes initial operating status. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for God's wisdom for me as I seek to balance far more administrative work than there are work hours for me to complete it, with the

call to be faithful in prayer, the ministry of the Word, and the development of biblically reformed chaplains (James 3:13-17). (I still enjoy preaching to basic training Soldiers whenever I can). Pray in particular for God's blessing on a young chaplains' mentoring a group with PRJC chaplains who are assigned to Fort Jackson. Finally, pray for health for our daughter-in-law Rachel (our son Ben's wife) and their unborn daughter as they anticipate her birth in the first week of February. Thanks very much!

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CH Jack K. Unangst Jr., VA Medical Center, Prescott, AZ (Presbytery of New York and New England) Each Saturday and Sunday I hold services at the VA Station where Vets, WW II, Korean conflict, Vietnam, OEF/OIF, etc., are serviced for various health related issues. Recently I have been relating the great Doctrines of Grace and am realizing how great the knowledge chasm is between the average "church attender" and a real spiritual grasp of the Biblical words: God, Sin, Grace, Salvation, Election, Faith, Repentance, Perseverance, etc. It seems many are practically living out the analysis of Paul, "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." Rom1:25. I have been serving Vets (in command--USMC, or in ministry,--USN) since 1974 and am beginning to realize in part Paul's "...great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart..." (Rom. 9:2) as I work among those attempting to secure their own righteousness, rejecting God's righteousness in Christ. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray the Holy Spirit will convince these Vets of their need to obtain mercy at the feet of the Lord Christ. [Please also pray for Jack and his wife as they travel to Europe this month to visit his daughter Capt. Tanna who is expecting a child soon.]

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CH Charles A. McIlhenny, Los Angeles County USC Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA (Presbytery of Southern California) The USC Medical Center has 18 full time staff chaplains (another 10 part-time and student chaplains) there but with only 4 of us evangelicals giving the gospel message on a daily basis. We've had a busy Fall season. We have a new hospital facility - 1.5 million sq. ft; costing \$1.2 billion. We chaplains were busy comforting and caring all the patients and staff as they moved over to the brand new facilities. It has "state of the art" computers and other new technologies. It is the largest ER-Trauma center in the country (NOT county). We've also been told recently by the department there that we won't be allowed to hand out religious literature unless approved by the department, esp. if it is "proselytizing" in nature! **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for the subtle suppression of the Gospel from the "Interfaith" movement which governs the Department of Spiritual Care. Pray that we evangelicals will not compromise Christ and Him crucified to the needy patients & staff. Pray also for "Ray" (not real name for confidentiality reasons) who broke his neck resulting in unusable arms and legs - but the happiest spirit and attitude that I've ever seen. He is a model patient with terrible disabilities, yet a vibrant witness for Christ in the midst of his misery. Pray also for "Jane" - an MS patient who has a virulent form of the disease and suddenly went blind. She can't use her arms or ambulate either and is very discouraged. She asked me the other day how she could have a vision of Jesus? Without delving into all kinds of theology with her, I read stories from the NT and asked her to "see" Jesus as he walked, worked, and talked in the Gospels. As I dramatically read the stories I asked her to "see" Him in her mind's eye, as it were. Then gave her the text of John 20 with Thomas..."You believed me 'cause you saw me; but BLESSED are those that believe and DO NOT SEE..." There are obviously many of other Scriptures I could

have given her about "not by sight but by faith", etc. I prayed and left her with that great comfort from the Lord Himself.

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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