

A PLEA for PRAYER – March 7, 2009 - No. 74

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).*

My friends scorn me: but mine eye poureth out tears unto God. O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbour! When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall not return. (Job 16:20-22)

Prayer focus: Pleading for our neighbor – This writer had a special privilege this past week. In traveling to our Commission meeting, I encountered a good number of service personnel and was able to thank them for their service, and in a couple of instances share my motivation for such appreciation. Job is probably the most tired individual recorded in Scripture. In response to his trials he *poured out tears unto God*, undoubtedly in prayer. He pleads with others to *plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbour!* That word is as sure a truth then as it is today. Please plead with God even with tears to care for those from our church who serve to defend us, pleading that God will indeed keep them in the Hollow of His Hand. They are indeed very special neighbors to us in the bounds of 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 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, Andrew (two), Brett, David, Doug, **Douglas**, Elijah, Gareth, Harry, John, Michael, Stephen and Chaplain Doug Withington. New deployments shown in **bold**. Aaron L. has returned home safety.

• [2/06/09] From Pastor David - Some up-dates: SGT Rueben K, just returned [in-country]... [With] more men, more materiel, better equipment this time, [they are] still facing a resilient and resourceful fanatical enemy who believe they are doing God's will when they kill American

soldiers. Maj. Jason H., USA, is again a civilian. He is employed by the USA and they still live [abroad], but he is no longer active (still in reserves). Sgt. Douglas O. is [also deployed in-country] since last Nov., for a year... Thank you again for this ministry.

- We have received word that CWO2 Aaron L. returned from deployment about a month ago.
- From Chaplain Wisdom - Rejoice with us in answer to one of the prayer requests we made [last month], as we are so glad and grateful for the birth of our second grandchild, our first granddaughter... Our son... and our dear daughter in law... received her from the Lord on Tuesday. This portion of Psalm 103 has come to mind as our hearts overflow with joy:
As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Thanks again for your faithful prayers and kind thoughts expressed in numerous emails, notes and letters. Gratefully, Chris, for Ginny and our family

- From Pastor Steve – Major Rick Hollen has retired from the Marines now. He is still living in [up North] and attending [an] OPC where he is an elder, I believe. [Thank you Rick for your many years of service in our behalf and blessings in you continued service for Christ.]

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 (LTC) Graham C. Harbman, USAR, 2nd Medical Brigade, San Pablo, CA (Presbytery of Northern California) My transition to my new unit is going well. So far, my primary responsibilities are traveling to subordinate units giving briefs on suicide awareness and prevention, and how to cope with the many stressful aspects of deployments. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that my schedule will allow leading worship services and Bible studies, and that meaningful counseling opportunities will result from my briefings.
E-Mail: graham.harbman@us.army.mil

CH (COL) Chester H. Lanious, USA, Fort Bragg, NC (Presbytery of the Central U.S.) I have been doing some teaching, attending meetings, and working on the next Chaplaincy Journal on World Religions. Hammering out a Concept and Development Plan for the Center

for World Religions is consuming my time at work. Our son returned from his deployment to Afghanistan in late December, and is thankful that it was only twelve months instead of the original fifteen. Our second grandchild is on the way and we pray that all will go well with the pregnancy. My father, after being hospitalized to deal with heart and kidney issues for several weeks, went to be with the Lord in December. He died at home and quickly and suffers no more. I was able to do the funeral. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for my ministry.

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Ch Capt Cornelius Johnson, USAF, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, TX (Presbytery of New Jersey) I recently had the opportunity to counsel soldiers coming back from Iraq who suffer from post traumatic stress disorder. One of the questions that comes up is why would God allow all of this killing and suffering to happen. This gives me the opportunity to talk about the curse of sin, and the grace and the healing power of Jesus Christ. I believe God has blessed my efforts. I will also be starting a weekly Bible Study for the Dental Squadron this month. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for my family, and that God may continue to grant me boldness as I bring the good news of Jesus Christ. Also, pray that the Bible Study will have a great impact on the Dental Squadron.

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Pray that President Barrack 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