

A PLEA for PRAYER – July 3, 2010 - No. 90

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).*

⁴Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease. ⁵Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations? ⁶Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? ⁷Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation. ⁸I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly. (Psalm 85:4-8)

¹Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. ⁷Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. (Isaiah 51:1,7)

¹Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. (Romans 13:1)

Prayer focus: True Freedom of Religion – As we celebrate the 234th birthday of our Nation, please give praise for our blessings and pray that they continue. Our *Declaration of Independence* stipulates that “all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” These were understood not to be rights granted by government, but God given rights not to be infringed upon by the state. Our *Constitution* speaks of a Union to “establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity...”

John Locke stated that “the care of Souls is not committed to the Civil Magistrate, any more than to other Men... Nor can any such Power be vested in the Magistrate by the Consent of the People; because no Man can so far abandon the Care of his own Salvation, as blindly to leave it to the choice of any other, whether Prince or Subject, to prescribe to him what Faith or Worship he shall embrace... true and saving Religion consists in the inward persuasion of the Mind,

without which nothing can be acceptable to God.”¹ Not perfectly reformed, but of tremendous value in a pluralistic society.

Without major Constitutional amendments, there has been an encroachment of a seemingly never ending stream of laws and their reinterpretation that is now being coupled with even an understanding that previous laws simply contain words they do not contain. In the current attempt to overturn the 1993 law applying to our military, often referred to as “Don’t ask/ Don’t tell,” our military personnel will be put in a civil conflict between God’s Law and civil laws. This is particularly true of our Chaplain Corps where chaplains could be pressed to yield to so called “civil rights” in opposition to their own freedom of religious expression. Will they be able to continue to declare God’s Word? This sort of dilemma stands in contrast with much of our Nation’s history with separation of religion from the Magistrate’s power. Our Chaplain Corps, as they care for all in their charge, have thus far retained the freedom to speak according to the dictates of both conscience and in obedience to the creeds of their denominations. If they are prevented, will pastors and local congregations be far behind?

Please pray for protection and true freedom of religion for both our chaplains as they care for souls and for all our military personnel who serve in our behalf. Pray for our General Assembly convening this coming week as they are presented with the occasion to consider these matters. Pray that righteousness will prevail and that God will bless our witness to God’s righteousness before a lost and dying world that oft forgets its freedoms given by the King of Kings. Oh God, revive your work in the midst of the years and remember mercy!

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, **Gareth**, Isaac, James, Jeremy (two), Jim, John, Michael, Nicolas, Noah, Paul, Rachel, Robert, Stephen (two). New deployments shown in bold. Rachel H. and Chaplain Kyle Brown have returned safely – praise God!

• [06/05/10] From Pastor Doug - Rachel H. [SGT, USA] is home from Iraq. She experienced some flight delays in Europe (who in Europe hasn't?), but has returned to her family and church, safe and sound. We rejoice in the Lord for His care of her, [her husband also serving], and the two boys... during the past year.

Also, please add LTJG Aaron G., USCG, to the prayer list. He and his family have recently moved here. He will pilot one of the C-130's based at [a near by base]. He leaves tomorrow for 2 1/2 months in Florida for training on the C-130, while his family will remain here.

¹ “A Letter Concerning Toleration” by John Locke, London – 1714 Ed.

• [06/14/10] From Chaplain Carter - Just a quick update on me: for your next "Plea", please change my duty station. As of 24 July, I'm no longer USS Lake Erie. I will be the Command Chaplain for Naval Station Everett in Washington State (NAVSTA Everett). We are getting ready now to move the household. Things are moving quickly! I trust all is well with you and yours.

• [06/27/10] - Fawn Winsted has been transferred to the Church Triumphant Lord's Day morning at 12:30 a.m. Her last words were quoted "My God does all things well."

Please pray for Ruling Elder and friend Brad (CDR, USN, Ret.) and their family of eight children, three of whom are at home as they mourn this rather sudden loss. We understand that in God's mercy, with the determination of the military, their two deployed sons arrived home the previous Friday.

• From Pastor Doug - By the way, I may as well pass this along to you for the military prayer list. Gareth H. [Capt., USMC] will deploy for his second tour next month.

• 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!



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 (Capt) Benjamin W. Johnson, WIANG, 128th Air Refueling Wing, Milwaukee, WI (Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario) Back in October, I transferred from the Air Force Reserve to the Wisconsin Air National Guard. Since then I have been serving the 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Ministry has been amazing as the members of the 128th enfold me into "the family". As relationships grow, I have had many opportunities to help people through some difficult circumstances. Pray that the gospel would be clear in how I speak with and live among others. The chaplain staff has gone through some transition in the past months, along with the ministries we provide. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for wisdom in choosing how to best use our time and resources for the Glory of God and the blessing of the 128th.

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Chaplain Candidate Blake Law, USA, RTS Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC (OPC - Presbytery of the Southeast) I am continuing to train for ministry by drilling with the Soldiers and preaching messages at chapel meetings. My supervisory Chaplain is retiring this month and I will fall under the supervision of one of the other Chaplains in the state. I have not been able to get a slot for Chaplain School this summer as the classes are completely filled up.

PRAYER REQUEST: Please pray that the Lord would place me in a class at the Chaplain school as soon as possible, and that I would be a good steward and balance work, seminary, duty, church, and family responsibilities. My wife and I are expecting a baby girl at the beginning of August; our third covenant child!

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CH (CPT) Kyle Brown, USA, Fort Detrick, MD (Presbytery of Ohio) The Brown family is experiencing its first PCS (permanent change of station) move to Ft. Detrick, MD, where I take up duties with the 302nd Signal Battalion. We have been truly blessed to have served at Ft. Hood and look forward to the opportunities the Lord has in store for us in MD. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for our family as we make this transition; for the new unit, that it would be a time of opportunity and rich ministry; and for the Lord Jesus Christ to continue to use us for His glory and Kingdom as He continues to renew our hearts and minds.

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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