

A Plea for Prayer – September 2016 – No. 164

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: Cloy.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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Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

Prayer Focus – Put Your Trust In The Lord... and do good

Every man and woman who is interested in living a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty prays to the True and Living God that He will raise up civil leaders who acknowledge Him and His Word... legislators and authorities who will endeavor to uphold and defend that which nurtures a real and lasting good.

Most Believers have never known this temporal blessing and joy!

Mankind's rebellion and sin have wrecked and racked the nations and their neighborhoods with a deep-rooted corruption that sets the heart and imagination on evil continually... so that those who know and love the Lord and His ways often (more often than not) find themselves at odds with the world in which they live and the "Temporal Authorities" who rule it.

How could it be otherwise?

There is only One who is altogether Good and Righteous and He is enthroned in Heaven. We look to Him alone for real and lasting good and blessings that will endure.

All believers should be working to procure the temporal peace that they desire for themselves and their generation (near and far). To this end we proclaim the Gospel by life and lip so that those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death may, by Mercy & Grace, be reconciled to God and neighbor.

May the Gospel shine bright during these dark and challenging days!

May we embrace the opportunities that these days afford us and labor to see them redeemed for our Savior!

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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 Praise God for his continued mercies of protection. New deployments are shown in bold.

- From his dad – Thanks again, as always, for your service and for all that you have done for those in uniform in our churches. Perhaps you could add this to the list: PFC Robert W. S., USA. Bob is preparing for work in Intelligence.
- From his college days pastor away from home – Please add 2LT Josiah N, USA to your list as a recently commissioned soldier and OPC member. Congratulations Josiah on your commissioning! May God bless your service to God and country.
- From Chaplain Carter – His son Ryan Carter USCG has been Honorably Discharged recently and now is attending college. Ryan, thank you for your service!
- Chaplain Paul Berghaus (MAJ, USA) has transferred to the USA Reserves and is beginning studies for an advanced degree with a desire to teach. Pray for Paul and his family as they settle into a new stage in their ministry.
- Chaplain Earl Vanderhoff (MAJ, USA) is retiring as of 29 September. He is a brother who has endured and pressed on in spite of a now 100% disability rating, both by the Army and the Veterans Administration. Earl writes “Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring spiritual fruit for the 1000s of people I have been privileged to minister to for 28 years.” More in his report below.

• From editor Bob Coie – This is the last Plea I am expected to edit. Starting next month, your new editor will be Colonel Mike Cloy, USA, Ret. Mike served as a brigade commander and earned the Army's Special Forces and Ranger tabs and Combat Infantry Badge. He is an OPC ruling elder who served previously as a deacon and has worshipped in several OPCs over his 27 year career in the service of God and country. We are blessed to have Mike fill this roll. Mike, you have the con! May God richly bless your ministry!

Thank you all for the privilege of almost 14 years of this special service that has been a blessing to me beyond my expectations. I extend my thanks to the General Assembly for calling me to serve and their gracious appreciation given at this recent Assembly. My thanks and deep appreciation to warriors, chaplain warriors, pastors and family members who have taken time to inform us of the particular needs for prayer. The many stories you have shared will be forever with me. All of you are special gifts of our gracious sovereign Lord.

- Please continue to pray for the Bryan J. Weaver family as they adjust to the loss of their dear husband and father, and that God will sustain them and comfort them in the assurance of Bryan's home going to Glory to be in the presence of Christ our King.
- Please pray for Mrs. Jocelyn Warren, **wife of retired pastor and Chaplain Bill Warren (LTC, CAARNG, Ret., former member of both CCMP and PRCC)**. A biopsy from a lump on her hip showed no evidence of cancer, which means the brain tumor is likely a primary cancer. The next step is to biopsy the mass sometime next week, as the hope is the swelling will decrease in the tumor. Pray for Jocelyn's faith to continue strong and for her body to be strong as well. Pray for Bill and their extended family **including son Matt (Lt. Col., MC, USAFR) and son-in law Graham Harbman (CH, LTC, USA)** and the many friends who have been impacted by Jocelyn, who are standing with her in this fight.
- 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 to 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

CH (MAJ) Paul Berghaus, USAR, USAR Legal Command, Gaithersburg, Maryland. (Presbytery of the Midwest) God opened the door for me to continue my academic studies by providing a full scholarship and teaching assistantship for a PhD program in philosophy at Georgetown University. To pursue these studies, I separated from active duty on 30 July and transferred to the Army Reserve as a TPU Chaplain. I am the deputy command Chaplain for the US Army Reserve Legal Command, Gaithersburg, Maryland, where I will continue to minister to Soldiers and families. My program at Georgetown began at the end of August and will continue for the next five years. After completing my PhD, I plan to seek a position as a professor at a seminary, college, or service academy.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Join me in thanking the Lord for granting me this opportunity.

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CH (MAJ) Earl Vanderhoff, USA, Warrior Transition Battalion, Tacoma, WA (Presbytery of the Northwest) I will retire on September 29, 2016. I am providing counseling at the Family Life Center three days a week. The Army rated me 100% disability with twelve conditions that don't meet the retention standards. The VA rates me as 100% disabled. 1 Corinthians 1:17, 18 sums up my calling and personal experience as a Chaplain: *"For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."*

PRAYER REQUEST: Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring spiritual fruit for the thousands of people to whom I have been privileged to minister for 28 years.

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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,

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September Prayer Focus by Chaplain (Lt. Col) Richard M. Dickinson, MEANG, Retired

Richard M. Dickinson, Chairman, OPC Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel

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