

A PLEA for PRAYER – June 6, 2009 - No. 77

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).*

Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. (Hebrews 13: 7, 17)

Prayer focus: Prayer for your elders – This *Plea* goes out after the just completed 76th General Assembly and soon after Memorial Day, neither of which we mentioned for prayer last month. Lack of strict adherence to the calendar has been a sad hallmark of the *Plea*, which certainly demonstrates a need for prayer. However, it is never too late for prayer. Please pray for your local elders, both your pastors and ruling elders, and also for those who serve in your presbyteries and in the denomination at large in their various tasks, that they will endure in God's all sufficient grace and do that which is honoring to our God. Pray that the actions of our Assembly that are in accord with God's Word will be profitable to those your elders serve in Christ's church. Pray that any wrong actions will be ultimately overturned.

Please also remember the families of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country and the cause of freedom. Give thanks for all who have served in the uniform of our country. Pray that righteousness will be done in the highest levels of our government that freedom not perish from the earth and that the freedom to preach the Gospel and worship of God after the dictates of the Word of God be preserved. We have so much to thank our Lord Christ for in the freedom we do enjoy.

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, Andrew (two), Brett, David, Doug, Douglas, Elijah, Gareth, Harry, Jessie, John (two), Kyle, Michael, Nicolas, Noah, **Rueben**, Stephen and Chaplain Doug Withington. New deployments shown in **bold**.

- [05/01/09] From Pastor Parker - We have a recruit in Coast Guard boot camp - Daniel P. He started 3 weeks ago.
- [05/01/09] We have received word that Sgt. Rueben K. has been deployed into harm's way for a second long tour. Please pray for this brother especially during the current heavy combat season.
- [05/01/09] Update from Chaplain Carter - Greetings from the sea! Thanks for the note. I just got your email this morning. We finally got out of the shipyard and are starting our workups toward a deployment later this year. Right now, we're a few hundred miles off the coast of Kauai. We're firing the guns forward and aft; and I'm getting the service ready for Sunday. The weather is beautiful; wish you were here.
- [05/3/09] From Ruling Elder Brad Winsted (CDR, USN, Ret.) - I've got two in the military now. Midn 3/c (as of May 23) Samuel Winsted (U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD)
Cpl Bradley Y. Winsted II (Army Basic Training, in pipeline for Officer Candidate School in June)

Thanks again for all you are doing to keep these military people before us in prayer. It is still my understanding that we have not lost one person yet in combat. [That's true Brad! Our gracious God has been most merciful to us!]

- [5/19] From Pastor Cathey - Please add Airman First Class Isaac David C., an Air Force Reservist presently obtaining technical training at... [before going to his base assignment.]
- Please continue in prayer for Chaplain Vanderhoff, retired Chaplain Steve Parker and Committee Chairman and retired Chaplain Bob Needham. Please pray for continued healing and God's grace in their recovery and for complete recovery.
- At the just completed 76th General Assembly, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Richard M. Dickinson, Maine Air National Guard completed his tour of service to the Committee on Chaplains and Military Personnel and Chaplain (CPT) James A. Zozzaro NJARNG was elected to the Class of 2012. Welcome aboard Jim, and thank you Rick for your service.

Chaplains' Reports:

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

LT John Carter, CHC, USN, USS Lake Erie, HI (Presbytery of Southern California) Our ship [is] out of the shipyard... Then we'll start our workups toward a deployment later this year. While we're in port, I've been holding a Bible Fellowship dinner at my home on Sunday nights. We have quite a mix of Sailors, dependents and civilians that come out for that. Also, I've been tagged with providing ministry support at the Pearl Harbor chapel whenever my ship is in port. I'm happy to preach there regularly and assist as needed. On a personal note, Linda and I have been working with an adoption agency for the past year. It seems like one hurdle after another, but we may be getting closer to the end. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for the adoption process - that everything will go smoothly from here on out. Linda and I are hoping to add to our family soon. Also, pray that the Word would be effectual to bring many Sailors on my ship to faith. I'll be conducting services onboard regularly once we start getting underway again.
E-Mail: JohnCarter_1@excite.com

CH (LTC) Graham Harbman, USAR, 2nd Medical Brigade, San Pablo, CA (Presbytery of Northern California) I am enjoying my ministry of visiting different units for suicide awareness and prevention training, counseling and Bible study. I also just returned from 2 weeks of training where we learned how to minister in an emergency medical situation, such as severe civilian hospital traumas and in combat hospitals. This was one of the most challenging schools I've attended in 23 years of service. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that my suicide training would lead to good spiritual counseling opportunities, and that more Soldiers would attend Bible studies.
E-Mail: graham.harbman@us.army.mil

CH (CPT) Kyle Brown, USA, HHD, 180th TC BN, Fort Hood, TX (Presbytery of Ohio) I had the bitter/sweet experience of putting three of my companies on the plane for deployment on New Years. It was bitter because I am not able to deploy with the Soldiers to whom I ministered for the last 15 months. It was "sweet" because I did have the privilege of ministering to them at all. At the same time, God has blessed our Battalion by returning 2 of our companies from a very long 15-month deployment, and with very minimal reintegration issues! **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray that God would preserve our deployed Soldiers and their families; pray that God will give the Browns His all-sufficient grace as we prepare for my up-coming deployment; pray that Christ would call many to Himself and that He would be pleased to use us in doing so. Grace and Peace!
E-Mail: kyle.brown14@us.army.mil

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