

## **A PLEA for PRAYER – May 1, 2010 - No. 88**

**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).*

*Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever! For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: (Job 19:23-26)*

**Prayer focus: *My Redeemer Liveth*** – Last month we considered the culture of death and said by contrast that the Christian is to *forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding* (Prov. 9:6). Very early in biblical history, and long before modern man asserted that we cannot truly know anything, God's much tried servant Job declares he *knows that* [his] *redeemer liveth!* He does so with death, destruction and loss all around him and with much discouragement brought by the words of his "friends". Fully realizing that someday he shall die, he declares with certainty that *in his flesh [he] shall... see God*. How sure is the Christian's hope that no matter what danger we face, we are in the sure grip and trustworthy hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. Standing on this assurance for our warriors whose hope is in Christ, may they remember that our Invincible God will defend and protect them. Please continue to pray for their safety and that our Christian men and women in the Armed Services would be faithful, steadfast, and true to their Lord God. May they defend our nation's liberties as guaranteed by our Constitution with stalwart hearts and minds. How great the contrast between the culture of death and the hope of life eternal! Indeed Job's words have been *graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock 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. 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 (**2x**), Andrew (two), Brett, Britt, **Caleb**, Chris, Doug, Douglas, Geoff, Isaac, **James**, Jeremy (two), Jim, John, Michael, Nicolas, Noah, Paul, Rachel (two), Robert, Stephen (two) and Chaplains Kyle Brown. New deployments shown in **bold**. Chaplain Rojas has arrived home safely.

- [04/04/10] From Elder Brad - We have another young man in our church who is serving. SPC (E-4, specialist) James M., USA who is currently in Iraq. Thanks for your good work.

- [04/05/10] – From his dad Craig - Cpl Caleb E. W., USMC will be deployed... on 04/17.

[04/24/10] Today we received this letter from his Dad:

Caleb, We just got a photo from the Maine Troop Greeters who met you at the airport. They took a picture of our boy talking on his phone, and frankly I'm a bit of a mess.

By now you have left civilization and are on your way to a medieval meat grinder where there is nothing I can do to help or protect you. Of course you haven't needed my help or protection for many years. I'm just being a worried parent who loves his boy, now a man, and who knows that very soon the enemies of God and man will be doing their best to kill him.

I am forming the habit of praying for you, every hour on the hour, son. There is no doubt in my mind that God will do His sovereign good pleasure in your life, foreordained from the very foundation of the world. But none of us know what that is. May He give your parents the grace to accept His sovereign decree, and the manner in which it is manifested, in joy... or in sorrow. May the Lord keep you, my son. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and give you peace, yes, even within the maelstrom into which you fly. Your father

- [04/05/10] Word has been received that oft deployed CW02 Aaron L. USA and his new wife are deploying.

We are also thankful that John A. USA has completed his active service as a Medic. Thank you John for your service and may God give you success in your schooling endeavors!

- [04/18/10] - We have received word of a soldier being wounded this date. He name is Ben I. Through his presbytery, his dad provides this update [4/27] asking for prayer: I just received word from the nurse in Germany that Ben underwent surgery for fractures in the middle of his back. The doctors placed a plate and screws in two fractures to stabilize them and have left another fracture in the lumbar region, possibly for a future surgery. The positive report is that he seems to have all sensations indicative of full spinal integrity. We are relieved to hear this and thank God that his injuries are so limited in nature. When the IED blew, the truck caught fire, which restricted his painful crawl to escape through the gun turret. From there his battle buddy and the medic, though pained with his own broken arm, pulled Ben out to safety. Thank you for your prayers for Ben and his wounded comrades. Our heavy and tentative hearts have been lifted with this good news. Please continue to pray for the healing of his two broken ankles, some broken ribs and his back.

- [04/27/10] - PV1 Nathan B. USA has arrived at boot camp. Please pray for this young man as he endures the rigors of training.

- Please pray for your Committee as it continues to prepare for reporting 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. This recent note from his wife:

[04/21/10] I just received a call from [the hospital]. They plan to discharge Jonathan this Saturday (Apr. 24)... Please continue to pray for him as he is still blind, and please pray for me that I am able to care for him.

What a journey our Lord has put us on! In the wee hours of the morning of February 26 in the ER..., I saw my husband stop breathing. I saw him dying right before my eyes. I was hurriedly ushered out of the room we were in, and I heard the announcement over the intercom: Code blue room 2 – Code blue room 2. I looked up at the room number that Jonathan was in – it was room 2.

