

## **A PLEA for PRAYER – April 5, 2008 - No. 63**

**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 said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. (II Samuel 22:2-4)*  
(See also Psalms 18:1-3; 144:1-3)

**Prayer focus: *My High Tower*** – How are our warriors to be saved from our enemies? They are saved by calling on the Lord. The warrior King David, after God had delivered him from Saul, gives praise in a song of adoration to God in whom he trusted and who had rescued him from harm. He brings this praise to the only one who ultimately can save him and praises God for his infinite perfections and for his steadfast protection. When all other means fail or vanish, David declares that it is God who is his rock, and who hides him in a high tower, a fortress that cannot be scaled. It is God who is his shield from death, his deliverer who keeps him safe from violence. It is God alone who has hedged him in and preserved him from his enemies. Further, it is God who is his salvation, both in this life and for eternity. In a magnificent song of praise, David brings praises to the infinite God of all creation and providence who has saved and delivered him from his enemies.

Pray for those still in harm's way that God will be their shield and high tower and save them from our enemies in this Long War. Sing a doxology of praise to our God for his mercies to them and through them to us. How great is our God in his infinite kindness and mercy to us!

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

- From Loren & Joe A. - I just wanted to give you an update on our son, Sgt. Jason A. As of 2/23/08 Jason is now Inactive Ready Reserve with the USMC. The Lord protected and watched over him the years he served in the Marines. He is now in the process of becoming a Houston Police Officer and we continue to seek the Lord for his direction and protection on this next step in Jason's life. [Thank you Marine for your faithful service under fire and may God grant you protection and success in this new area of service to protect us!]

- From Pastor Bill A., a recently retired Navy chaplain (CAPT) - [3/2/08] Please add my son, MAJ David W. A. USA, to the prayer list. David will be deploying very shortly for another tour of duty in Iraq. His family has moved [here] so they can be close to family while he is overseas.

- From Pastor Bill Doerfel [3/6/08] - First let me thank you for keeping us current on military personnel in the OPC. We do pray for them regularly in our worship and prayer meetings. My chief reason in writing is to ask you to add a name to the list--something I should have done six years ago but never got around to it. Petty Officer Second Class Jon R. has been a member of Grace OPC ... since 2001--shortly before he joined the Navy. He has served several tours of duty in the Middle East and in Japan. He is a Seabee, currently stationed at the Naval Construction Battalion Center... Jon was here... briefly last week and stopped by my home. He gave an encouraging testimony to the Lord's faithfulness to him and asked that we keep praying for him, especially that the Lord would use him to touch the lives of his fellow Seabees. Thanks again for your service to our Lord and His church.

- From SPC Blake L. [applicant for chaplain candidate] - In my present job, I am simply not making enough. I would be grateful of any prayers for the several applications I have at different Christian schools right now to teach. I guess it says a lot that I am looking for work as a teacher at a Christian school in order to receive a *higher* pay! Thanks again and thanks for reminding me of the goal and calling for which I am working, to lift up Christ and minister in his name in the extreme conditions of the US Army. [Then on 3/7/08 after being asked if we might take this request to the Plea, he responded:] You know what? Yes. When I received your letter yesterday (on my birthday) I thought to myself that I would be grateful to have my request for those applications prayed for by others but that it may not even be necessary because I feel good enough about my applications and qualifications to teach at some of these Christian schools (right now I'm a teacher assistant at a public middle school in an autistic classroom). I thought I could pass on the prayer, that things would "just work out", but now I would like to repent of that and confess how badly my family needs God's provision in the form of this job or some other job. So yes, please include prayer for my family and our needs, for my wife's encouragement in this lean time, and for good employment.

- From Victor Lin [wounded in the second battle of Fallujah] - Dear friends, An update and greetings from Mr. and Mrs. Lin. Victor and Diana were united in Christ on February 2, 2008 in San Francisco. We didn't have a military wedding but decided to do the traditional military cake cutting with a sword. We are settling into married life but still covet your prayers. Victor is still

very busy with his medical residency training at Camp Pendleton, and at times faces seemingly insurmountable difficulties (from a human standpoint). At the same time, Diana is studying part-time to get her doctorate degree in Oriental Medicine, and does a lot of travelling. We would appreciate prayers for us to successfully complete our respective training and for travel mercies especially as we will be visiting Taiwan next week.

We thank our sovereign Lord for bringing us together, and for choosing us to be His children even though we are sinners deserving nothing more than His righteous and just wrath. And we thank you all for your prayers, encouragement, and fellowship. May God bless you and your families. In Christ, Victor & Diana

[Congratulations Victor and Diana! God's mercies are new every morning. We rejoice in God's goodness to you, and for Victor this expression of His healing mercies.]

