



FCFI, P.O. Box 15, Lexington, IL 61753
fellowship@fcfi.org | (309) 365-8710

PRAYER GUIDE - May 2013

- 01 - With the coming of May I think of some old sayings like “April showers bring May flowers” and “A cold wet May brings a barn full of hay”. But a favorite saying of mine comes from Malachi 3:10, “Bring your whole tithe into the storehouse ... Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will ... pour out so much blessing that you will not have room for it”. Precious Lord, your promises are so great. You will always do your (big) part if only we will do our (small) part.
- 02 - Today is our National Day of Prayer in the United States. Let us join together with millions of like-minded folks (Canadians, please join us in praying for the US as well) as we seek God’s forgiveness for our multiple sins, ask for wisdom for those who stand in positions of authority and for grace to allow us as a nation to be a moral and spiritual beacon for freedom throughout the world.
- 03 - The Hartland Fire Department is sponsoring a three day Trade Show in Hartland, New Brunswick, Canada on May 3rd through 5th. It is fitting that a fire department would be host to a show that includes an exhibit that offers people rescue from the fires of hell. Counselor, we pray that the FCFC workers can “turn up the heat” on show goers who have yet to make a quality decision to accept you as their Lord and Savior.

- 04 - Danville, Pennsylvania is home today to the one day "Spring Fling". It sounds like it will be a fun time. We pray that though people come to have a good time, they will also turn serious for a few minutes, visit our FCFI tent, and hear the joyous Good News of Jesus' grace and forgiveness. Thank you, Jesus, for the many souls who will be saved, renewed, and restored.
- 05 - When someone becomes a Christian, he (she) becomes a brand new person inside. He (She) is not the same anymore. "A new life has begun", 2 Corinthians 5:17 (Living Bible). That is why Jesus told Nicodemus, "You must be born again", John 3:7. It also implies that you and I must allow the "new person" to rule over and eliminate the "old person". How are you doing these days? Me? Not so great! The Way, the Truth, and the Life, my old self continues to want its way. Through your Holy Spirit, reinforce my will to live the new life you so generously gave me.
- 06 - "This is wonderful stuff", John 2:10. That is what the master of ceremonies said when he tasted the water Jesus had turned into wine. Jesus always does things to perfection. Even when He died on the cross, then rose from the grave, He forgave everyone who asks for forgiveness for every sin committed, past, present, and future. He leaves nothing to chance, nothing for you and me to do except ask. Redeemer, we continue to be amazed at what and all you have done for us. Continue to reveal yourself to us as we grow and begin to comprehend the magnitude of your work.
- 07 - "The seventy-two returned with joy and said 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name'", Luke 10:17. "Jesus replied, 'do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven'", vs. 20. We humans want to take credit when "demons submit to us" but notice the rest of the sentence "in your name". They submit to the name of Jesus not to us. Jesus, we tend to overestimate our abilities and underestimate yours. We will try to be content with the joyful fact that our names are written in heaven.
- 08 - May 8, 1945 is the day the Allies (which included the US) declared WW II victory in Europe and what a great and hard fought victory it was. But, that victory pales in comparison to Jesus victory on the cross. 1 Corinthians 15:57 says, "But, thanks be to God. He gives us the victory (over sin and death) through Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Author of Our Faith, thank you for allowing us to share in your victory over Satan, sin, and death. We are an honored and privileged people.

