

A PLEA for PRAYER – July 4, 2009 - No. 78

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).*

For his mercy endureth for ever. (Psalm 136:2, et al.)

Prayer focus: 233rd Birthday of our Nation – For almost two and one third centuries, who could deny that God has been most merciful to us as a nation! The mercies the Lord Christ has extended are most remarkable as we consider that the freedom we enjoy is undeserved as we take measure of the sins of our nation. Yet through all of it, he has not only preserved great freedom to us as measured against any nation on earth, but has allow us to worship God has he has commanded. In spite of the dark clouds of humanism that continue to gather over us, and events in the Long War, praise God for his continued mercies to us, and praise him for the special warriors who guard our gates. They are indeed a special gift from a faithful God whose *mercy endureth for ever.*

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, Doug, Douglas, Elijah, Gareth, Harry, Jessie, John (two), Kyle, Michael, Nicolas, Noah, Rueben, Stephen and Chaplains **Kyle Brown, Cornelius Johnson**, and Doug Withington. David and Mark have returned safely. New deployments shown in **bold**.

• From CAPT Bill A., CHC, USN, Ret. - I just want to let you know that my son, MAJ David W. A, returned safely from Iraq. He has now moved to his new duty assignment in Hawaii. Thanks for your good work.

- [6/11/09] From Father-in Law Kurt Schmidt - Pastor Mark Schroeder asked that I provide you a little update on Chris. Chris is a sergeant in the Marine Corps and he and his wife..., (my daughter), are living in [Far East]. They are due to leave [there] at the end of next year. Chris left for [deployment] about one month ago...

He does... work [sorting out the bad guys] so he spends most of his time in the camp working on computers. He is located in one of the large established bases in country. He recently completed sergeant's school and graduated number one in his class of approximately 60 others. He is also in zone for promotion to Staff Sergeant. At the same time, he graduated from a four year college last year so he is also trying to arrange for letters of recommendation to accompany an application for OCS. Since the deployment caught him a little by surprise, he was not able to complete this application prior to his departure so he is trying to do it long distance. I think he is meeting with some problems getting people to take the time to write the recommendation letters. He works odd hours. Right now he is working from 0100 to 1300. I do not know about chaplains and worship service opportunities. That is something I need to find out. Given his MOS, we do not know much. Hope this is helpful.

- [06/14/09] Sir: you may take my name off the [deployed] list! I returned from Iraq in March after 13 months in Baghdad. I appreciated the prayers -- particularly for my family left behind. In Christ, Mark W. R., Col USMC

- From the third quarter *Guardian*, a chaplain's wife gives thanks:

*I want to seize this opportunity to thank the PRJCCMP for the precious ministry of Doug Lee and Gary Hitzfeld to Earl and me over these past months. We were not seeking their help but they came and blessed us with visits just when we most needed encouragement. Gary Hitzfeld ...for finding me March 11 in a crowded Houston hospital waiting room while Earl was undergoing a pre-op procedure, I thank you. I was all alone and four hours from home (Fort Hood). You had to ask many ladies if they were me before we finally met. You drove back a second time to wait with me the next day as Earl underwent a..... I didn't know how much I needed company. Four weeks later we found ourselves back in the same hospital as Earl underwent an emergency re-do of the valve operation. Again, Gary e-mailed and Doug called to encourage me. God used you both. May 19 Doug cheered us with his presence in our home. Finding that we share a love for the Pacific Northwest in general and fishing Lake Chelan in particular, we could hardly stop talking to eat. Chaplain Lee addressed our Brigade prayer luncheon the next day with a challenging reminder of what it means to be "in the Service". We are proud to call him our General and be represented by him to the Army. More importantly we are blessed to find a humble brother in Christ.
Gratefully, Susie Vanderhoff [wife of Chaplain Earl Vanderhoff]*

[Thank you Gary and Doug for the care you provide to our chaplain!]

- [6/23/09] From Pastor Mahaffy - Greetings in the Savior's name! Thank you for the help you gave a couple of years ago when Cpl [Christopher] B. was at his first session at Officer Candidate School (OCS). He was not able to complete the course last year due to an injury, but he has now recovered from that and has also graduated from college. He heads east at the end of next week for the second summer of OCS. Chris tells me that schedules are somewhat different for the second part, but if you have any chaplain contacts you think would be helpful, or suggestions for a nearby church, that would be appreciated.... Thank you again for your labors for those in the service of our nation. Cordially in Christ, John

- We understand that Candidate (Cpl) Jonathan D. Hoogerhyde USMC is also heading for the second session of OCS this summer.
- Please for Cadet Emily C., who is currently “deployed” with our mission in Haiti.
- Chaplain Candidate 1LT Mitch Haubert has transferred to the PAARNG as he purses his seminary training at Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary.
- We have learned that Matt W., Medical Corps, USA has been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. [Congratulations Matt!]
- Finally, please pray for a couple of our Marines probably engaged in the current offensive in one of our theaters of operation, that God would keep them in the Hollow of His Hand!

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!

This month we give preference to three deployed chaplain.

Ch Capt Cornelius Johnson, USAF, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, TX - deployed (Presbytery of New Jersey) I will be deploying to Aludied from 2 July [deployed 28 June] through November. Meanwhile, things are going well here at Wilford Hall. We have a big inspection coming up soon. The chapel staff has been working very hard to prepare because every part of our ministry will be inspected. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that God would bless the chapel staff's efforts as we prepare for our inspection. Also pray that God would bless my ministry in Aludied, and that a harvest of souls would come to know Jesus as their Savior through the preaching of the Word. Finally, pray for my family as I am apart from them for four months.

E-Mail: Cornelius.Johnson@Lackland.af.mil

CDR Douglas M. Withington, CHC, USN, Deployed to Iraq (Presbytery of the Southeast) I have been in Iraq for 125 days so far. I am thankful for a very supportive command environment in 2d Marine Logistics Group Forward. Attendance at the worship service has grown steadily, and it was very encouraging to hear from a senior enlisted Marine who had been raised Catholic share with me that she came to my service because I explained the Bible. Please pray for me as I try to include both ministries at the home base with traveling to outlying sites. Frequent dust storms delay travel, and I've spent a day and two nights at a flight line waiting for a flight to go 70 miles. Continue to pray for my congregation in Raleigh, NC, Pilgrim Presbyterian Church (OPC). The Rev. Dr. Allen Curry just "relieved" Rev. Tom Tyson as interim pastor serving in my absence. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for him and his wife Marilyn as they join the ministry and fellowship of the body there.

E-Mail: douglas.withington@navy.mil

CH (CPT) Kyle N. Brown, USA, HHD, 180th TC BN, Fort Hood, TX - Deployed to Kuwait (Presbytery of Ohio) I am trying to acclimate to the heat here in Kuwait, yet I'm very thankful for God's mercy in this assignment. My soldiers are doing very well, which comes as no surprise to me. Everyone is working hard to get situated for what we all pray is a quick year.

PRAYER REQUEST: Please pray for the safety of my Soldiers as they stay out on the roads to protect the convoys. I ask God to make this year a time of spiritual renewal and peace while so many are away from their families; pray that God will shower His grace upon the Browns during our first deployment.

E-Mail: kyle.brown14@us.army.mil

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