

A PLEA for PRAYER – September 4, 2009 - No. 80

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).*

And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand. And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him. But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house. (Judges 17:18-21)

Prayer focus: Giving up secrets – We live in a world where scripture reminds that “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9) There is no place where this is more evident than with the enemies of freedom in our present distress. Add the factor of information dissemination via the Internet and you have a deadly poison at work. The story of Samson, which does not need a lot of explanation, demonstrates that giving up the secret of his great God given strength brought his death. Even greater was the loss to Israel of the one who served as their protector against the enemy. In World War II, the expression “Loose lips sink ships” served as a constant reminder that the slightest bit of information about a service man could bring death to many.

In the Long War, we encourage everyone to be exceedingly careful and particularly circumspect with private information that could, under circumstances not even imagined, bring pain, suffering and even death to those we care for and those who protect us. The desire to share a prayer request can result in providing the enemy in a time of war with information that can bring death. While email is a reasonable vehicle for sharing such requests if you know that the recipients are trustworthy, Internet postings are not safe in the day of powerful search engines. Pray for the protection of those that serve, that sensitive information about them is not divulged. If you have wondered, this is the reason that we do not show last names, units or location except for our chaplains or those discharged. We were painfully reminded of this recently. If you spot something, please let us know immediately. God knows their full names and where they are because He keeps them in the Hollow of His Hand in His sovereign care.

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. Pray for the families of the fallen, pray for the wounded and the one recently captured that they may all endure and come to rest and trust in Christ.

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, Chris, Doug, Douglas, **Dustin**, Gareth, Harry, John (three), Kyle, **Matt**, Michael, Nicolas, Noah, Rachel, Rueben, **Scott**, Stephen (two) and Chaplains Kyle Brown, Cornelius Johnson, and Doug Withington. Praise God that Jessie has returned safely. New deployments shown in **bold**.

- [8/1/09] - We have received word from his long time friend that Maj. Scott K. just went back in the sandbox a few days ago. He is joined by GySgt Dustin O. and new to our list LCpl Matt S. Maj Tom S. formally on our list is there as well, along with a BP Chaplain.

- [8/03] - You can remove my name, LT Newton Armstrong IV USNR from the list. I was honorably discharged from the Navy last month. I appreciated the prayers and what you are doing for the men and women of our military. [When this Seabee could not get a deployment, he went one tour as a contractor serving with the Army. Thank you Newton for your service and may God bless you as your continue to serve him.]

- [8/17] - Word has been received that Chaplain John Carter has been selected for promotion to Lieutenant Commander. Congratulations John on a job well done and reward much deserved!

- Finally, please continue to pray for a couple of our Marines and soldiers probably engaged in current offensives in one of our theaters of operation that God would keep and preserve them!

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 Jack K. Unangst Jr., VA Medical Center, Prescott, AZ (Presbytery of New York and New England) Recently a VA Vet, who has been attending the book of Romans Spiritual Disciplines class I teach every Sat., sat in my office telling me he is having a spiritual crisis. He has been a practicing Roman Catholic, but the Romans teaching on Justification by faith (I'm using Vos' Westminster Larger Catechism study) compelled him to question his local RC priest and the practices of the RC church, especially the Church's gateway arch that placards a promise of years off from purgatory if a penitent goes thru it so many times, repeating the "Hail Mary". He said the priest gave him no Biblical evidence for such practices and he is changing

his faith group to Protestant. He ordered the "Reformation Study Bible" from me and says this is showing him the only way a sinner can find acceptance with a Holy God, by faith in the Only Mediator between God and man, the Lord Jesus Christ. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray that many more VA Vets attending this class will also realize Paul's teaching, the "just shall live by faith".

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CH (COL) Christopher H. Wisdom, USA, US Army Chaplains Center and School, Fort Jackson, SC (Presbytery of the Southwest) The United States Army Chaplain Center and School (USACHCS) promises to be an exciting place to be working this summer. We receive our largest class since World War II at over 200 students. The number of our graduates has been growing steadily for the past five years. In 2008 we graduated approximately 70% more students that we did in 2005 (2141 vs. 1265), and the Department of Defense is building the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center (AFCC), comprising the Navy Chaplain School and the Air Force Chaplain School, with an inter-service center and auditorium right next to the Army Chaplain School on Fort Jackson just in time! The AFCC buildings are 80% complete and the AFCC has an occupancy date of 1 November and a class start date in early 2010. The PRJC is well represented with half of the six senior Army Chaplains (Colonels) on the USACHCS staff from the PRJC: Chet Lanious (OPC) as the Director for the Center for World Religions; Ken Bush (PCA) as the Director of Training, and me (OPC) as the Assistant Commandant. God has granted us favor in leadership and we are seeking to be faithful over what he has entrusted to us. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that our hearts would be strengthened by grace as we serve in these positions and seek to exercise godly influence over many Chaplains and Chaplain assistant students and a total staff of 100, including officers, enlisted soldiers, and civilian personnel. Pray also for our personal and pastoral growth together in a lunchtime leaders' group I share with three PCA Chaplains, also assigned to Fort Jackson, Tom Faichney, Tim Fary, and Randall Bowen. We meet twice per month. Finally, please pray for my dear wife Ginny, who must undergo a second eardrum repair surgery for persistent infections that have seriously perforated her left eardrum again. She has lost a measure of hearing in that ear. Give thanks with us for the grace of the Lord to us, our children, and our children's children.

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CH (COL) Chester H. Lanious, USA, US Army Chaplains Center and School, Fort Jackson, SC (Presbytery of the Central US) I am doing the detail, paperwork, bureaucratic administrative work of establishing the Center for World Religions at the Chaplains School. We just finished the Colonels and Lieutenant Colonels Course where the emerging issues, like the Center itself, generated a lot of discussion and feedback. I am thankful for the support that I was given and many requests for guidance and direction were encouraging. I am preparing significant briefings and teaching materials for the next quarter that will move the Center further along. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray that the ongoing work on bringing the Chaplains' schools from all three branches of the military to Columbia, SC will continue to go well.

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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