

## A PLEA for PRAYER – May 2, 2009 - No. 76

**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).*

*Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.*

*But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble. And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him. (Psalm 37:1-6, 39-40)* We suggest you read the whole Psalm.

**Prayer focus: *The Righteous and the Wicked*** – Our Bible's chapter heading is: *The happy state of the godly, and the short-lived prosperity of the wicked.* Without doubt, we are living in troubled times, both abroad in the Long War against the enemies of freedom, and at home with turbulence and uncertainty in our nation. It is good as we go to prayer to reflect on God's sure promises to those who *trust in the LORD*, that we should not *fret ourselves because of evildoers* or because of *workers of iniquity* who will be *cut down* and *wither* while God's people *shall be fed*. Rather we are to *delight ourselves in the LORD* and to *commit our way to the LORD*, who will *bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday*. Our Sovereign LORD, in the midst of uncertainty and even chaos, brings *righteous and strength in the time of trouble – he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.*

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 (**two**), Kyle, Michael, **Nicolas**, **Noah**, Stephen and Chaplain Doug Withington. New deployments shown in **bold**. Doug has returned Home safely.

- From [04/04/09] Chaplain Honken SDARNG - This is a little bit late, but hopefully you can put it in next month's newsletter. One of the sons of our congregation, PV2 Nicolas S., will be deploying to the [Middle East] region in the middle of this month. He is a member of the SDARNG. If you could add his name to the list for prayer, that would be great. Thank you for your service on the committee and for publishing these regular updates. For God and Country!  
CH (CPT) Ken R. Honken

- [04/04/09] From Pastor Doug W. - We in Hawaii thank our sovereign God for His answers to our prayers on a constant basis. MGySgt. Doug T. has returned safely from his deployment to Afghanistan. It was shortened for Doug to return and execute orders to his next and final duty station at... here... At the end of this tour, Doug will retire after 30 years of service to his nation in the Marine Corps.

We continue to pray for Capt. Gareth H.; he has arrived in [a new area of the Middle East] with his squadron...

- From [4/22] From Chaplain Candidate (2LT) Blake Law SCARNG - I meant to update you sooner, but after months and months of waiting for my packet to be approved and to appear at Federal Recognition board, I was finally commissioned as a chaplain candidate last month. I have already been to my unit's first drill and have been warmly welcomed as the new chaplain candidate. The unit is 178th EN BN out of Rock Hill, SC. Thanks for your continued efforts to care for our military men! [Congratulations Blake and welcome aboard!]

- [4/13] An honest report from Chaplain (Capt.) Cornelius Johnson USAF - The only reason I am telling you this, is that I was told to report good things that happen to me. I won Company Grade Officer (CGO) of the Quarter here at Wilford Hall [a AF medical center]. I hate to even talk about it, but God gets all of the glory. I was not expecting to win, and was shocked that I did win, but I won the award. [We are not shocked and agree whole heartedly with your perspective!]

- [4/24] From Contractor John Castle (CWO4, USN Ret.) - He will be leaving Walter Reed Army Medical Center and will be going overseas on a government job beginning in June. Pray for this brother who will be traveling frequently. Keep up the work you're doing... We need you doing just what you're doing while you remind your email audience that there are many folks out here attempting to give glory to the King of the Universe while we're attempting to serve the people of America.

- Please continue in prayer for Chaplain Vanderhoff (recent successful second surgery after a failed first surgery), retired Chaplain Steve Parker (successful surgery) and Committee Chairman and retired Chaplain Bob Needham (back in the pulpit for the second week in a wheel

chair). Please pray for continued healing and God's grace in their recovery and for complete recovery.

- We have learned that SGT Emily C. USAR has entered nursing school and been accepted to the third year of an ROTC program. Congratulations Cadet Emily!

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### **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 Tim Power, CHC, USN, Naval Base Coronado, San Diego, CA (OPC - Presbytery of Southern California)** I don't often share my statistics for the year, but I'll do it so that you can better understand Chapel ministry. Let me give you a picture of some of my pastoral ministry from the past year. I led 36 worship services, performed 5 weddings, said prayers for 20 ceremonies and other functions, led 3 memorial services, attended 39 hours of grad school, and administrated a religious ministry program for 34,000 personnel on Naval Base Coronado. Overall, the Base Chapel has been performing quite well. We will be experiencing a major change in personnel for our enlisted workers early in the year.

The Power family is enjoying California. The children are finding good friendships and enjoying many California hobbies. Pray for our High School Senior, John, as he finishes Heritage Christian and takes classes at Cuyamaca Community College. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for our Temporary Duty folks on medical hold for various reasons. Pray for our family as we enjoy a family retreat up at Forest Home Camp a mile high in late April.

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**CH (MAJ) Earl Vanderhoff, USA, First Medical Brigade Chaplain, Fort Hood, TX (OPC - Presbytery of the Northwest)** It is with great joy I report answered prayer. The Lord has touched my body after 4 spinal surgeries. I am pain free and declared deployable. I passed the physical fitness test just before Christmas. As I prepare to deploy with my brigade this summer I am very busy leading marriage and single Soldier retreats. Hundreds of people are hearing about God's standards for successful relationships. Many have been stirred in their faith through the movie Fire Proof. My counseling ministry consistently provides opportunity to explain the Gospel. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for a harvest of souls. I have four retreats and two prayer lunches scheduled before we deploy. Pray for my wife Susie as she is planning her itinerary to spend time with our grandchildren.

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**Ch Capt Cornelius Johnson, USAF, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, TX (OPC - Presbytery of New Jersey)** At least twice a week, I get the opportunity to go pray with patients before they go into surgery. This gives me the opportunity to share the peace of Jesus Christ to

the anxious and scared hearts of the patients. I have seen God really work on the hearts of the patients. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for my family and my ministry to the patients. Also, please pray for our staff because there will be a lot of turnover and change in our staff this summer.

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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