

## A PLEA for PRAYER – February 6, 2010 - No. 85

**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).*

*I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things. Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it (Isaiah 45:5-8).*

**Prayer focus: *New Beginnings*** – Although January has come and gone, this month marks the beginning of the eighth year of the *Plea*. The warriors who have been at the *tip of the spear* in The War on Terror in Iraq for seven long years are returning and a surge of forces begins anew in Afghanistan. In a war, now long ago, this month marks the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima which took some 26,000 casualties including 6,800 American lives. Of the 20,000 enemy defenders, only 1,083 survived the Marine assault that was completed in 5 weeks. The campaigns have claimed 5351 lives in 8 plus years, in Iraq (4375) and Afghanistan (976) – not as many as those who made the ultimate sacrifice in 36 days in one battle of World War II.

How good it is to reflect on the sovereign nature of our always gracious God as we begin again to defend the freedoms God has entrusted to us as a nation – the one who says *I am the LORD, and there is none else...* The one who has created all things *by the word of his power in the space of six days* is also the one who *makes peace* and who also proclaims *let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.* Oh God of infinite mercy, *pour down righteousness* and grant us *peace!* Oh God of compassion, *break the kings of the earth with your rod of iron!* (Psalm 2:1, 9) Be with those who guard our gates and thank you for them!

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 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, Isaac, John, Kyle, Matt, Michael (2x), Nicolas, Noah, Rachel (**2x**), **Robert**, Scott, Stephen (two) and Chaplains Kyle Brown and Richard Rojas. Two multi-tour, very much in harm's way “grunts”, Harry and Rueben have both returned safely. We have not confirmed, but do expect that several Marines listed here have redeployed recently from Iraq to their home bases. New deployments shown in **bold**.

- [01/02/10] – From George Scipione - Thanks again for your labor of love! SGT John P. USA now is out working Federal Law Enforcement. [Thanks for your continued service and may God continue to protect you.]
- From Pastor Doug - I have another update for your list that I should have sent along some time ago. CPT Robert S. USA has been MAJ Robert S. for many months now. He and his family were transferred to a new duty station even prior to that event and, as a result, transferred their membership from Redeemer, Hawaii, to another OPC. He has since been transferred to yet another duty station and is now deployed and serving his second tour in Iraq. Thanks for your diligent and loving efforts to keep us aware of the need to pray for our military members.
- From Pastor Gary – Greetings! A quick note that 2nd Lt. Rachel D. is being deployed to [the Middle East].
- [01/02/10] - From Elder Bill Doerfel - This note is to inform you that PO2 Jon Rula USN received an honorable discharge from the Navy in December. Please remove his name from the list of active military members. Jon continues to be a member of Grace OPC in Norman. [Jon, thank you for your service and blessings on you as you continue to serve Christ!]
- From Pastor David - Our son-in-law, MAJ Jason Hogie USA is no longer on active service - still in Germany, but now as a civilian employee of the U.S. Army.
- [01/07/10] From Pastor Jeff - SGT Harry A. L. has returned home safely from Iraq and is back at [his home base] for the next year, so you can take him off the "in harm's way" list for now.
- [01/07/10] From Pastor David - SGT Rueben K. is back at [his home base], safe & sound.
- [01/07/10] From Pastor Dan - As of mid-January, our son Jesse is deployed again to Iraq, and involved in troop training. Prayers for him and the many others serving at this time and their families are being offered continually at Grace Church with many thanks for your faithful service in keeping us informed. How hard it is for these folks to maintain normal worship and fellowship with the saints, things which we take so much for granted! Pray for God's preserving grace and for hearts and minds fixed on Him.
- [01/02/10] From Chaplain John Carter - Thanks for the update Bob. It's always nice to see what's going on with our fellow OPC chaplains. [The following report was presented to his presbytery and presented here for your prayers.]  
Currently at sea; should hit our next port in a couple weeks. Left Hong Kong yesterday. We've got a full complement of services aboard. I've got a daily prayer meeting that meets in the morning along with a few Bible studies during the week and our Sunday services. In fact, I'm

