

A PLEA for PRAYER – May 3, 2008 - No. 64

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 unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (II Corinthians 12:9)

Prayer focus: *Being overwhelmed – My grace is sufficient* – C. H. Spurgeon, reflecting on this verse comments: *If none of God's saints were poor and tried, we should not know half so well the consolations of divine grace. When we find the wanderer who has not where to lay his head, who yet can say, "Still will I trust in the Lord;" when we see the pauper existing on bread and water, who still glories in Jesus; when we see the bereaved widow overwhelmed in affliction, and yet having faith in Christ, oh! What honour it reflects on the gospel. God's grace is illustrated and magnified in the poverty and trials of believers. Saints bear up under every discouragement, believing that all things work together for their good, and that out of apparent evils a real blessing shall ultimately spring, that their God will either work a deliverance for them speedily, or most assuredly support them in their trouble, as long as He is pleased to keep them in it. This patience of the saints proves the power of divine grace... Spurgeon concludes: He who would glorify his God must [expect to meet] with many trials. If yours is a much tried path, rejoice in it, because you will the better show forth the all-sufficient grace of God. As for His failing you, never dream of it, hate the thought. The God, who has been sufficient unto now, should be trusted to the end.*

Pray for our warriors, that God's grace will indeed be sufficient for them as they patiently bear with the daily trials of combat; that their only hope and trust will ultimately rest in Him and that He will receive much glory in their proving the "power of divine grace", that He will bring good out of the evil they face and deliver them from it.

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: **Aaron, Amber**, Andrew (two), Brett, David, Ed, Elijah, Gary, Glenn, Heidi, James, John, Michael, Nathanael, and **Phil**. New deployments shown in **bold**. Newton has returned safely. Chaplain Phil Holstein has deployed. Please keep this brother in prayer over the coming months.

- Congratulations to Chaplain David Bottoms on his promotion to Major and to Chaplain Tim Power on his promotion to Commander.

- At the memorial service for Jennie Yahuso, grandmother of Pfc. Jamin M. for whom we have been praying we had opportunity to visit with her family including her other two grandchildren all serving in the Army. The report on Jamin is good as he has transition to out patient status and living near his hospital at a Fisher House, but still expects a year plus of time for recovery. With the God given courage of the warrior he is, Jamin is determined to return to combat in record time. Please pray for his complete recovery and for his cousins 1LT Amber B. who returned in-country after the service and a visit to Jamin, as well as her brother Danny B. (named for his ruling elder grandfather) who serves in the National Guard while completing college and awaiting commissioning from ROTC this year. Jennie's family has pretty special testimonies in many ways including in their service to keep us free. Please pray for their safety. Jennie's often request was for us to pray for her grandchildren.

- [3/31/08] We have received word that COL Mike Cloy USA is retiring as of 1 August 2008 and will conclude his present tasks with a retirement ceremony on the 13th of June. Mike says, “There comes a time when you just know it's the right moment to step aside.” He concludes an often deployed military career spanning 27 years which included many deployments including the present theaters of war. Mike, an OPC deacon, plans to teach at a military academy where he will be the Senior Army Instructor teaching leadership, character development and citizenship. The Colonel is a decorated warrior and we are most thankful he has been one of those guarding our country. Pray for Mike and his wife as they move and as Mike enters this new service equipping future warriors. We can think of few who would be better qualified. Mike's service has been characterized by a clarion and unashamed Christian testimony and this writer has been privileged to enjoy immensely various interchanges with Mike over recent years. Mike thank you for your service to keep us free!

- [4/5] Newton A, a reserve officer, has returned safety from voluntarily serving as a civilian contractor in harm's way on 26 Mar 08. Newton asks “Thank you for keeping me on the prayer list and please continue to send it to me so that I can continue to keep the others that are still over there in my prayers.” We thank you brother, for this extra non-obligatory service to help preserve our freedom.

- [4/6] From a faithful mother - I just wanted to give you an update on my son, Hannes B. LCpl Johannes (Hannes) B. – he is now CPL). Hannes is back in [a west coast base] from overseas deployment and will complete active duty in June 2008 in the Marines. Thank you for continuing

updates, prayers and support. My prayers are always for all those who serve and especially those in harm's way. God's blessings, Martie

- [4/18] When we made inquiry concerning one of our often deployed warriors Aaron L., his dad responded: "He is already deployed. He went in January. He is newly married, third deployment to the AOR, living conditions better than thought, rotational missions to outlying FOBs. R&R soon, task organization moved him to a new unit so he got the last option for R&R and will have the long end of the deployment when he returns down range."

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 Capt Phil Hollstein III, USAF, Pope AFB, NC (Presbytery of Southern California) I am currently deployed throughout the Middle East; my job is to travel around to the different RED HORSE units who are deployed and minister to them, primarily through visitation and counseling, but also through worship services. RED HORSE units are involved in construction projects, so they are a hard-working group. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that my ministry to them will be effective, and that the love of Christ will be nurtured in their hearts.

