

## A PLEA for PRAYER – April 3, 2010 - No. 87

**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).*

*But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death. Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding. (Prov. 8:36; 9:6)*

**Prayer focus: Culture of Death** – For a long time we have asked you to pray “that the culture of death will be defeated and that our nation will stand united and will endure in the defense of freedom.” Proverbs declares: *But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death.* In the long war we must confront enemies who deceive and coerce even women and children to become lethal human weapons in order to kill and terrorize others. Such devotion to death demonstrates that they hate the One who is life. In contrast, the Christian is to *forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.* Thus we pray that God will preserve the lives of those who serve, especially when they face grave danger. They do so to destroy those who are dedicated to our destruction and to the destruction of freedom. The contrast between living in Christ and the culture of death could not be any starker. Pray rightly for the destruction of the culture of death that comes against God and his grace and truth in Christ that is the basis of true freedom.

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 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, Geoff, Isaac, Jeremy (two), Jim, John, Michael, Nicolas, Noah, Paul, Rachel (two), Robert, Stephen (two) and Chaplains Kyle Brown and Richard Rojas. New deployments shown in **bold**.

• [03/06/10] From Pastor Doug - I am sure it was a simple oversight, but per my last note, Captain Bob S. should now be listed as Maj. [Our oversight – now fixed]. We received word recently that PFC Britt Y. B. has been promoted to Specialist already. He was promoted to PFC less than a year ago.

• From an exchange with a prayer warrior, Ruthann - I read again your first message, and especially was encouraged with this: "It is good to know when we do not fully know how to pray and may not have a lot of details, that our faithful Saviour *purifies our prayers* before our Father in Heaven enabling them to be rightly heard and answered." There is so much I cannot know or even imagine of these soldiers' daily experiences, and that I will never know about their families, but this reminder prompts me to keep on praying for them on the front and for their loved ones persevering at home.

• From Pastor Steve - Dan J., a member of Bethel Reformed Presbyterian, is back again entering the US Army. Dan had to lose some weight (which he did) and entered the USA on Tuesday, going to Fort Jackson for basic training. We have heard from Sgt. Mike R. who has gotten in country... with his infantry unit. Mike is a member of [elsewhere], but his wife lives near us in Virginia. Thanks for your labors on behalf of those who serve.

• Please pray for your Committee as it prepares this month its report to the General Assembly and for the Assembly as it acts on this report for the care of our chaplains and military personnel.

• PRJCCMP Chaplain Jonathan Leach USA (RPCNA) is recovering from ruptured brain aneurism. Please continue to pray for him. Chairman Needham has progressed in the healing of his femur to the point he can walk with one crutch. Please continue to pray for Chaplain Weaver that his shoulder will completely heal as he returns to work soon.

• Please continue to pray for one of our warriors who is in much need of prayer for strength to continue in the fight and the peace of God in his heart. 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!

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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!

**CH (COL) Chet Lanious, USA, Center for World Religions, Fort Jackson, SC (Presbytery of the Central US)** I will start my final preparation for retirement around 01 April and be focused on this until my last working days in late July. With the medical issues that I've dealt with in the last few years, this will be very important for leaving the Army and establishing medical and support needs. The serious job search will begin about that time, also. **PRAYER REQUEST:** We request prayers for a smooth trip through the bureaucratic retirement process, for future opportunities for service, and perhaps the final move.

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**CDR Tim Power, CHC, USN, Naval Base Coronado, San Diego, CA (Presbytery of Southern California)** I continue ministry here at Naval Base Coronado. I feel good with more energy and motivation for the New Year. The addition of a new chaplain is helping a lot. Pray for our new youth activities and Easter Sunrise Service. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for guidance about education for my 2 oldest children. Pray for my wife restarting limited part-time work outside the home.

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**LCDR (Sel) John Carter, CHC, USN, Deployed at sea (Presbytery of Southern California)** We're about midway through a Western Pacific deployment. A daily prayer service continues everyday in our ship's classroom. I have a number of Sailors who join me regularly for a song of praise, Scripture, devotion and prayer. We figure that if other Sailors can take 10 minutes for a smoke break, there's no reason why Christians can't gather everyday for a few minutes to read Scripture and pray together. This morning prayer service has become a regular part of our ship's routine. I'm arranging some sort of service project for every port we visit. Thus far we've had events in Hong Kong, Sukumo Japan, Pusan Korea and Kota Kinabalu in Malaysian Borneo. As I write this, at least two more are in the works. We're looking forward to Thailand and the Philippines. In addition to our Sunday services, I have a couple of Bible studies during the week. There are a number of young men who enjoy studying the Word together including three who have asked for guidance in preparing for the ministry. PTL! **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for the Word to penetrate the hearts of our crew. I take maximum advantage of every opportunity I have to be salt & light here. While I'm encouraged by the men I see growing in Christ, sometimes it's discouraging when it seems like for every one of those, there are ten others who are indifferent to the Gospel. Also, we continue to deal from afar with the crises that arise regularly among families back home. Thanks for the prayers.

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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