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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!

### **CH (MAJ) Earl Vanderhoff, USA, First Medical Brigade Chaplain, Fort Hood, TX**

**(Presbytery of the Northwest)** One of the ministries that I perform for the Installation of Fort Hood is to perform duty (24 hours) as the Crisis Phone Chaplain for 3 days. I was assigned this duty during a recent Holiday season and had over 50 calls logged. One day I responded to minister to a family that suffered the death of 35 year old husband and father from a car accident. I received numerous calls of counseling situations that were opportunities to point to Jesus as our Great Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep. I responded to the ICU and ministered to a family and soldiers of a unit that were grieving the imminent death of a 47-year-old woman (just one month from retirement) who was on life support due to an aneurysm. After just getting home from the ICU, I received a desperate call from a soldier who said, "Chaplain my life is all messed up, I'm depressed and lonely". After talking with him for 15 minutes I sensed that something was very critical in this situation and by the grace of God I was able to minister hope to a man that had a loaded gun pointed at his head. He came to see me at my office the following day and prayed to receive Christ. He attended Church with me the 2 following Sundays. That week I experienced the grace of the Lord changing 2 other soldiers' lives as I ministered the Gospel and they responded by embracing Jesus as their Savior. Another tragic ministry that we provide is funeral and notification duty. I assisted in a very heart wrenching notification to a family that lost a young 1LT who was killed in Iraq from an IED. The mother was devastated and the LT's fiancé had just purchased her wedding dress that very day. I prayed that the mercy of the Lord might give comfort to the grieving. The family requested that I pray with them. The notification officer was a young CPT who was experiencing this duty for the first time. We spent 3 hours talking about the meaning of the Gospel as we drove back home. I performed a funeral for a Viet Nam veteran and ministered the Gospel to grieving family and loved ones. During this quarter I offered many invocations and benedictions at official

ceremonies and functions; these are precious opportunities to minister the presence and reality of Jesus Christ to hundreds of soldiers. I provide a chaplain message for all the commanders and staff in my Brigade as they meet to update the boss. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for healing as I still struggle with two bulging disks and healing from surgery on my back. Pray for my Battalion Chaplains, as they find intentional ministry to their soldiers. Pray for the hundreds of soldiers and their families that are deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Some are medics, doctors, nurses, technicians, veterinarians, optometrists and dentists. Pray for wisdom and discipline for me to work on my dissertation.

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**CH (COL) Chet Lanious, USA, Deployed to Kuwait (Presbytery of the Central US)** In these three months, I will travel back to the states for the COCH Strategic Leader's Development Conference and to Ft. Bragg to begin the train-up for a chaplain coming into our organization who is already stationed at Bragg. Our mission continues to be redefined and broadened into a much more doctrinal role and, therefore, a Theater focus. I served as the guest speaker at the Easter Sunrise Service at Camp Arifjan and focused the hearts and minds of God's people on the victory of the empty tomb. Then, all the units coming and going will hit high speed and the constant flow of units changing out will culminate with our own redeployment. Returning to Ft. Bragg, all the transition stuff will be uppermost in our minds as we put the new organization into place and begin to provide religious support from a home station support base to the theater of operation. I will also begin to put the pieces in place for our PCS. I have been notified of my next assignment. The Chief of Chaplains has asked me to stand-up the Center for World Religions at the Chaplain Center and School. It will mean pulling together some of the bits and pieces that are out there already and developing the concepts, structures and resources needed to support the corps and the military. Right now, this is as cutting edge as anything I've seen done in the chaplaincy. It will be a great opportunity to help develop the capabilities and functions of the corps for the future. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that the Lord will guide and strengthen me to be faithful to and effective in His call on my work with our soldiers.

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**CH (CPT) Kyle Brown, USA, HHD, 180th TC BN, Fort Hood, TX (Presbytery of Ohio)** I am reminded that "a man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his path." We were given the word after the last Guardian report had been printed that my unit would not be deploying in March; in fact, we will probably not deploy until March of '09. So, I now have the joy of learning more of the in's and out's of being a battalion chaplain in a garrison! This is yet another example of God's goodness to the Brown's, as we continue to assimilate into Army life. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please be in prayer for the families of my battalion who are struggling to survive; pray that the Lord of the harvest will call many of our soldiers to a saving knowledge of Christ; pray that the Brown family will continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

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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