

A PLEA for PRAYER – March 6, 2010 - No. 86

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).*

And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die... Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from his house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof: Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto you: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. (Luke 7:2, 6-10)

Prayer focus: – Men Under Authority – Not all that long ago one of our warriors, of about equivalent rank to this centurion, ran through a heavy field of enemy fire, carrying a wounded warrior under his command, to get him to safety. He acted under his awesome responsibility to care for those under his command as a true man both of authority and under authority, just as the centurion did in seeking help for his servant. The second observation we make about this passage is the obvious note that the centurion knew and understood the power of Jesus and his authority over all things. Our warrior, in like understanding, was known for reciting Psalms on the field of battle, knowing God was his keeper, his shade, and his preserver. Servant warriors both, who understood their authority and that they were ultimately under the authority of Christ!

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, Geoff, Isaac, **Jeremy (two)**, **Jim**, John, **Michael**, Nicolas, Noah, **Paul**, Rachel (two), Robert, Stephen (two) and Chaplains Kyle Brown and Richard Rojas. Michael (one), Dustin,

Kyle, Matt and Scott have returned safely for which we rejoice. New deployments shown in **bold**.

- [02/05/10] - From Pastor Tom - Would you add PFC Curtis C, USA, to the list? Curt is a communicant member of [our congregation, who] began Basic Training on Jan. 19, 2010.
- From a sister named Jean - We have a soldier [deployed], 1LT Jeffrey B., USA, whose parents worship [in our congregation]. Thanks for your labor of love here.
- [02/09/10] From Missionary Pastor Ben - With respect to Kyle, he is back in Canada. He very much enjoyed his time in Afghanistan and hopes to return next year. He nearly went to Haiti. Thanks for including him in the prayer chain. [This comment is a first! – “Whatever thy hand findeth to do...”]
- [02/12/10] From Pastor Bob - LT Caleb Mc., USN and LCDR Michael A., USN ... both wish to have their names added to the Prayer Plea.
- From Deacon Scott - Sorry I forgot to update you on Cpl. Matt S. He's home - he's a firefighter [on the base here]. He and his wife and two children attend regularly at [our congregation]. We have three men deployed right now – Maj. Jim Mc., 1st. Lt. Jeremy C., and GySgt Paul G.
- [02/16/10] - From LCDR Victor L. - Dear friends, I have to admit I am not too good with staying in touch. It's been a hectic last couple of months. Within the next 48 hours, I am stepping on a plane for a year-long deployment ... with my unit... [as Regimental Surgeon]. This will be my first deployment after my 2004 injury in Iraq. Lord willing, this should also be my first full deployment. I would like to think I am physically and mentally ready for it. One thing is for sure: if I do end up with a sniper bullet in my brain, I know Whom I have believed [Our emphasis]. I, but especially [my wife], would covet your continued prayers. Thanks again. In Christ, Victor
- [3/1/10] From CAPT Bryan J. Weaver, CHC, USN - I would appreciate prayer as well. I had left shoulder surgery on 11 February. I had some minor complications with adhesive capsulitis. I had to undergo shoulder manipulation under anesthesia last Friday. I am on 30 days convalescent leave. Thank you.
- PRJCCMP Chaplain Jonathan Leach USA (RPCNA) is recovering from ruptured brain aneurism. He has pasted the very critical time but still much in need of prayer for full recovery.
- 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 Capt Cornelius Johnson, USAF, Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio, TX (Presbytery of New Jersey) I just came back from my deployment at Aludied Air Base in Qatar. God gave me many opportunities to share his word through, Bible studies, preaching and counseling. The word of God did not return void, but it sowed great fruit. **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for a good reunion for my family, and for me as I re-adjust to family life. Also pray that I re-adjust to working at Wilford Hall.
E-Mail: Cornelius.Johnson@Lackland.af.mil

CAPT Bryan J. Weaver, CHC, USN, US Marine Forces Command Chaplain, Norfolk, VA (Presbytery of Ohio) I recently transferred to the U.S. Marine Forces Command after a nine year assignment at II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC. It's a privilege and an honor to be permitted to remain serving the Marines. **PRAYER REQUEST:** I was recently diagnosed with a left shoulder injury. Pray for healing. Pray also for Shelly's health. She had open heart surgery at Duke in 2007. Pray for Grant, age 22, as he continues to work at Camp Lejeune, NC. Pray for Kurt, age 17, and Trent, age 15, as they adjust to a new high school.
E-Mail: bryan.j.weaver1@usmc.mil

CH Chuck A. 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.
E-Mail: dminrev@hotmail.com

CH Jack K. Unangst Jr., VA Medical Center, Prescott, AZ (Presbytery of New York and New England) Ministering in the Arizona 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

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