- 09 - "... everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, the door will be opened", Luke 11:10. Do you sometimes think, "I already prayed for that. God knows my need and will answer when it is appropriate?". Do you sometimes say to yourself, "Guess I'm looking in the wrong place and knocking on the wrong door?". Remember, even Daniel prayed three times a day (Daniel 6:10). Teacher, I haven't been persistent in my prayer life. I need to change. Will you help me?
- 10 - "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also", Luke 12:34 and Matthew 6:21. This is a challenge, especially for those of us who farm or have other similar businesses. Our check books, IRA's, stocks, real estate, cattle, harvesters, tractors, etc. can add up to a "pretty penny" and we often spend much of our time and energy maintaining these valuable resources. Jesus' advice, "Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal", Matthew 6:20. Father, I am guilty. I plead forgiveness. I need more of the "be attitudes", Matthew 5:3 to 11.
- 11 - "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it", Proverbs 22:6. Are you or have you been a good trainer? I know that I could and should have been a better trainer for my children. But, parents are not the only trainers. Pastors, teachers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, neighbors all might contribute. So, just because you may no longer have children at home doesn't let you "off the hook". Raboni, each of us has the opportunity, the privilege, and the obligation to have input into the raising of children in our "world". Grant us the wisdom and abilities that we need to "train up a child in the way he should go".
- 12 - Today is Mother's Day. My mom lived to ninety-nine and one-half and I miss her but I believe that she is roller skating (her favorite pastime as a kid) on the gold paved streets of heaven now. The mothers closest to me now are my wife, my two daughters, and two daughters-in-law and what a what a blessing they are. Holy One, you had the right idea when you created mothers. Bless those special ladies, continue to supply them with the faith and joy they richly deserve and help us who are not mothers to love and honor them.

- 13 - "I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more", Psalm 71:4. When I read this verse, I couldn't help but think of the late Dean Otterbach, a former member and director of FCFI who succumbed to cancer. Through all the pain and discouragement of cancer, Dean praised God for the privilege of bearing that pain as it drew him closer to God. Chief Cornerstone, thank you for the lesson you taught us through Dean. We will praise you through "thick and thin" and tell others of your mighty works.
- 14 - "There should be no schism in the body but ... the members should have the same care for one another", 1 Corinthians 12:25. I hope you are in a church or if in a large church, a sub group that really loves and cares for one another. God made us with different strengths and weaknesses so we are by nature dependent on one another. Jesus, foster an attitude of interdependence on one another so that we can be a complete body serving you with all of our abilities.
- 15 - "Be doers of the Word and not hearers only", James 1:22. How does one do the Word? My answer to that question is to "get outside of one's self". When we reach out to others, to help, encourage, support, understand, concur, share, and lift up those around us be they next door or across the world, we are doing God's Word. Carpenter, when people were sick, you healed them, hungry, you fed them, blind, you restored their sight, afraid, you comforted them. May we follow your example and do your Word.
- 16 - Here is a new and ambitious idea from the folks at Red Deer, Alberta, Canada. They will have a presence at the Red Deer Farmers' Market every Saturday starting May 18th until October 12th. Lord of Heaven, that is a big commitment in a small town. Provide the funds and the workers as well as the energy and commitment for our Red Deer brothers. Bring a steady stream of Jesus seekers to their exhibit to hear and respond to "The Greatest Story Ever Told".
- 17 - May 18th and 19th are the dates of the May Show Festival in Van Kleek Hill, Ontario, Canada. This popular yearly event draws many folks and Wayne Clark and friends have just the activity to make the day (and their lives) complete. Jesus, this may be spring but there are always folks ready and in need of "harvest". Draw many into your kingdom, we pray.

- 18 - "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want", Psalm 23:1 (NIV). The Living Bible says it this way, "Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need". The Phillips Bible (please humor me) says, "If I don't have all I need, I must have the wrong shepherd". Shepherd of Our Souls, each of us has made poor choices at times. Please guide and correct us so that you, not some counterfeit, is the Shepherd we choose and declare eternal allegiance to.
- 19- "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him . . .", Psalm 145:8. Feeling alone is not good. Feeling alone when facing a problem or predicament is even worse. But, we can take heart for this verse assures us we are never alone. Head of the Church, we take comfort in knowing that you are always "at the ready". We don't even need a smart phone or internet access to pray, plead, beg, complain or confide. Thank you for your love, care, and concern for each one of us.
- 20 - "Do not fret because of evil-doers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity", Psalm 37:1. Why not? Many who seem to have first chance at public attention flaunt their anti-God rhetoric, make our lives more difficult, and undermine the qualities we hope to instill in our families. Well, God is still in control and He has work for us to do. Praise you God of Heaven and Earth. Forgive us for thinking it's all up to us. We tend to forget that you are still on the throne and that "In all things God works for the good of those who love Him . . .", Romans 8:28.
- 21 - "God said, 'Ask! What shall I give you?'" , 1 Kings 3:5. That is the question God asked Solomon as he succeeded his father David as King of Israel. What would your answer be if God asked you that question? Fortune, fame, wealth, power? Solomon rightly requested "A discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong". Lord, I believe you ask each of us that question and my prayer is that each answer would be that, whatever the circumstance, we would choose to know you.
- 22 - "He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate", Luke 15:16. You know the story of the Prodigal Son. He left the love and security of his father for the perceived glamour and excitement he could find on his own only to find out that it wasn't so much fun after all. Jesus, you are the Truth. Help us to avoid the lie that Satan dangles so temptingly in front of us to woo us away to our own destination.

