

## A PLEA for PRAYER – January 5, 2007 - No. 60

**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 he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint... And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. (Luke 18:1, 7-8a, 27)*

**Prayer focus: Endurance – No Matter How Long** – A recent graduate of boot camp told us the greatest effect of his training was that he had gained much greater endurance. And we also were reminded recently by the lines of a well traveled warrior's poem that as long as we are short of glory that there is evil in the world, and we need to stand our watch in prayer enduring in the support of the warriors who protect us.

### *A Different Christmas Poem*

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,

'Just tell us you love us, and never forget.

To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,

**To stand your own watch, no matter how long...** [Our emphasis]

Luke reminds us concerning prayer that we are ***always to pray, and not to faint***, crying *day and night unto him*. We need to be men and women of *faith* and preserver in prayer knowing that the *things which are impossible with men are possible with God*. The love of Christ to us should cause us to love those who defend us and "never forget", causing us to stand our "own watch, no matter how long", knowing we await the return of the *Son of man* in final victory and triumph. Victory, we love that word both in this life and in the next. Count the many blessings we have seen this past year and praise God for his blessings to our warriors and our nation!

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.

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: Andrew (two), Ed, Elijah, Glenn, Heidi, John, Michael, Nathanael, and Newton. Welcome home to PV2 John A. USA! Pray for some expecting to deploy in January.

- From Chaplain Ben Johnson - I just wanted to let you know that my information has changed. I have been promoted and am now a Chaplain Captain (Capt.). Thank you so much for your help and prayers, Ben Johnson, CH, CAPT, USAFR 55th WG/HC
- From Chaplain Paul Berghaus - I'm going to a chaplain recruiting assignment: 5th Recruiting Brigade, with duty at Grand Prairie, TX. I report there on 15 January 2008. Paul And from a friend of theirs notifying us that Paul and Mary Berghaus just gave birth to their first child, Paul Fredrick Cooper Berghaus. Paul Jr. was born at 5:17 am. He weighed 7lbs 8oz.
- From Pastor David K. – Word that a son of a ruling elder Neal T. has a son in the Air Force Academy, Cadet Neal T. He also notes that combat veteran Rueben K. has been promoted to E-5 (SGT). [We note that Rueben fulfilled the duties of a Corporal and Sergeant during his last tour wearing the strips of a PFC.]
- From Pastor James S. - Here're two names that need to be added to the list of those who serve: Major Robert S. US Army and PVT Britt Y. B. Hawaii Army National Guard (boot camp begins 17 Jan 2008 but sworn in by his father Cmdr. Britt B., USN at the beginning of October).
- We have an urgent “unspoken request” for a severely wounded warrior related to the OPC. Please pray for healing, endurance, courage and comfort for the warrior and God's constant presence and reassuring care for the family. As we sent this out, encouraging word has been received that major surgeries are completed and other progress has been made. However, the recovery period is expected to be about one year. In God's good providence, both an OPC chaplain and OPC doctor have been able to visit this warrior and minister to him.

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### **Chaplains' Reports:**

With all of our military might, the greatest weapon we have in the 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!

**CAPT Bryan J. Weaver, CHC, USN, II Marine Expeditionary Force Chaplain, Camp Lejeune, NC (Presbytery of Ohio)** The II Marine Expeditionary Force continues to deploy and redeploy Marines and sailors in support of II MEF (Forward) in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Operational Tempo is very high, but the Marines and sailors are committed to their missions. Morale & esprit de corps remains high. The Marine chaplains forward in Iraq are doing a superb job comforting the wounded and the dying. The combat chaplain who ministers from the front line is the "unsung hero" in this Long War. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for good health for my wife, Shelly, as she recuperates from open-heart surgery. Pray for our Marine chaplains deployed overseas and that many of our Marines and sailors will embrace the Gospel.  
**E-Mail:** [bryan.j.weaver1@usmc.mil](mailto:bryan.j.weaver1@usmc.mil)

