

How to Pray for our Alliance Chaplains

Military Chaplains are called upon to provide religious support directly to the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines. They serve as commissioned officers with the authority of the First Amendment behind them. Men are Teaching Elders (ordained by our denominations as pastors and evangelists). [Our women chaplains are Consecrated through their districts and now serve faithfully in the area of Institutional Chaplaincy. We do have some now called by God and in preparation for Federal Chaplain Service.] They serve with chaplains of other faith-groups to “Cooperate without Compromise” as they minister to our country’s military personnel. Chaplains host Bible studies, lead worship in chapels, tents, [on board ships] and in training areas. Chaplains do marriage counseling, marriage seminars, battle-ready training, and death and bereavement counseling. They perform marriages, baptisms and funerals. Often their “congregation” is made up of many hundreds of thousands. And, their congregants don’t always come to them; they go into the workplace to meet the needs. Chaplains are on flight lines, tank ranges, in shipyards, [on board ships], in hospitals and even in foxholes. Chaplains go where there is an opportunity to touch a life.

Military men and women are often young and have young families. Many have never been a part of a local church and know little to nothing about the spiritual resources available to them. Civilian Chaplains serve America’s civilian population in many venues: Veterans Affairs, Corrections, Hospice, Retirement Communities and Hospitals, Businesses, Sports, prisons, Police & Fire departments, motorcycle clubs, and more! They also serve in a pluralistic environment and they, too, often share spiritual duties with chaplains of other faiths.

How Can I Pray?

- Pray that chaplains will be alert to, and ready to speak to the spiritual issues that come their way. As [Alliance Chaplains], they believe many service members and their families [will respond to a clear Gospel message] and come to faith in Jesus Christ. But, as always, chaplains do not coerce or force their faith upon anyone. God has a way of bringing inquiring folk to the chaplains where spiritual issues can then be discussed one-on-one.
- Pray that the chaplain would be courageous in the presentation of the Gospel during their counseling, worship services, and discipleship and Bible study classes.
- Pray that they would be a positive influence and godly witness. Pray that they would have a sense of God’s peace in the midst of danger.
- Pray for chaplain families. Pray that they might know the comfort, strength, and peace of God.
- Pray for the safety of our chaplains and the troops [and others they serve].
- Pray for the enemies—that God would change their hearts and minds. [Pray against The Enemy.]
- Pray that the principles of a just war would be followed and that there will be no unnecessary killing, maiming, or damage of property. [Pray that other nations might live up to this standard.]
- Pray for our president, his Cabinet, our government and our military leaders.
- Pray for unity within our government and among our people.
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- Most importantly—Pray that God would be honored in all Chaplain Ministry!

NOTE: This Prayer Guide [with just a few inclusions] was written and distributed by a dear friend I have known for many years. He provides this to his church leadership and probably to his chaplains for them to be continually aware of the need for prayer support in this vital ministry. CH (BG) Doug Lee, Executive Director and Endorser for the Presbyterian Church of America and Gary Hitzfeld, his Administrative Assistant, have put this together and I deeply appreciate the initiative they showed in doing this. We use this [with the additions] by their permission. May our Lord bless this and use this information for his glory!

In The Alliance, the need is no less important. Our military and civilian chaplains provide a service pastors cannot. Chaplains are with staffs, patients and military members daily who need spiritual guidance, a caring touch and ear and a partner in prayer for those they serve and for themselves.

If you have questions or desire to know more about chaplaincy in The C&MA, please contact the Executive Director for Alliance Chaplain Ministries, Ch (LTC) Bob Collins. Please pray for our chaplains.

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