

A Plea for Prayer – May, 2016 – No. 160

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).*

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CAPT Bryan Jay Weaver, CHC, USN (1955-2016)

Following a "Service of Divine Worship and Thanksgiving" at an historic cathedral style church in downtown Beaufort, SC, OPC Chaplain, CAPT Bryan Jay Weaver, CHC, USN aka "BattleChaps" was laid to rest until the resurrection in Beaufort National Cemetery with full military honors, 11 April 2016. Local PCA pastor, the Rev. Alex Mark preached the sermon and retired chaplain Edward Fleagle conducted the interment service, both clearly preaching our Resurrected Christ.

There was a large gathering included friends from across the land, Marines and Sailors, several OPC chaplains, both active and retired, ruling elders (four from Weaver's home church in PA), PRCC Executive Director Doug Lee, and the Marine Corps Chaplain. Citadel Cadets (where son Trent is a junior) in dress white uniforms lined the path to the church. Senior officers were seen everywhere and about a platoon of Marines in dress blues provided the honor detail. There were over 30 Navy Chaplains in attendance. One speaker introduced himself as one of Bryan's "over 500 best friends." An active duty Marine officer and OPC member was one of the speakers.

Bryan once stated "Men who come out to a combat zone either find their faith or they lose their faith." BattleChaps was there to help these young men find their faith. He leaned heavily on John 11:25 – *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

In addition to his unit and service awards, his personal awards include Legion of Merit (one gold star), Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (one gold star), Navy Commendation Medal (three gold stars), Coast Guard Achievement Medal (one gold star), Navy Achievement Medal and Fleet Marine Force (FMFQO) Qualification Officer insignia. Eight rows of awards.

One officer wrote: "We are all continually amazed at Bryan's spirit and his stamina over the past two years. 'BattleChaps' has been his typically stellar role model throughout. We have lost a special friend, a truly spirited life example and a steadfast leader..."

The family has suggested that donations be made to Captain Bryan J. Weaver Scholarship Fund. Checks may be mailed to Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 7418 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15208. [Some material above is courtesy of his family.]

Please pray for his faithful wife Shelly and their fine sons Grant, Kurt and Trent. Romans 12:12 - *Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; To God be the Glory!*

If you wish to contact the family, please do so by mail as listed in the OPC Directory.

Robert M. Coie, for the OPC Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel

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Prayer focus - Christ's resurrection assures us that the grave will not be our end.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:4-7)

The truth of Christ's death and resurrection is foundational to our faith. It is the power of the gospel to radically transform lives. How much more could a person change than from being dead to being alive? Without this doctrine our hopes for eternity are dashed. It is by holding fast to the truth of the resurrection that we can stand firm in the face of trials, the chief of which is our own bodily death. Where would we be if Christ were still dead? Where would our hope be if our Redeemer, the first-fruits of those raised from the dead, had not promised that we will be raised like him? If there is no resurrection then our hopes can only be in this life and, as Paul says in 1 Cor. 15:19, we of all men are to be most pitied. On the contrary, our eternal justification is inexorably tied to the truth of Christ's resurrection and his promise that we will be like him. His resurrection assures us of our own.

In Eph. 2:4-7 Paul talks about the future promise of our resurrection in the past tense. It is so sure that it is already a "done deal", though it has not yet occurred. We see a picture of bodily resurrection in God's work of creation and providence, especially in seeds that are planted to produce food. Seeds are dead for all practical purposes, planted in the ground, and brought forth in fullness of time into a productive plant bearing fruit. But the most compelling picture of our bodily resurrection, by far, is Christ's resurrection from the dead. Through it we can be assured of our future bodily resurrection to newness of life, seated with Christ in the heavenlies.