- 23 - "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel (God with us)", Isaiah 7:14. What was Isaiah thinking when he penned those words? Would people think he was completely "off his rocker"? Whatever people thought and whatever Isaiah thought, he hit the nail on the head". Immanuel, thank you for inspiring Isaiah to write down that revelation 700 years BC and thank you for fulfilling that prophecy on that day in Bethlehem. All mankind thanks you for fulfilling that hope.
- 24 - "A man reaps what he sows ... let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we don't give up", Galatians 6:8, 9. I have called someone three times and he never answers. I guess I'll give up. If God has laid it on your heart to encourage someone, don't give up. In due time both you and he will be edified. Jesus, I want to sow good seed and I want to reach out as you call me to do but my persistence isn't very persistent. Will you help me?
- 25 - "Love your enemies, do good and lend hoping for nothing in return", Luke 6:35. Some wise person put it another way. They said, "It is amazing how much good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit". Servant King, show me times and places where I can "do good" without seeking reward. I tend to look for the "show boat stuff" and ignore the mundane.
- 26 - "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things ...", 1 Timothy 4:8. We all strive to be slim and trim and eat what is good for us but that only lasts as long as our earthly body does but godliness lasts for eternity. Author of our faith, I am a little lax about care of my body but I am also lax about taking care of my soul. Get out your prod. I need a poke.
- 27 - Today is Memorial Day in the US, a day when we honor those men and women who put their lives on the line to defend our nation and all free nations and peoples. We thank you, King of Kings, for those valiant souls, especially those who were killed or sustained serious injuries in the line of duty. May we also be reminded that you, Prince of Peace, put your life on the line so that each one of us has the opportunity to be free from the penalty of sin.
- 28 - "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me", Mark 8:34. I see two requirements here,

one as negative, denying ourselves earthly things and actions; the second is positive, the action of taking up the cross or putting feet to our faith. Jesus, I want to come after you, to follow you. Help me to both deny myself and take up my cross.

- 29 - "Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world', John 8:12. We should not take this verse lightly. "I am" implies that He is God. Being light exposes and opposes the darkness of sin and illuminates the way to God and salvation. Light of the World, shine in me, on me, and through me so that I might reflect your Holy Light to those around me.
- 30 - "If one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her", John 8:7. This is what Jesus told the Pharisees and teachers' of the law when they brought in a woman accused of adultery. He is telling them, and us as well, that we have no right to condemn others when we are sinners too. Teacher, you are the only one qualified to condemn others. Teach me and my brothers and sisters to hate the sin but love the sinner.
- 31 - The Western New York Dairy Festival begins this Friday afternoon and goes through Sunday, June 2nd in Springville, New York. This will be a first for FCFI. We pray for good weather (it is an outdoor show), good times for lots of folks, and a plentiful harvest of souls as FCFI volunteers share their faith and the saving message of Jesus to all who stop by our tent.

Share Your Prayer Items with Others

Continue to send in specific prayer requests either to the FCFI office or to Clark Phillips (email: CSPcows@aol.com) by the 13th or 14th of the month so they can be included in the Prayer Guide for the following month.

Urgent Prayer Requests

Can be placed on the website prayer list page at any time, forward urgent, immediate attention prayer needs to Dennis Schlagel (email: fellowship@fcfi.org) at the FCFI office.

FCFI – PO Box 15 – Lexington, IL 61753
FAX: (309) 365-7023 Phone: (309) 365-8710