getting ready now for our next service scheduled to begin in another hour. With our helo detachment aboard, it's a tight fit. The number of Sailors aboard number around 360. We lost a port visit this week; instead we're spending that extra week at sea. We got tasked with a real operation; things are busy. Our Christmas Eve services were well attended. We couldn't all cram into the classroom, so I moved the venue to the Mess Decks. I was pleased with how our Christmas day services went as well. I'm happy to say I have a few Sailors that are meeting with me one on one and in small groups for discipleship. The regular services aren't enough; instead they want to meet one on one for more. PTL! That's satisfying to see. Hopefully, we'll be back in Hawaii around April or so. Thanks for keeping this ministry and my family in your prayers.

- [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) [This would be a wonderful way for a chaplain candidate to fulfill his pastoral requirements.]
- 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!



**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 (LTC) Graham Harbman, USA, Western Medical Area Readiness Support Group, San Pablo, CA (Presbytery of Northern California)** I am attending the Army's newest suicide prevention training in December. This will qualify me to teach other leaders how to teach suicide prevention to their Soldiers. Conducting this training presents many opportunities to testify to God's salvation and hope in Jesus Christ. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray that other Christians and I will seize those opportunities as God gives them. Please pray as well for many regular opportunities to counsel Soldiers about their life issues from a biblical perspective.  
**E-Mail:** [graham.harbman@us.army.mil](mailto:graham.harbman@us.army.mil)

**CH Chuck McIlhenny, LAC and USC Medical Center, Placentia, CA (Presbytery of Southern California)** We are in need of a Chinese speaking chaplain for LAC+USC Medical Center. I've been interviewing inquirers into our Healthcare Chaplains Ministry Association program and hope to get a number of applications. We get about 3/4 of a million patients per year at LAC+USC Medical Center (downtown Los Angeles). That keeps us busy. One of my chaplains at Downey Regional Medical Center is in great need: just this year he has experienced knee replacement surgery, open heart surgery, angioplasty-stents, and congestive heart failure problems. He's been the head chaplain there for 10 years. He is well beloved, but needing lots of prayer and healing. We are assisting him as best we can. I'm also the Area Director of Greater LA County with 20+ chaplains at different hospitals under my care. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray with me for wisdom in discerning inquiries into the chaplaincy. Pray also for our financial support--the downward economy has drastically cut into our funding for our ministry. We're living off our meager savings for now.  
**E-Mail:** [dminrev@hotmail.com](mailto:dminrev@hotmail.com)

**CH (COL) Chris Wisdom, USA, Chaplain Center and School, Fort Jackson, SC (Presbytery of the Southwest)** We are now officially fully underway at the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center (AFCC) on Fort Jackson, South Carolina, with all three co-located service chaplain schools for the Army, Navy, and Air Force fully staffed and training Chaplain and enlisted students in both service-specific and shared training. History is being made! The PRJC is well-represented here by Chaplains Ken Bush, Chet Lanious, Dewey Roberts, Mike Cannon, Mark Winton and me (all are Army); John Kenyon is Air Force, and David Tubley is Navy. We have a presence here! My primary job is to coordinate the development and integration of joint training and education to provide properly trained and equipped Religious Support Teams for our military forces. I'm still working on manning issues for my office. I continue to review and revise religious affairs joint tasks that prescribe what tasks chaplains and chaplain assistants serving on Joint Task Forces should be doing. I hope to complete this project early this year. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Pray for wisdom to prioritize my projects; for a staff so that I can do my job. Pray also for our family that we would grow in the knowledge and love of our Lord, and for wisdom for Philip on what the Lord wants him to do with his graduation from Liberty University. I will retire in less than 2 years. Pray for wisdom for what the Lord would have me do after retirement from the Army.  
**E-Mail:** [christopher.wisdom@us.army.mil](mailto:christopher.wisdom@us.army.mil)

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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