

A PLEA for PRAYER – November 7, 2009 - No. 82

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 (I Thessalonians 5:17).*

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (Philippians 4:6 NKJ Version) And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. (II Kings 6:16)

Prayer focus: Casting our anxiety on Christ – A little over a year ago, we focused on this theme, but in the days in which we live, biblically dealing with our cares is a daily need in our lives and this reminder is to always and daily cast them on our Lord Jesus Christ. There is much to be concerned about, whether we are safe in our homes or deployed on the battlefield. Who else but the Christian can cast all their cares, worries and anxious thoughts on the King of Kings? In the midst of increasing and significant changes in our lives, it is Christ our mediator with the Father who hears and answers our prayers. Pray for grace to do this daily, for with Him there are *with us more than they that be with them*.

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, Britt, Chris, Doug, Douglas, Dustin, **Geoff**, Harry, **Isaac**, John (three), Kyle, Matt, Michael, Nicolas, Noah, Rachel, Rueben, Scott, Stephen (two) and Chaplains Kyle Brown, Cornelius Johnson, and Richard Rojas. Praise God that Chaplain Doug Withington has returned safely remaining on active duty until January. New deployments shown in **bold**.

• [11/07/09] - This just arrived from Chaplain Kyle Brown deployed with soldiers from Ft Hood. His wife is safe and is staying with family out of the area.

Thank you for taking notice of our particular situation. I am pleased to report that my battalion has 100% accountability of our people and none of the dependents were involved in the incident. My fellow chaplains, however, are working overtime to come alongside during this traumatic experience. I would especially ask you to pray for Kirk, Mark, Tim, David, and the numerous other chaplains that are in the midst bringing Christ Jesus to many. It will be interesting to see how things unfold at Ft. Hood over the next few months. This could very seriously damage the credibility of our Behavioral Health resources, which could have a definite impact on the counseling demands of the Chaplain Corps at Ft Hood. It is a fantastic opportunity for more to hear and see the redemptive power of our Lord at work, but it will bring additional burdens on Chaplains that are already carrying heavy loads. Pray for strength of heart and clarity of mind as to how we can best minister to the over-whelming needs of our community.

Again, thank you for all of your hard work. Please send this out to the family of Christ with mine and my family's sincerest thanks. Your Brother in Christ, Kyle N. Brown

- From GySgt Dustin O. – [Blessings continue to flow at a combat base] - I'm still working here, on [deployed base], with the goal of returning to my wife and covenant family as soon as our Lord permits. Until that a time, I'm enjoying the time I am able to meet with Tom (and Scott, when he returns from the conference he is attending in the U.S.). Yesterday, Oct 2nd, I invited a brother to our meeting; Ken was my roommate for the first few months [here] and we continue to talk when we can. He and his family worship at a bible church in.... This week's fellowship, with Tom and Ken, was a great blessing to me. Ken and I have spoken about our understandings of the duties of Christians, and doctrines of the Bible; but, as I heard Tom more deeply, and richly, further the explanations, I was fed much. I thank God that He saw it fitting to give me faithful and dedicated brothers to be with during my time away from home. [This group recently worshipped with brothers from Uganda and through our Mission Station in Uganda is providing sermon tapes and Uganda Bibles to our brothers in Christ. Praise God for this continuing witness to the reformed faith!]

- From RE and Ret. CDR Brad W. - My son Bradley W. will be commissioned this week as a 2nd/LT in the Army. He was selected for armor where he will probably drive "Strykers". Thanks for your good work in behalf of our service personnel in the armed services. Home of the free because of the brave!

- LCpl Geoff B. deployed last month. Please pray for his safety.

- A request from an Air Force mom – Isaac has deployed and she writes “He will be a top turret gunner on an armored humvee, providing security to the convoys. It could not be much more dangerous, other than being a combat Marine... He certainly needs prayer, as do we.”

- Praise God for the promotion of Medical Doctor Matt W. USAF to Lieutenant Colonel.

- From Pastor Dan - Please add the name of 2LT Collier W. USA to your list. He is a member of Grace OPC...

- Praise God for first stage answers to a significant unspoken request for prayer in the life of one of our warriors in need of much continued grace.

- Finally, please continue to pray for a number 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 (COL) Chet Lanious, USA, Fort Bragg, NC (Presbytery of the Central US) This quarter I will teach, attend meetings and produce products to further establish the Center for World Religions. Also, I will begin to think about transitions as I will retire in this fiscal year. The future is in God's hands and we will look toward His plan for the next phase of our life. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please join Elizabeth and me in praying about His will for our retirement.
E-Mail: chester.lanious@us.army.mil

CH (LTC-P) Jonathan Gibbs III, USA, Deployed to Korea (Presbytery of Philadelphia) I am now on a one year unaccompanied tour in Korea. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for my ministry here, and for my family back home.
E-Mail: jonathan.gibbs@us.army.mil

CH (MAJ) Earl Vanderhoff, USA, First Medical Brigade Chaplain, Fort Hood, TX (Presbytery of the Northwest) I continue to live in thanksgiving for answered prayer. I am currently awaiting the official decision to the Medical Evaluation Board. If I am retained on active duty I will move to Alaska to a new chaplain assignment. I have resumed my normal activities and the healing process is progressing normally. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for the many families that are enduring separation due to deployments. As my case is considered I do hope that I may continue to serve God & Country as a chaplain. Pray for continued healing as I recover from open heart surgery. [Earl has recently left Ft. Hood for a new assignment.]
E-Mail: earl.vanderhoff@us.army.mil

CH (LTC) Graham Harbman, USAR, 2nd Medical Brigade San Pablo, CA (Presbytery of Northern California) I continue to enjoy traveling to our Army Reserve medical units across the western U.S. one weekend per month. I present briefs on suicide awareness and prevention, and coping with the stresses of deployment. Almost always these presentations lead to good discussions with individuals or smaller groups about how only through faith in Jesus Christ, can we cope with all the stresses of life. Praise the Lord that chaplains still have freedom to speak the truth. Many chaplains face pressure to soften their message and never mention the exclusive claims of Christ. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray that we would remain wise and discerning of the best times to be bold and direct about Christ. Pray that Christ's love and compassion would break into many hard hearts and broken, dysfunctional families.
E-Mail: graham.harbman@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