

A PLEA for PRAYER – February 2, 2008 - No. 61

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 (1 Thessalonians 5:17).*

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10b)

Prayer focus: Performing our duties – The Heidelberg Catechism (Lord's Day 49) in commenting on this the third petition to the Lord's Prayer answers: "*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*"; *that is, grant that we and all men may renounce our own will, and without murmuring obey your will, which is only good; **that so every one may attend to, and perform the duties of his station and calling, as willingly and faithfully as the angels do in heaven.***

We were struck recently with this unfolding of the Lord's Prayer. If there was ever a profession in our land that largely, both willingly and faithfully performs the duties of their station and calling without murmuring, it is the profession of arms. While many warriors do not have the underpinnings of the reformed faith, those we particularly remember from the OPC certainly have a large measure of biblical understand of this duty. Pray for our magnificent warriors as they suppress and renounce their own wills in attending to and performing the duties of their stations as those who act in the defense of freedom on our behalf. Pray that they do it as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven. We are so blessed to have them!

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), **Brett**, Ed, Elijah, **Gary**, Glenn, Heidi, **James**, John, Michael, Nathanael, and Newton. New deployments shown in **bold**.

- From John Castle - As of 31Dec07, I'm retired from the Navy. But keep me on this list so I can pray for those still in uniform. Blessings on you and yours! Thank you. Very respectfully, John P Castle RN PA-C MPAS [Chief Warrant John's service dates back to the mid 1960's. He has treated an unnumbered company of sailors and Marines, including service at three recruit depots, one of which no longer exists. In recent years he has been called up from the reserves several times and on more than one occasion has helped this committee. Thank you, John, for your faithful service to both your Lord and country! Blessings as you continue to use your gifts in service to both.]

- Last month we had an unspoken request for a badly wounded warrior. The reason it was unspoken was that his dear elderly grandmother Jennie Y., widow of OPC elder Dan, has been in poor and tenuous health, and the family did not want to unduly affect her recovery. Recently she has been told, but we do not believe she understands. PFC Jamin M., baptized in the OPC, was wounded in December by an IED explosion resulting in third degree burns over about 60 percent of his body. He has casts on all four limbs, but with help was on his feet in one month. The other three in his unit were KIA. A nearby OPC doctor, who continues to visit Jamin, writes recently: "I saw him again this week and talked to [his dad]. Jamin has been moved out of the ICU and is on the regular floor. They are getting him up and helping him walk. He seems fairly alert, despite his pain medication. [His dad and mom] are planning to return [home] in another week, then [she] will return again several days later." Please pray for both Jamin and Jennie!

- From Elder James V. - I checked the recent list of OPC men in the military. Here are two more names: 1LT Brett G... and SSG James S. [both of these men are in-country]. Please pray for these warriors, one of whom is in considerable danger on our behalf.]

- Update on LCpl Joe C. – Last September Joe was seriously wounded and we were blessed to talk to him this week. He is making good progress and is in good spirits, but has a way to go yet in his recovery. He is currently "going to work every day" with his unit that has returned home from deployment while he awaits the next program for his continued treatment. He has been worshiping at his OPC home church near his base the last several weeks. Please pray Joe makes a full recovery.

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!

CH (CPT) David A. Bottoms, USA, Chaplains School, Fort Jackson, SC (Presbytery of Philadelphia) As I write this, we will be handing off the battle to our replacing unit. It has been a long 14 months, but God has been faithful and will remain faithful. As you read this, I should be a student in the Captain Career Course. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that the Lord will

open a door for a ministry assignment where I may be stationed with my wife... after only living together for one year in the last four.

E-Mail: david.bottoms@us.army.mil

CH (CPT) Kyle N. Brown, USA, Fort Hood, TX (Presbytery of Ohio) The Browns are settling into Texas and the ministry is in full gear. I have been received by my unit with open arms, and an open door: the counseling is constant. The Lord has shown me how much I have yet to learn while at the same time giving me what was needed for each situation. We praise God for how the family has adjusted, the new friends we are making, and another new church family to add to our list (Hill Country PCA). My unit is in the process of preparing to deploy, and by the time you read this we will have already left. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please be in prayer for my soldiers, for many of them, this will be their 3rd or 4th deployment and their families are feeling the strain. Please be in prayer for the Browns, as this will be our first deployment. Above all, pray for the Gospel to go forth with great power.

E-Mail: kyle.brown14@us.army.mil

Ch Capt Cornelius Johnson, USAF, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, TX (Presbytery of New Jersey) Greetings from Wilford Hall. I have the opportunity daily to minister the Word of God to hospital patients, their families and the hospital staff. In the future, I will possibly be teaching some Crisis and Trauma courses to fellow chaplains. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that God will continue to help me to adjust to working as a hospital chaplain, and that God will use me mightily here. Also pray that my family and I will continue to adjust to San Antonio.

E-Mail: Cornelius.Johnson@Lackland.af.mil

Ch Capt C. Phillip Hollstein III, USAF, Pope AFB, NC (Presbytery of Southern California) Please pray for me as I prepare to deploy in April, for six months. No word yet on where, but I am excited about the ministry prospects! Christmas was a great time yet again to give the Gospel to a large number of people. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that our chapel community will continue to be salt and light to the base community. Please pray also for my family, especially my infant daughter as she continues to grow, that her faith would also grow in the Lord.

E-Mail: Charles.Hollstein@pope.af.mil

CH Richard A. Shaw, Spring House Estates, Lower Gwynedd, PA (Presbytery of Philadelphia) Our third son Bradley was married November 10, 2007 to Allison Gatlin in Pickens, MS. Dad Shaw had the privilege to officiate at the wedding. We praise God for His work in the lives of our son and new daughter-in-law. **PRAYER REQUEST:** There continues to be many opportunities to minister the Gospel at memorial services conducted on behalf of families of our residents. Pray for the ministry of the Word at services like these, specifically for the message and the ongoing contact with family members of our residents. Give thanks that many of the booklets purchased for the book table are being read by both staff and residents at our community. Books on depression, loneliness and grief, as well as devotional reading seem most popular currently among the elderly.

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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