

A PLEA for PRAYER – August 1, 2009 - No. 79

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).*

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrews 13:5)

Prayer focus: *On the Point* – In combat, this notation refers to those in the lead of an attack or to those in the front in a defensive position – those closest to the enemy and particularly in harm's way. We have a number of our own warriors *on the point* in the battle against Islamic terrorists. The enemy wears no uniforms and often hides behind innocents.

For those from our denomination and those who are part of God's covenant community, those that we particularly pray for, many are *on the point*. Our Covenant God has promised that he will *never leave them nor forsake them*. What a marvelous promise from our never failing God. Claim this promise as you go to continued prayer for those warriors, particularly those *on the point* in the Long War. Pray that even in their battle tested moments they never forget God's constant provision and promise to *never leave them nor forsake them*. Pray for their safe return to their families who await them. Pray for all our warriors who play such an important part in the preservation of our liberties. Pray for the families of the fallen, pray for the wounded and the one recently captured that they may all endure and come to rest and trust in Christ. Pray for chaplains and pastors who minister to them and their families. Pray faithfully, pray continually, pray earnestly!

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, **Chris**, Doug, Douglas, Gareth, Harry, Jessie, John (**three**), Kyle, Michael, Nicolas, Noah, **Rachel**, Rueben, Stephen

(two) and Chaplains Kyle Brown, Cornelius Johnson, and Doug Withington. Elijah has returned safely. New deployments shown in **bold**.

- We have received word that SGT Kristina Irwin CAARNG has completed her eight year term of service. She served in two deployments, one of which was very difficult. Pray for her as she returns to civilian life that God would be gracious to her and make provision for her future. Thanks Kris for your service!
- Give praise for the protection given to Cadet Emily C., who “deployed” with our mission in Haiti. She has returned safely.
- [6/6/09] – From Pastor Doug - I have been seriously negligent in my failure to add a couple of people to the prayer list. [Confessions of neglect are also offered by your writer as this note was received in time for last month’s *Plea* but not included.] SGT Gideon H., USAR (not on active duty at this point due to a back injury) and his wife, SGT Rachel H, USA (active duty while Gideon is in college) have been regular attendees of the mission work... almost since we began worship services. Rachel is the daughter of... an OPC pastor.... She is about to deploy in a few days to the sandbox. Gideon will remain behind with their two young sons.... Members of the church have already committed to assisting him with caring for the children in order that he may continue with his schooling. This is probably more detail than the *Plea* for Prayer needs, so please edit appropriately. But do include them in it, please. Also, LT John A., USN, deployed recently for 6 months aboard his vessel.
- [07/14/09] From his dad, word has been received that “Elijah is back” from the sandbox and serving at a state side base. Praise God for faithful care in his return.
- [07/19] – We were able to greet CDR Steve C. DC, USN recently. He is deploying shortly.
- Finally, please pray for a couple of our Marines and soldiers probably engaged in current offensives in one of our theaters of operation that God would keep and preserve them!

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!

CAPT Bryan J. Weaver, CHC, USN, Marine Forces Command Chaplain, Norfolk, VA (Presbytery of Ohio) I commenced my turnover in early May. I have been with the Fleet Marine Forces for the last 9 years [24thMEU Chaplain, 2nd Marine Division Chaplain, II MEF Chaplain and a few other billets]. It has been a rewarding and challenging ministry. I reported to Marine Forces Command, Norfolk, VA in late June. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for a smooth transition for work and family to MARFORCOM and the Norfolk area. Pray also for Shelly’s health, and for schooling decisions for my 15 and 17 year old sons, Trent & Kurt, as well as work for my 22 year old, Grant.

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CH Chuck McIlhenny, LAC and USC Medical Center, Placentia, CA (Presbytery of Southern California) HCMA is a Christ centered organization bringing the gospel to the sick and suffering, and also to doctors, nurses, hospital, hospice staff and their family members as well. I recently spent a weekend with all the other Area Directors of HCMA going over theology, philosophy, business, and finances - none of us get paid for area directing. Area Directors are like the "bishops" of various dioceses in an "Episcopal" model organization. The work is overwhelming for Area Directors, which includes promoting HCMA chaplaincy, screening applicants, teaching and mentoring student chaplains and overseeing the lives of the chaplains under each of us and their hospitals as well as visiting and caring for our patients. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Thanks for your prayers. Living on support is a struggle for everyone who does it, but the Lord will supply. This work is too important to worry about the money - though it is needed.

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2LT Blake Law SCARNG, Chaplain Candidate, Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC (Presbytery of the Southeast) I will be going to CHBOLC this summer, July 12-August 7, in Fort Jackson, SC. I am looking forward to learning how to better serve soldiers and I'm also glad to be attending at the same time as my good friend, Matt Moynihan, from Reformed Theological Seminary here in Charlotte. On a personal note, our second child and first daughter was born March 3rd at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte. Her name is Micah. She is doing very well and has surprised everyone by having red hair! Micah is beautiful and we are so grateful to God for His blessings. **PRAYER REQUEST:** I am still trying to find full time employment to replace the part time job I have now. I am praying I can find a job teaching in a local Christian school and continue to take my seminary courses in the evenings. Please pray for the right opening to come along here in the Charlotte area for full time work.

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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