

A PLEA for PRAYER – December 5, 2009 - No. 83

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).*

For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:5-7)

Prayer focus: *In Battle, a promise of Christ* – In a stark contrast as he describes the *confused noise* and *blood* and realities of battle, the prophet Isaiah then brings a promise of Christ. December is a time for many of us to gather together with our loved ones to celebrate the birth of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, even Jesus the Christ. It also is a time of war when many of those who defend our precious freedoms are far from home and the warmth of family deployed on the battlefield. Many will find it just another day of battle with maybe no more warmth than the clothes on their back and the shelter of a tent near a mountain outpost.

And yet in the midst of battle, the promise comes that is now fulfilled in the birth of Christ. It is also a promise of his certain reign as Lord of all creation - *The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace, for of his government and peace there shall be no end.* In the midst of our present battles comes the sure promise of an end of battles and peace forevermore. Please pray for our warriors to prevail and endure the harsh realities of battle, the loss of seasonal joys of family closeness and that they place their certain hope in the *Prince of Peace*.

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. 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.

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, Britt, Chris, Doug, Douglas, Dustin, Geoff, Harry, Isaac, John (two remaining), Kyle, Matt, Michael, Nicolas, Noah, Rachel, Rueben, Scott, Stephen (two) and Chaplains Kyle Brown and Richard Rojas. John A. and Chaplain Cornelius Johnson returned home from deployment safely – praise God for his mercies. New deployments shown in **bold**.

- [11/16/09] Chaplain Ken Honken has been selected for extended deployment with the South Dakota National Guard next year beginning in May. He is pastor of Bethlehem Reformed Church (OPC). Please pray for Ken and this congregation during this time. This congregation and session would be most grateful if there are any ministers or licentiates who would be available to aid this congregation for part or all of this time, please contact Ken at k_honken@yahoo.com

- We praise God for two who have fulfilled their obligations of service and have been discharged from the USMC last month: PFC David Irwin and LCpl Joe Clark. Joe was wounded two years ago and still bears the scars of battle. God has preserved both through difficult service. Please pray for them as they begin schooling and search for future work and a place of service to Christ! Brothers, thank you for your service and may God bless you in the days ahead!

- [12/4] From Pastor Dan word that there is another Marine Recruit from their congregation heading for a Marine Recruit Depot. Please pray for Recruit Ryan B. as he trains and for his continued growth in Christ in difficult circumstances.

- Our Committee Chairman, CDR Robert B. Needham CHC, USN, Ret., has had a relapse in the healing of his femur shattered in a serious automobile accident last March. The metal structure holding his bone in place broke and he underwent surgery this past Tuesday. He is now resting at home, but he is rather exhausted from the operation and the whole impact on his body. Because of the second wound, recovery is more difficult than the first surgery. Please pray for his complete healing, relief from pain and restoration!

- Praise God for first stage answers to a significant unspoken request for prayer in the life of one of our warriors in need of much continued grace.

- Finally, please continue to pray for a number 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!

CH Chuck McIlhenny, LAC and USC Medical Center, Placentia, CA (Presbytery of Southern California) I'm teaching classes in medical-hospital chaplaincy to three student chaplains. Our main emphasis is to be ambassadors for Christ to our patients and to all the staff - we're not here to "psychologize" with our patients or simply listen to their stories but to lead them to Christ. The popular brand of "CPE-Clinical Pastoral Education" is basically a secularized junior psychology course - "patient-center" (also known as "client-center" counseling). But the emphasis to my students is on "Christ-centered" counseling - "Word-centered" counseling. If there's one thing the patient ultimately needs, it is the comfort and admonition of the Word of God - the Gospel message for his ultimate cure, forgiveness of sins and eternal life thru the shed blood of Christ. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Keep us in your prayers for our financial situation - some months are good and some months not so good. None of our hospitals pay their chaplains. None of my work as Area Director and teacher gives me a salary. We do this because of our love of Christ and for the love of people in need of the Gospel.
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CH Jack Unangst Jr., VA Medical Center, Prescott, AZ (Presbytery of New York and New England) Ministering in the AZ High Desert at a Veterans Affairs Health Care Station has much of the aroma of military life without the actual cuisine of training, combat and deployments. All that I serve here have eaten at this table and are suffering the physical/mental ill effects. Most of Mental Health here is basic humanism in action. Recently one Vet requested a Chaplain's visit since he was distressed that a therapist would tell him to "just work my addictive program and shelve the religious stuff". I teach classes that contravene this mind set and the clash of world views begins. Teaching the Vets to adjust as a USMC sniper must, I teach them: "emplacement"--this fallen world, "engagement"—everything that seduces the heart away from Christ as Lord, "displacement"—holistic movement to every means God has provided for training in righteousness. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray that the Holy Spirit would come in convicting/converting power in this part of His Kingdom to the praise of His glory
E-Mail: jack.unangst@med.va.gov

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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