A PLEA for PRAYER – September 3, 2011 - No. 104

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, my friends, how precious it is that in this world of sin with its vagaries of unbelief, its fluctuating philosophies, its dim light which is darkness, and its wisdom which is foolishness with God, its bewilderment and despair, we have a sure word of prophecy, whereunto we do well in taking heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place until the day dawn and the day-star arise in our hearts! How precious that we have a word divine, infallible and sufficient for the individual, for the family, for the church, for society, for the commonwealth and even for the world!

(John Murray, 'The Inspiration of the Scripture', Collected Writings of John Murray, Volume 4, p. 57 - Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh, 1982) [Note on this piece attached: "This article is taken from The Westminster Theological Journal, Vol. II, 2, 1940. It is a slightly altered form of the author's inaugural address as Professor of Systematic Theology, delivered at Westminster Theological Seminary on November 16, 1939." page 30]

Prayer focus: The Word for all in authority – Last month we looked at a quote from a centuries old Directory of Worship as it was particularly directed to prayer. The above quote comes closer to home as it from the lips of a former OPC minister now in Glory. The focus here is the applicability of Scripture to all aspects of life, not only for the family and for the church, but of equal necessity for society, for the commonwealth and even for the world! Our Reformed and Presbyterian heritage believed not only in praying for all those in authority over them; their ministers in the church and the ministers of God set over them in civil authority including those who serve in our Armed Forces, but also that God's Word was applicable as a standard of righteousness to every sphere of life and that we do well in taking heed to it (Romans 13, I Timothy 2:1-4, I Peter 2:13-17). They prayed for the encouragement and protection of them that do well, the terror of all that do evil and believed God’s un-fluctuating sure word of prophecy containing light and wisdom was the only standard of life. They believed all of these were subject to and under the authority of God and his Word and therefore subject to both his blessings and judgments. They therefore prayed for the blessings of God given in mercy. They prayed for righteous obedience realizing the terror of all that do evil that brings the judgment of God against sin and disobedience.

Please pray for all in authority over us and in particular those who serve to protect us as ministers of authority under God and our chaplains as ministers of God to those serving in a lost and dying world.
Please pray that God will *shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him*. Pray that they will fear only God and not man and be of a good courage. Pray that they will be bold as a lion and that the wicked will flee. (Prov. 28:1)

Pray that as we battle forces both foreign and domestic in our long war, that our nation in its affliction depends upon, and pleads with, our God to make a way of escape and that in doing so, God will restore us as a nation to His righteousness and that we will continue to be blessed by and under his protection. Pray for the gracious and needed gift from God of genuine national repentance; especially for the iniquity of abortion, supporting homosexuality, and rejection of the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

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 two 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, Andrew (two), Brett, Chris, Curt, Doug, Douglas, Gabriel, Isaac, Jeremy, Jim, John (two), Michael, Nicolas, Noah, Paul, Rachel, Robert, Scott, and Stephen (two). Praise God that Luke has returned safely. New deployments shown in bold.

- September 11, 2001 – We will never forget nor will we forget those who have served!
- We have discovered some chaplains were not on our blind list and they have been added. If you do not wish to receive the *Plea* please let us know.
- [08/08/11] – From Elder Roy - Our sincere thankfulness for your ministry to our servicemen and women and their families. Please note that our grandson, 1st Lt. Luke W. P., returned safely from [deployment...]
- [08/16/11] From Pastor Dan - Greetings in Christ! We continue to make diligent use of your prayer lists, and we give thanks for your service to the church. Here's an update on SFC Jesse K.: He is now based again [state-side] and is currently deployed..., very much in harm's way. His group was close at hand in the recent major tragedy. We had a couple of difficult days waiting for a word from him. We thank God for His sovereign mercies.
- [08/06/11] From Elder Brad - I'll be in Germany for the next few days visiting my son. [Praise God for this special opportunity!]
- [08/22/11] From Pastor Bob - a request to add Michael C. as an USAF recruit to the list. With a 4.0 grade average he expects to be assigned for now to road construction. [Someone has to do it and Michael joins a long list of the brightest and the best who serve us in every capacity!]
• [08/28/11] – On a recent trip we discovered another new warrior – Maj Berch A. USMC – welcome aboard Sir, and thank you for your service!

• The revision of DADT presents difficulties for many Christians, both those serving in line positions and those serving as chaplains. Therefore we urge you to pray:
  1. For all who serve in our military who name the name of Christ,
  2. For all Christian chaplains who serve not only the military but also their churches under creedal statements of faith and belief,
  3. That the implementation of this legislation will be just and righteous,
  4. That the heretofore moral standards of our military will not be severely denigrated by those of good moral character leaving this godly calling,
  5. That the Committee and Commission will have wisdom in order to protect those who serve.

Praise God that a special committee of the PRJCCMP has formulated additional protections for our chaplains and it is now adopted by the Commission. Thank you for your prayers! Please pray that God will grant a powerful and sustained protection for our Chaplains from this revision.

  6. That our military, serving in one of the last bastions of the defense of freedom, will not be diminished or perish,
  7. That this trial will not also in time descend on the pulpits of our land.

• Please continue to pray for one of our warriors who need much 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. Pray that God will 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 Ralph Rebandt II, International Association of Police Chaplains, Farmington, MI
(OPC - Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario) Volunteer Civilian Police Chaplain Rev Ralph Rebandt reports that his church sponsored the Third Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Sunday and had record attendance. This event has grown each year. Monies were raised to assist two female police officers who have cancer. The funds were given to them on May 15.

PRAYER REQUEST: Please remember his ministry among those who serve to protect.
E-Mail: rebandt@earthlink.net

CH Jack Unangst Jr., VA Medical Center, Prescott, AZ (OPC - Presbytery of New York and New England) Serving Veterans in a VA Medical Facility normally means my congregation has weapons training. I am using the rifle/weapons firing acronym BRASS in my classes to spur their attention to spiritual issues; (B)reathe=Prayer to God in Christ is the Christian disciple’s breath; (R)elax=Wait expectantly on God (Is. 40:31); (A)im=Fix the eye of the heart on biblical/God-approved targets/goals; (S)top=Mortify all sin/sinful distractions; (S)queeze=Trigger the heart to explode with burning devotion to the Lord Christ (Rev. 3:15).

PRAYER REQUEST:
Pray the Holy Spirit will be pleased to use the biblical Truth in these references to make disciples of the Vets to whom I minister.

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CH (COL) Chris Wisdom, USA, IMCOM - Europe Religious Support Office, Germany (OPC - Presbytery of the Southwest) I have been traveling quite extensively as directed by my command and have been preaching, teaching and counseling frequently in my capacity as the Region Chaplain for Installation Management Command Europe. My goal has been to visit in the first six months all the Army garrisons in Europe to meet our ministry teams, learn about their programs, encourage Garrison Chaplains and their teams, and to enforce standards of Chaplaincy stewardship. I have visited all seventeen garrisons in the first six months of ministry, which has meant a lot of time on high speed roads in Europe. Our visits have been well received (especially by PRJC Chaplains), with times to talk with Chaplains, Chaplain Assistants and Directors of Religious Education about the needs of our Soldiers and family members.

PRAYER REQUEST: Please pray for our safety on the roads, for spiritual strength and patience with the many challenges and complex issues we encounter, and for opportunities to encourage Chaplains to be faithful to the Lord and His Word in their ministries."

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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