We ought to regularly consider and seek the full assurance of faith and hope in Christ's resurrection, that in the face of our own pain and death we may not fear being buried in the grave; assured that although our bodies may "sleep" there for a little while, our souls will immediately be present with the Savior. Remain steadfast, therefore, firm in the faith of the gospel, unmovable in your hope of being raised incorruptible at the last day. Always abound in the work of the Lord, doing the Lord's service, and obeying the Lord's commands (1 Cor 15:58). May Christ increase your faith, that you may not only be safe in your duties, but filled with joy and victorious in your callings as Chaplains, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen.

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Please pray for our valiant men of war to call out to God continually for strength to enable victory over the enemy and that they will continue to be well equipped for battle. And please pray that our nation will be led by humble leaders who call on the name of the Lord and rule righteously that we might have peace. Please pray that God will *show 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 as we battle forces both foreign and domestic in our long war; plead with our God to make a way of escape from defeat, from losing heart in the battle and that in doing so, God will restore us as a nation to His righteousness. Pray for the gracious and needed gift from God of genuine national repentance; especially from the iniquities of abortion, supporting homosexuality, the widespread disregard of the fourth commandment 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 expression. 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 and for the wounded 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: Cody, **John**, Neal and Samuel. New deployments are shown in bold.

- Commission Executive Director Doug Lee reports the death of KAPC Army chaplain CH (CPT) Yohan Lee on 09 Apr 2016. He was in his mid-40's and leaves a wife Young Hee and two school age children. He was riding a bicycle with the children when he suffered a massive heart attack. Doug believes Yohan and Bryan Weaver are the first two chaplains to die on active duty since the Commission's founding in 1978.
- From his Mom – word that Tim W. has been promoted to Gunnery Sergeant. Congratulations Tim!
- Please pray for Chaplain John Carter for healing of a medical condition that has been caught early and is being treated. Please continue in prayer for the continuing recovery of Carolyn Parker, wife of retired Navy chaplain Stephen Parker.
- We welcome back to our list, Lt. Col. Tom S. – Glad to have you aboard again Sir!
- 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 the Commission has adopted additional protections for our chaplains. Please pray that God will grant a powerful and sustained protection for our chaplains from this revision.
6. That our military, which has taken an oath defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic, will not be diminished or perish,
7. That this trial will not also in time descend on the pulpits of our land.

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Chaplains' Reports:

LCDR John Carter, CHC, USN, 2nd Transportation Support Battalion, Camp Lejeune, NC.

I've taken up duties as Chaplain for the Combat Logistics Regiment. This summer marks yet another PCS move for us. It won't be far. We're moving to the Durham/Chapel Hill area so I can attend Duke University in the fall. I'll be working on a Th.M. in Religion & Culture. Linda and I are looking forward to the transition. But before we move, I have one more major exercise to complete. I'll be spending 5 weeks in the field at 29 Palms for ITX yet again in May/June.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for the field ministry with the Marines as we provide the logistics element for the Integrated Training Exercise. Also, prayers for a smooth transition to Duke are appreciated. My kids are starting at new colleges as well. So we've got a lot of moving parts over here! Thanks for the prayer support.

EMAIL: john.a.carter@usmc.mil

CH Steve Phillips, Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Community, Quarryville, PA. It is a matter of praise that Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Community has finally hired a new Chaplain. However, since he will not be moving until September, I still have a full (overflowing?) load of responsibilities. With twelve deaths, February may have been a record month. But the Lord blesses as we continue to have new folks become residents in independent living, personal care, and skilled care. It has been a joy to serve the new as well as the dying.

PRAYER REQUESTS: We would appreciate prayers for: (1) my wife Jeanne and me as we will be moving to let the new Chaplain occupy the Chaplain's house; (2) the new Chaplain as he leaves a senior pastor position to take up Chaplaincy work here; and (3) working out responsibilities as the new Chaplain learns the ropes and I transition to part-time.

EMAIL: phillipssl@quarryville.com

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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 with the Prayer Focus by CAPT Michael W. Jennings, USN, Ret.