**CH (LTC) Graham C. Harbman, USA, San Jose, CA (Presbytery of Northern California)** The war came close to home when I officiated at a funeral for a KIA recently. Please pray for the fallen soldier's wife, Jennifer, who is a member of my Reserve unit. She is facing severe trials with a recent miscarriage and now is left to raise their baby girl Jordan alone. Our unit also has many soldiers returning from Iraq who deployed with other units. Their stress level is very high, with nightmares and flashbacks. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for true, abiding Christ-sent comfort in the coming months. Lastly, my unit is decommissioning in a few months, so I would greatly appreciate prayer that I will find a suitable assignment close to home that will be a good place of ministry.  
**E-Mail:** [graham.harbman@us.army.mil](mailto:graham.harbman@us.army.mil)

**CH (COL) Chet H. Lanious, USA, Deployed to Kuwait (Presbytery of the Central US)** We continue to meet the various needs of soldiers and their families. Simply being available and ready to respond this late in a deployment is a struggle when you are tired, looking past the re-deployment home to our futures, giddy that it's almost over and calloused against new problems because it all sounds the same. In the deployment cycle, this timeframe is when life changing decisions are made—good and bad—and a time of isolation produced by our routine. For this quarter, having just finished the holiday season, most of our ministry teams are taking R&R leave during January and February. They will all return for March and the Easter season and build-up to its observance. We will begin the transition phase of receiving our replacement units and scrambling to fill the shortfalls in personnel. Most of us will receive new orders this quarter and trust that the planning for those moves will begin well from here. My thanks to all of you who have supported our Warrior Return Unit ministry. **PRAYER REQUEST:** As this deployment ends, pray that some of our soldiers will make eternal faith decisions at this time. Pray for their families, that our redeployment will go well, and families will experience joyful reunions, despite the challenges caused by these extended separations.  
**E-Mail:** [chester.lanious@us.army.mil](mailto:chester.lanious@us.army.mil)

**CH Chuck A. McIlhenny, LAC / USC Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA (Presbytery of Southern California)** Here some samples of ministry in a large, urban, trauma hospital:  
1. Counseling with two young fellows - prisoners shackled to their beds and on chemo therapy for their various cancers...wanting to read the Word, wanting God to change their lives, wanting, instead, to be prisoners of Jesus Christ to serve Him when they get out.  
2. For a young single mother - 24 yr old - dying of leukemia, fearful of leaving behind her 3 yr old, wanting to give up and die, not being able to hold any food down...I was called in on her case....it has been my privilege to be with her, pray with her daily, read the Word, encourage her in my frail and halting way.

3. For a dying 90 yr old lady - beyond consciousness, eyes rolled back, tubes running in and out - called in to pray for her and with her at her last moments on earth...alone.
4. Asked by a ward nurse to comfort a young Asian woman having terrifying hallucinations...I gowned and gloved up to visit her in her cold and sterile isolation room....all she could do was cry, tremble, mouth inaudible words, also known for her cursing as told to me by the nurse....all I could do was stroke her hand, her face....pray quietly over her terrified weeping face....I couldn't tell if she understood English....nonetheless I didn't want to leave.
5. Another young man who accidentally shot away the front of his head - still living and struggling for recovery....not knowing if he understands my presence and prayers....but ministering to his faithful parents in his isolation room every day all day without fail....their son who will now be their ministry for the rest of his life and theirs....sold everything to nurse him...no sacrifice too great for such a son....what could I possibly say to them short of praying every day with them.
6. And remember little "JR" - 22 month-old enduring his 3-organ transplant meds from his "tree of life" - now having to endure chemo treatment for his newly found cancer...and for his persevering foster parents now for 8 months 24/7.
7. This is a list of just a few that we love to be with and do our small and most important part as chaplains for their spiritual infirmities. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please use each of the ministry situations listed above as prayer requests. Thank God with me for the privilege of representing Christ in this secular institution.

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Pray that our President, George W. Bush, will be kept on his knees in prayer and 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