

A PLEA for PRAYER – April 4, 2009 - No. 75

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).*

There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you. (Deuteronomy 11:25)

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me (Hebrews 13:5-6).

Prayer focus: *Fear God, not man* – The elite fighting forces of this world have reputations that brings fear, dread and a sometimes paralyzing effect on their enemies which is a significant factor in warfare. Some time ago we talked with one of our warriors who described a trained sniper in an elite unit who froze in combat, unable to kill the enemy or defend his unit under sever attack. He had been trained but not been battle tested and others paid dearly for his fear.

Scripture repeatedly teaches us that we are not to fear what man can do to us, but that we are to fear God alone. That is not an easy task. But we need to remember that mortal man can do little, but to displease the King of the universe is to endanger our very souls. Pray that those who serve develop such a godly fear that the fear of man dwindles to nothing. We have some very much in harm's way – please pray for their success and safety and that they fear God, and resting in His sovereign care, that the fear of man pails by comparison.

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, **Jessie**, John, **Kyle**, Michael, Stephen and Chaplain Doug Withington. New deployments shown in **bold**. Aaron L. has returned home safely.

- [3/7/09] From John Castle RN PA-C MPAS - I'm back to working as a contractor. I'm at Walter Reed taking care of wounded warriors. I'm majoring in the MEB process, attempting to make sure that the injured member gets everything he/she deserves within the bounds of the law. So, if you can replace me on the list, I'd appreciate it.

- From Pastor Dan - We continue to give thanks for those who serve our nation and for you who provides these helpful prayer lists. Our son Jesse is currently deployed in Iraq and in harm's way yet in our Father's care; we would appreciate prayers for him and for his wife at... home...

- We have several special prayer requests for healing this month:

 - Pray for Chaplain Earl Vanderhoff recovering from recent surgery. Praise God for apparently successfully surgery and for Earl's complete recovery.

 - Pray for OPC pastor, LCDR Steven Parker CHC, USN, Ret. and his surgery for prostate cancer scheduled for April 1. Please pray for our brother that complete healing is accomplished.

 - Pray for continued recovery of the Chairman of the Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel, CDR Robert Needham CHC, USN, Ret. who was in an automobile accident 19 March near his home. His left femur was shattered / splintered at the knee. The surgeon said the operation went exceptionally well. Praise God that his life was spared and for his full recovery.

 - Pray for a relative of Chaplain Cornelius Johnson who has a serious condition. Please also pray for the chaplain as he prepares to deploy in the coming months.

- We have learned that James J. is heading for Naval Recruit Training with the goal of joining one of the most elite units in our military. He is the son of a Navy CAPT who is an OPC ruling elder. Please keep James in your prayers.

- From Pastor Ben W. a request to pray for Cpl. Kyle G. who is currently deployed.

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!

As John Knox said to the crowned heads of Europe, "In the face of death, only God is great." A person who otherwise would not listen to a preacher may be all ears as they alone or with their

loved ones prepare for death. For these divine appointments I have a relaxed earnestness to minister to all the Lord brings to me. [PCA Hospice chaplain Dick Fisher in the *Guardian*]

CAPT Bryan Weaver, CHC, USN, II Marine Expeditionary Force Chaplain's Office, Camp Lejeune, NC (Presbytery of Ohio) II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) recently deployed from Camp Lejeune in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for a 13-month deployment to Al Anbar Province. As I write, the II MEF (Remain Behind Element) is now making serious preparations to send a Marine Expeditionary Brigade to Afghanistan this spring. There is a sense of urgency as the MEF activates this MEB as a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF). **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for all the military planners and for those Marines & Sailors who will be going forward as well as their loved ones. I am in receipt of orders to Marine Forces Command, Norfolk, Va. I report in June, 2009. I would covet your prayers for a smooth transition for both myself and my relief.
E-Mail: bryan.j.weaver1@usmc.mil

CDR Doug Withington, CHC, USN, Deployed to Iraq (Presbytery of the Southeast) Last fall I was preaching from the pulpit of my local church in Raleigh, NC., and now I have assumed responsibilities as the 2d Marine Logistics Group chaplain and senior Protestant chaplain based at I have already met Marines who are eager for sound preaching and Bible studies. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray that I might preach Christ and that sinners might be drawn by the power of God, not the wisdom of man. Pray for my wife Sharon and me while we are apart. Pray for the health of my daughter, Courtney, who is teaching at [abroad]. Though she recently recovered from Dengue fever, she has a very low blood count. Pray for my congregation. They have a strong interim pastor serving at present, but he can only serve until April. Ask that the Lord would send a man for the remainder of my deployment.
E-Mail: douglas.withington@navy.mil

2LT David DeRienzo, USA Chaplain Candidate (Presbytery of New York and New England) I am actually in between seminaries right now. I am accepted and set to enter the MDIV program at Westminster in Philadelphia beginning in July. That will also entail my transferring from the Maine Army National Guard to the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. I am also getting married right before that happens too. My bride's name is Jenna Marry and we are getting married on the 4th of July in Washington, PA. There are lots of things going on. I am leaving the MAR program through Reformed Theological Seminary (Virtual Campus) to pursue things at Westminster. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for me, my fiancée, and my preparations to eventually be a chaplain.
E-Mail: david.derienzo@maine.gov

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