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CH Jack Unangst Jr., VA Medical Center, Prescott, AZ (Presbytery of New York and New England) I have been reminding the Vets I serve on the VA station how to translate the 5 paragraph order all good US Marines use for their missions into special equipage for the challenges facing them in their daily spiritual missions to serve the Living Christ as Lord. SMEAC is the acronym used (Situation/Mission/Execution/Admin/Command). I especially use the first three letters as I set out the S(enemies/friendly), M(to glorify God and enjoy Him forever), and E(how to perform in the light of their particular S and M). Each Vet then discusses how to put into practice the Scriptures they have been reading/studying to make the Word of God "profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness". I ask them as we meet casually, or in class, how their SMEAC is doing and find this to be effective in opening up a rapport for further consultation in knowing and doing the will of God. This has enabled me to move from generalities into particulars when discussing real change for Holy Spirit adaptive living. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray the Lord will continue to use these efforts among the Vets in the VA to develop Scriptural thinking/Scriptural change in their fragmented and sinful patterns of life. Pray as I serve in all areas of this station (Nursing home, Domiciliary, Acute care, Out patient) that "freedom of speech may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the Gospel..."(Ephesians 6:19).

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CAPT Bryan Weaver, CHC, USN, II Marine Expeditionary Force Chaplain's Office, Camp Lejeune, NC (Presbytery of Ohio) II Marine Expeditionary Force preps for its upcoming deployment to Iraq early next year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Pray for the Marines and sailors and their families as they prepare for their combat deployment next year. Also, it's my observation that more chaplains are opting to be "geographical bachelors" while their spouses live at another location away from the Marine Corps Base. This is a trend that appears to be gaining ground. It's my concern that it places strains and stressors on the chaplain's family. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Shelly is slowly recuperating from her open heart surgery that occurred last summer. Please pray that she will gain her preoperative weight and strength. Please pray for physical strength and stamina. We are grateful for our Associate Reformed Presbyterian congregation in Jacksonville, NC where our family worships and faithfully hears the Word of God expounded.

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CH (CPT) Jim Zozzaro, New Jersey Army National Guard, 1-114th Unit, Wildwood, NJ (Presbytery of New Jersey) Greetings in the name of our Lord. In my report from last year, I requested prayer for my CSM who was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. He died on Memorial Day weekend, 2007, but not before coming to faith in Christ. One month before he died, he prayed with me repenting of his sins and professing his faith in Jesus as his Savior. I was able to share his testimony to the 1000 people who attended his funeral, and this has opened up many doors for sharing the Gospel with my soldiers and their families. My unit, as well as our entire Brigade, is preparing to deploy to Iraq for one year. As of yet, I am not scheduled to deploy, as there is not a Chaplain slot on the manning document. But we are trying to work out a plan to have me deploy for 3-6 months as an excess staff officer. This would work well for both my unit and my church. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that both the church and the Army will see the profitability of allowing me to go on a short tour to provide ministry to soldiers, while still providing continuity of ministry at my local church.

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CDR Timothy J. Power CHC USN (Presbytery of Southern California)

Upon his return from deployment, Chaplain Power sent out this report: 17 Mar 2008
Dear Ministry Partners, It was a rapid transition after I came back from Iraq in mid-September. I continued on for a month at Camp Lejeune spending a lot of time getting ready to move to my new duty station. Then I loaded my personal belongings on a truck and moved to Naval Base Coronado. This happened just before Thanksgiving with the help of my brother-in-law who helped drive.

The family followed me in late January settling into our new home in LaMesa, California in early February. [His wife] did much of the hard emotional work of letting the children say goodbye to their friends in Virginia Beach in the time between when I left and when we packed up at our home in the East.

We are thankful for the many prayers offered by you for the Marine ministry and family concerns. My unit came back from Iraq this time with no fatalities even though we had several IED incidents. Also there were a dozen or so who grew substantially in grace while they attended services, Bible studies, or personal counseling. I prayed hundreds of convoy prayers for our Marines and others going outside the wire.

My new duty station has over 36,000 military personnel. With a staff of 3 Chaplains we'll provide ministry to many diverse units including amphibious, air, construction, and training

assets. We have a circuit of 2 Chapel communities that we provide for. There is so much potential for our team because we will be together for three years most likely. Pray for the Power children as they grieve the loss of friendships, jobs, activities, and the place where significant life events occurred. Pray for [his wife] with the changes in her schooling of the children, i.e. new home school co-op, etc. Pray for my leadership of the Religious Ministry Department here after 14 years of smaller unit ministry. I am pleased also to report in thankfulness to Christ my promotion to Commander effective November 2007 which will ensure my possibility for retirement benefits at the fulfillment of my active service from the Navy. Yours in Christ, Timothy Power, CDR, CHC, USN
E-Mail: timothy.power@navy.mil

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