

A Plea for Prayer – April, 2016 – No. 159

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)

In the always perfect and wise providence of our Sovereign God, CAPT Bryan Jay Weaver, CHC, USN, was taken from this life into the arms of his Faithful Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Saturday, 2 April 2016, at 1707 hours EDT and thus transferred to the Church Triumphant. "He fought the good fight and finished the course." In his last minutes on earth, a Navy corpsman prayed with him and the last words on his lips were "Jesus, Jesus", repeated several times. The command of Naval Hospital Beaufort, Beaufort, SC provided a Marine honor guard in dress blues to transfer the body to a local funeral home.

The funeral will be held Monday, 11 April in Beaufort, SC, followed by burial in Beaufort National Cemetery. He will be buried in his Marine uniform.

Since December 2013 Bryan had some nine cancer related brain procedures. His wife Shelly said "he was a faithful servant to his calling to the very end".

Bryan was born 5 May 1955. He married his wife Shelly Buckhalt 21 June 1980. They have three sons: Grant, Kurt and Trent. He attended Taylor University (B.A., 1978), Westminster Theological Seminary, Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (M.Div., 1983), Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Th.M., 1997).

Bryan served as a Navy chaplain for 30 years and 5 months, 21 years of which were with the United States Marine Corps (a possible record). His Commanding Officer with the 2nd Marine Division was General James F. Amos, later 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps. During Division combat operations about 2004 in Iraq, he gave Bryan the nickname "Battle Chaps" for crawling from "fighting hole to fighting hole" under fire encouraging Marines and in the process teaching NCOs and officers what it is to be Leaders of Marines. He was a faithful servant of King Jesus. He was awarded the Navy peer elected John H. Craven Servant Award in 2014 and the RPTS Life Time Service Award in December 2015.

In his time with the Marines, he served as Command Chaplain of a Battalion in the 1st Marine Division, and later, the 24th Expeditionary Unit, the 2nd Marine Division, the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Force Command, Norfolk and Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC.

Praise God that in the last couple of years, Bryan, who had faithfully ministered to so many, in God's gracious providence had Christian Commanding Officers and Command Chaplains to minister to him and his family at both Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island and at MCAS Beaufort, SC

I can testify that he feared God, and not man, as well as any man I have ever known, and I have been privileged to call him my friend. 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.

- Please pray for John, who is as others noted above, is in a combat zone. He has been out for several months and is scheduled to return in about two months. Note the number deployed in harm's way is again increasing. As is often the case, two of these are Marines on the "tip of the spear".
- Please continue to pray for the continuing recovery of Carolyn Parker, wife of retired Navy chaplain Stephen Parker. After a long recovery from a badly broken leg after a bad fall last July, last month she suffered a heart attack. Praise God for sustaining her life, for their daughter Anna's care and the support of the Bonita OPC session and congregation.
- Please pray for Chaplain John Carter for healing of a medical condition that has been caught early and is being treated.

- 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'm wrapping up my tour here at Camp Lejeune. We will move in June, but not before I spend another 7 weeks at 29 Palms later in Apr-May. I've begun a weekly prayer/Bible study group at my house on base. We have a number of families from our local PCA church that are a part of that. It's been a real blessing. **PRAYER REQUESTS:** I'd like to get some more Marines to join us in our weekly home Bible study. Right now, the attendees are mostly members of our local PCA church.
john.a.carter@usmc.mil

CH (CPT) Steve Roberts, Chaplain for 397th BNG BN, Eau Claire, WI. I am grateful to now be serving with my new unit in Eau Claire, WI—the 397th Engineer Battalion. Two years have passed since the unit had a Chaplain, and I was able to conduct a Chapel service my first weekend there. The unit is four hours away from my new church in Menomonee Falls, WI, and my orders have not yet been cut to make the transfer complete. As always, even in the uncertainty, I am grateful for how the Lord continually provides opportunities to feed the flock, reach out to the lost, and glorify His name! **PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please pray that my orders will come through to make this transfer official, and for my new ministry with these Soldiers. It usually takes a year in this Reserve capacity to really bond with the unit, in my experience. Please ask the Lord to hasten that bond! Also please pray for my family as we adjust to a new culture and prepare to move into a new house—that we would grow in His grace through faith in Christ, and all to His glory!
Stephen.L.Roberts30.mil@mail.mil

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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.