

A PLEA for PRAYER – January 7, 2012 - No. 108

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).*

And Abijah set the battle in array with an army of valiant men of war, even four hundred thousand chosen men: Jeroboam also set the battle in array against him with eight hundred thousand chosen men, being mighty men of valour. (II Chronicles 13:3).

Prayer focus: Valiant Warriors – Abijah, great-grandson of the warrior King David, is one of several kings of Judah who followed the true God, declaring *but as for us, the Lord is our God, and we have not forsaken him (vs. 10)*. There had been a continuing war with Israel, who under King Jeroboam, had rebelled against the house of David. With *an army of valiant men of war*, half the size of the enemy, Abijah, King of Judah, *set the battle in array* and defeated Israel declaring that *God himself is with us for our captain. (vs.12)* Caught in ambush from before and behind, Judah *cried unto the Lord (vs. 14)* and the text tells us *God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah (vs. 15)* and that *Abijah waxed mighty (vs. 21)*

Please pray for our valiant men of war that they will call out to God continually for strength to enable victory over the enemy, and that our nation will chose righteous leaders who call on the name of the Lord and will rule righteously.

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 as we battle forces both foreign and domestic in our long war, that our nation in its affliction, that true believers depend upon, and plead 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 iniquities 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, Caleb, Chris, Curt, Dan, Doug, Douglas, Gabriel, Gareth, Harry, Isaac, Jeremy, Jim, John (two), Michael, Nicolas, Noah, Paul, Rachel, Reservist R, Robert, Scott, and Stephen (two). New deployments shown in bold.

- [12/7/11] From Pastor Edd - Please add my daughter Olivia Hope C. airman first class serving at Lackenheath AFB, England beginning in January. My son Isaac David C. is now Senior Airman Reservist and is now ROTC at the University of Southern Alabama (to graduate and be commissioned 2014)
- [12/08] From Pastor Steve - ESN Laura P. is now ESN Laura U. (Mrs. Michael) and she is serving on the USS Abraham Lincoln homeported in San Diego.
- [12/16] New OPC Chaplain – We welcome aboard a new Army reserve chaplain, CH (CPT) Stephen Roberts USAR, who is a member of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic. Stephen, may God richly bless your service for both God and country!
- [12/18] Bryan U. has been promoted to PFC (E-3) and is now in advanced combat training at Ft. Benning GA.
- Please pray for your Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel as they meet today in preparation for the PRJCCMP annual meeting late next month.
- 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 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 needs 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!

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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 (COL) Jonathan C. Gibbs III, USA, is now the Command Chaplain, Third Army/USARCENT and stationed in SC. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray for Jon in this new high level command that God will bless him in His service.

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CH (MAJ) Earl W. Vanderhoff, USA, Installation Chaplain, Fort Greely, AK (Presbytery of the Northwest) PTL! I have been extended to stay in Alaska for 2 more years. We are thanking the Lord for a very successful marriage weekend retreat. In October we had 17 couples learn how to express heartfelt love and commitment to each other. Christmas was a great time of the year to explain the incarnation of our Savior! Pray that the children's program, Christmas Eve candle light service, and Christmas morning will bear Kingdom fruit. We hope to have another marriage conference soon. Our Sunday morning chapel service continues to grow! The Lord is sending new families and individuals. There is a warm, joyous fellowship and worship. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Pray for Susie (my wife). She teaches Sunday School, weekly art classes and the kids program for PWOC. Many of these children are hearing the Gospel and the teaching of the Bible for the first time.

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CDR Timothy J. Power, CHC, USN, Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, AZ (Presbytery of Southern California) Things change quickly in military service. Solid word came to me that both of the Chaplains that work with me in the Group will be on deployment sometime after the beginning of the year. One is already on deployment. The other will go soon. Pray for the deployed/deploying Chaplains and me back in the rear taking care of 2500 Marines and family members. The family did join me in July in Yuma as planned. Our family was VERY busy finishing September. And we just finished up the violin, voice, and hockey seasons. In January we finished up with a Yuma Community Theater production, "King and I." Gregory is cast in it, but we'll all be helping with odd jobs. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Pray for my family members to continue to find ways to thrive and serve here in Yuma. Also pray for a Reformed Social that we are hosting monthly for area interested Christians.

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All Military Chaplain Wives –

Please pray for all spouses of our military chaplains, as they support and join with their husbands in ministry. Pray for their ability to keep things going smoothly at home while their spouses are deployed; pray for patience when the demands of ministry mean time away from home and family. Pray for peace, strong faith, and the ability to trust God when uncertainty and

challenges arise. Pray for hope and love, and the ability to share that heart with others in their home and in the circumstances they find themselves.



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