I had an idea as to what “code blue” might mean, but not an understanding. I googled that term and it means, in most US hospitals, that the patient is dead or is the process of dying.

Doctor after doctor just brought me grim prognosis every time they came to talk to me about Jonathan’s condition. I was told he had a 90% chance of dying that night, and that he had slipped into a level three coma (one being the most severe). But, my Jonathan did not die!!!

After Jonathan’s second surgery, the doctor (Jonathan’s neuro-surgeon) told me that the night before a gentleman about Jonathan’s same age and with the same type of aneurysm was brought in the night before, but he died the next day. And then Dr. G said, “Your husband was very lucky.” The last time Jonathan was transferred from rehab to... ER, Dr. S. asked about Jonathan’s medical history. He said, “Oh – he had an aneurysm and he’s still alive? Wow, he’s lucky – most people die”.

Chance, luck; those are just humanist terms to explain that which really is unexplainable or is it? Why do a few live and most die from such a condition? Because there is a Sovereign, an Almighty who knows all and sees all! HE is in control. **Man’s steps are ordained by the Lord, How then can man understand his way?** Proverbs: 20:24 (NASB). Thank you all for your continued prayers. **Praise and glory to our great God in heaven!** Mary Lou

The most recent update [04/28/10] from the pastor where he worships often: Jonathan came through his surgery fine this morning... No more shunt for now. So that should help to speed up his recovery. Right now the remaining hurdle is a blockage in the intestine that was caused by that shunt. The way they treat it is to wait basically. It could take a week or two. No food in the meantime. So pray that the blockage resolves itself sooner rather than later, so he can get back to eating and regain some weight. He looked pretty good though considering he'd just had anesthesia. Tired but fairly lucid...

- Chairman Needham has progressed in the healing of his femur to the point that he can walk with one crutch. This week he underwent successful surgery for an unrelated problem. Please continue to pray for Chaplain Weaver that his shoulder will completely heal.

- [04/30/10] - From PRJCCMP Executive Director Douglas E. Lee (BG, USA, Ret.) who was operated on for cancer of the prostate this Thursday - The surgery was without complications. I spent the night in recovery and this AM I was wheeled back into our "suite" (Nancy's with me). They have special rooms for generals and others. The docs say I'm recovering well...May go home Sat... Thanks for your prayers! Doug

- Please continue to pray for one of our warriors who is in much need of prayer for strength to continue in the fight and for true 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) Chris Wisdom, USA, US Army Chaplains Center and School, Fort Jackson, SC (Presbytery of the Southwest)** We dedicate the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center today (6 May). This is an historic event, since all military chaplains are now being trained on the same military installation for the first time in US history, while each school retains its identity as a service-specific chaplain school. There are also plans for the Army, Navy and Air Force Chaplain Schools to participate in shared training of chaplain officers as that training is designed, developed, and executed. The staff and students from each school that I have spoken with have a sense that they are making history. Retired Chaplains likewise are coming by to see the new facilities and are remarking how historic this is. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for several of your PRJCCMP Chaplains who have served here for a number of years. We have helped to bring these schools to this point, and now await the prospect of new assignments and transitions. I am among those who may be facing a move. Stay tuned to the Guardian for updates.

**E-Mail:** [christopher.wisdom@us.army.mil](mailto:christopher.wisdom@us.army.mil)

**CAPT Bryan Weaver, CHC, USN, Command Chaplain, Marine Forces Command, Norfolk, VA (Presbytery of Ohio)** In 1993 Congress passed a law (Section 654, Title 10) affirming that homosexuality is incompatible with military service. The law passed with bipartisan, veto-proof majorities in both houses, and federal courts have upheld it as constitutional several times. This law was passed to protect good order, discipline, and morale in the unique environment of the military and deserves continued support. In light of the President's recent State of the Union Address and as a matter of public ethics and morality, I urge our PRJCCMP Commission, along with our PRJCCMP denominations, to publicly declare their support for the 1993 law regarding homosexuals in the military by humbly petitioning our elected officials and Commander-in-Chief to oppose any legislative, judicial, or administrative effort to repeal or invalidate the law.

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray they each decide to send letters to the appropriate "civil magistrates" in positions of authority on this issue.

**E-Mail:** [bryan.j.weaver1@usmc.mil](mailto:bryan.j.weaver1@usmc.mil)

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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