

## A PLEA for PRAYER – June 5, 2010 - No. 89

**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).*

*God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him (Psalm 67).*

### **Prayer focus: *Tried souls in need of God's Mercy* -**

“These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.”

-- *Thomas Paine (The Crisis, December 1776)*

The freedom that we enjoy under our Constitution, gained and defended by our valiant warriors is of precious value both for us and our seed. Not every man or women holds what we hold dear in our nation. Ask any warrior returning from the heat of battle what he has seen and this truth will be quickly confirmed. Even in our own land those freedoms so essential to the free proclamation of the gospel are not always held in high esteem as humanistic values encroach on our way of life. We indeed are tried souls in need of God's mercy, both for the care of our warriors and our very way of life.

Our prayer must be simply *God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause [your] face to shine upon us; that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.* Please pray that both our nation *and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.* Pray that God's word will be honored in the life of our nation. Plead for a glorious triumph in both our own war and also for God's sure and certain triumph over the enemies of all those who refuse to bow the knee to the Lord of Glory. Give thanks for those who stand and serve in our own nation's defense. Pray that the Word will continue to go forth, particularly to those who serve.

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 they defend our nation's liberties as guaranteed by our Constitution with stalwart hearts and minds.

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, Caleb, Chris, Doug, Douglas, Isaac, James, Jeremy (two), Jim, John, Michael, Nicolas, Noah, Paul, Rachel (two), Robert, Stephen (two) and Chaplains Kyle Brown. New deployments shown in **bold**. Britt and Geoff have returned safely – praise God!

- [05/01/10] – From Pastor Doug - We rejoice in the Lord that Spc. Britt Y. B. has returned safely from his deployment as a member of the... National Guard. The Lord kept him safe during many convoy missions into Iraq. Please pray for the Lord's wisdom to guide him as he seeks employment now and prepares for college this fall.
- [05/01/10] – From Pastor Ron - I just wanted to let you know that our son, LCpl Geoff B. USMC, can be removed from the "*in harm's way*" listing in your prayer letters. Happily, his unit will not deploy again until sometime in 2011. Also, I know [a] family, who attend [an] OPC..., where Steve is a RE. Their son, LCpl David A. W. USMC..., is now in the MC reserves. Thanks so much, brother, for your tireless work on the Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel, and for your informative and helpful letters.
- From Pastor David - Just a note to let you know Sgt. Rueben Kraayeveld USA is now officially a civilian (for two weeks now) - and in Missoula, Montana, looking for work (and looking to be none the worse for wear) and expecting to be a faithful part of our OP church there. He served two hard tours in Afghanistan and not a scratch [tours of 15 and 12 months]. Praise the Lord!
- [05/07/10] – From his dad Darrell, word has been received that David A. is entering the Air Force, and after basic is heading for security forces tech school. Please pray for this young man as he prepares for his service to defend us!
- [05/25/10] – From Pastor Steve - A few months ago I think I wrote about a young man from [our congregation], Daniel J., who was going to go into the US Army. He couldn't make it because of weight, so he spent months getting in shape and tried again. Soon he will be graduating from basic and then going to bomb disposal school in... Could you add Daniel J. to the list? Thanks, and thanks so much for the service you are rendering to the kingdom.
- [05/25/10] – From Pastor David Inks - Ben I. is now in Madigan Hospital in Fort Lewis. He is doing very well, improving daily and is soon to be released to an out patient status. He has rods and screws in his back running from T6 to T12. Both ankles have been operated upon and now have various screws and plates. His recovery looks promising and he is in good spirits. Thank you everyone for all your prayers. A great weight has melted off the hearts of Ben's parents.

• 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:  
[05/27/10] Jonathan and I had a wonderful time yesterday on the Lord's Day – being there with the Saints at Grace OPC. It was so great to be there for Bible study and for worship. Jonathan just kept saying what a wonderful day it has been. Unfortunately, I had to rush him back to rehab as his “leave time” was only good until 2:00 p.m.  
He can hardly wait to come home, but he is still on antibiotics and is scheduled to be at least there until the May 26<sup>th</sup>. Plus, the staples in his head need to come out, but we are praying that if things continue the way they have been lately, he should be coming home soon. Additionally, he's gaining weight. I know it doesn't look like it because he has lost so much, but in the past few weeks he has put on 16 lbs! His vision is improving too!! It's not perfect – but it's getting better. His bodily strength is slowly but surely coming back. I think he'll need his wheel chair for a while. Although, he says he doesn't want to request one once he's discharged. We'll see. J

**What a mighty work in Jonathan the Lord has done! Thank you, thank you, thank you—my God and my Lord.** With much love in HIM, Mary Lou

• 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 (MAJ) Earl W. Vanderhoff, USA, Installation Chaplain, Fort Greely, AK (Presbytery of the Northwest)** I am now serving as the Garrison Chaplain at Fort Greely, AK. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Praise God with us for answered prayer. Our house in Texas has closed and my health continues to improve. Pray for Susie as she takes care of her mother (Ruth) who is diagnosed with Parkinson's. Pray for our little chapel here at Fort Greely. I began a preaching series on the Gospel of John.

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**CH (LTC) Graham C. Harbman, USA, Western Medical Area Readiness Support Group, San Pablo, CA (Presbytery of Northern California)** I am still most heavily involved in suicide intervention and prevention training. Please pray for good counseling opportunities to develop from these group presentations. I also just resigned from my civilian pastorate. **PRAYER REQUEST:** We would greatly appreciate prayer for extra work in the Chaplaincy for the short term, and God's guidance regarding my future labors in the kingdom for the long term.

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**Ch Capt Cornelius Johnson, USAF, Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio, TX (Presbytery of New Jersey)** I recently had the opportunity to provide ministry to six Air Force personnel who interviewed the victims and witnesses of the Ft. Sam shootings. My job was to, in a group setting, let them share their experiences, and to give them counsel and instruction on how to deal with that tragic situation. It was a great opportunity for me to counsel and instruct them from a Christian Worldview. **PRAYER REQUEST:** I just found out that my next assignment will be at Langley AFB. My report no later than date is 20 August. My wife was screaming and jumping up and down with joy, because that is only two hours away from our home in Maryland. Thank the Lord with us for this assignment.

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**(CPT) Kyle N. Brown, USA, HHD, 180th TC BN, Fort Hood, TX (Presbytery of Ohio)** At the time of this report my unit has redeployed from Kuwait and is now in the process of reintegrating with our families. We had a very successful deployment and all are excited about the new directions we are headed. The Brown family continues to learn what it means to "wait upon the Lord" while being faithful to Jesus' command to "follow me". **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that the soldiers and families of my battalion would experience a positive and successful reunion; ask the Lord to continue to strengthen the Browns as we look forward to new opportunities and the changes that accompany said opportunities; pray that God would send the servant of His choice to continue the ministry with the Soldiers I have labored with over the past 2+ years. Thank you all for your faithfulness in praying for us through this deployment and back home!

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Because this issue is very much still before us, and the consequences to the freedom of our chaplains and military personnel and ultimately our nation's freedom is great, we repeat this report:

**CAPT Bryan J. 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.

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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