

## A PLEA for PRAYER – January 2, 2009 - No. 84

**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).*

*Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; (Ephesians 6:16-18)*

**Prayer focus: *Lock and Load*** – Having recently sat under the good preaching of this passage and the text preceding it, I would not begin to do anything but bring one application of it to your minds. I do not know about you but the devil works hard on me frequently to delay my daily devotions by assailing me with his *fiery darts*. The press of heavy duties can fill my mind when they should be deflected by the *helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit*.

Recently I was handling a weapon of my youth – an M1 Garand. As I *locked* the weapon and then placed a “clip and two rounds” in the chamber, it reminded me of the sequence of commands issued by a range sergeant before firing the weapon – *with a clip and two rounds lock and load*. When we come to refreshing ourselves with the *sword of the spirit, which is the word of God*, is it also necessary that *word* be locked and loaded in our minds to *quench all the fiery darts of the wicked* who does not want us either in the word or before the throne of grace. So just as our warriors *lock and load* before engaging the enemy in combat it is necessary for us to do similarly before we read the word or attempt to come before the throne of grace to find help in time of need. The *clip* I speak of is the *word* stored in our memory and instantly available to *quench* those *darts*.

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, Kyle, Matt, Michael (2x), Nicolas, Noah, Rachel, Scott, Stephen (two) and Chaplains Kyle Brown and Richard Rojas. Rueben enroute by the time you receive this *Plea* and John A. is home. New deployments shown in **bold**.

- While we have had him in our short list above we forgot to mention that LCpl Geoff B, deployed 09/09, son of one of our pastors. We are thankful God never forgets!
- [12/05] - From Pastor Iain (who is a reserve line officer) - 1st LT Jeremy S. USAF has been promoted to Captain. Thanks for your faithful service to those who put themselves in harm's way for us and to us in keeping their names before us. [Congratulations Jeremy!]
- [12/05] – Word received from Pastor Dan – Marine Recruit Ryan B. headed for one of the Recruit Depots on 7 December. Please pray for Ryan as he under goes the rigors of this training, that his refreshed desire to depend on Christ continues to blossom in his soul. From another congregation, we have just learned that Curtis C. is leaving for Army basic training 20 January. Please pray for him as he prepares for service.
- [12/05] From Pastor Doug - LT John A. returned yesterday from his 6 month deployment aboard the USS Pasadena fast attack submarine. He is to have his new rank of LCDR pinned on any day now by his wife, Coreyanne, also a graduate of the Naval Academy and former Navy officer. [Congratulations John!]
- [12/8/09] From Pastor Pete - Please remove from the OPC Those Who Serve List LTC Gary L. Williamson VAARNG as he and his family have become members of a PCA congregation. Thanks much for your labors.
- [12/10/09] – A note from Amber and Dan's mother via Elder David Winslow bringing an update on the grandchildren of Elder Danny and Jenny Yahuso: Amber and Dan are both fine. Amber [a helicopter pilot, now following in her grandmother's profession] is in the middle of the immersion program for becoming an RN. She started at the end of June and should be ready to take the certification exam this June. She is still with the Washington National Guard and we're hoping that her unit's domestic mission (homeland security and war on drugs) will keep her from being deployed [again] as part of President Obama's Afghanistan surge. Dan is also in the Washington National Guard, but due to training cycles, he has yet to be deployed anywhere. We know this will change. [Jamin was severely wounded and burned over a large part of his body in combat.] He continues to recover from his injuries – it's now two years and five days since he was injured. He is still in the Army and has been promoted to the rank of sergeant. [Jamin's recovery is an amazing answer to prayer!]
- [12/12/09] - From Pastor Steve - Could you add Sgt. Michael R. to the list of military personnel? Mike is a member..., and his unit... is preparing for deployment next month...
- [12/13] – From Chaplain's wife, Sharon W. - A young man in our church is joining the Marines and will be going to [Marine Corps Recruit Depot] in January and then on to [the fleet]. He actually is looking forward to serving [overseas]. God bless him. His name is Gabriel W. He leaves... on Jan. 11.
- [12/20/09] - From Pastor David - Just an up-date, to let you know that Doug Osinga is back home in civilian life again, safe & sound. Thank you and the Lord bless you, brother.

- [11/16/09] Chaplain Ken Honken, pastor of Bethlehem Reformed Church (OPC) has been selected for extended deployment with the South Dakota National Guard next year beginning in May. 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](mailto:k_honken@yahoo.com)
- Our Committee Chairman, CDR Robert B. Needham CHC, USN, Ret., since his repeat surgery has indicated a less painful recovery to date. Praise God for his mercies! Please pray for his complete healing, relief from pain and restoration!
- Please continue to pray for one of our warriors who is in much need of prayer for strength to continue in the fight and the peace of God in his heart. 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!

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### **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 (OPC - Presbytery of New York and New England)** One mission I have on the VA Station is dealing with Veteran's poly-substance abuse in a weekly Spirituality & Addictions group. When I insist that all of life is based on a religious foundation (belief system) and that addiction is just another basic expression of man's unbelief (substitution of) in the Living God and His Son Jesus Christ, I am met with shaking heads of skepticism. The Vets would rather pursue purely medical answers than deal with their spiritual rebellion of unbelief. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray that the Gospel message revealing the True God, man's abject sinfulness, Christ as Lord and Savior, and the

commands of faith and repentance would be boldly presented by me, not fearing the face of man, experimentally knowing the terror of the Lord persuading men in meekness and fear.

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**CDR Tim Power, CHC, USN, Naval Base Coronado, San Diego, CA (OPC - Presbytery of Southern California)** We have had an additional Chaplain join our staff to bring our total to 4. His addition should help me get to some of the important leadership and administrative work I have had to put off since I have been leading at 38% of our worship services here. Two big issues will be coming up soon. I will lose a Chaplain (pray for his complete healing from disease before he goes back to his choice of Marine units) and a second issue is my negotiation for orders for a new assignment in Nov. 2010. We want to stay local. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for my family as they help out with the Chapels as well as attend New Life Presbyterian.

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**CH (CPT) Kyle Brown, USA, Deployed to Kuwait (OPC - Presbytery of Ohio)** As we begin the new year we are in the count down to redeployment, and we're getting really close! My battalion continues to expedite the draw down, keeping convoys continuously on the road and the maintenance shops teeming with industry. As a Headquarters element we are trying not to look too far ahead to our redeployment date, but finding it difficult to avoid. The Lord has blessed our time in Kuwait, seeing His hand at work in not only sustaining us here in an unusual "deployed/garrison" environment that is Camp Arifjan, but more importantly, in the lives of those who travel these roads that are still fraught with danger. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for my Soldiers as they finish their deployment, that they would stay focused on the mission until they pass the reigns to their replacements; pray for peaceful, safe, and smooth transitions back home to their families; and pray that God would continue to grant opportunity to speak of the power of the resurrected Christ in the life of sinners!

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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