



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

PRAYER GUIDE - July 2013

- 01 - Today is the deadline to register for the 20th Annual Conference of FCFI. The theme this year is taken from Luke 10:20, "... rejoice in this, that your names are recorded in heaven". The Conference is being held in Cincinnati, Ohio. Don't delay in registering. This promises to be one of the most exciting conferences ever and you don't want to miss it. Even if you're a day or two late, I'm sure your registration materials will be accepted and honored even if you are a little past the deadline. Lord, bless the conference and all who attend. We pray this in Jesus' name.
- 02 - Here we are at the mid-point of 2013. Some would say the year is half gone while others say that we still have half a year to go. I think God sides with the optimist when He proclaims in Romans 8:28, "... in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Thank you, I AM, for your unbridled optimism.
- 03 - Weather has been a bummer for many farmers across North America --- too hot, too cold; too wet, too dry; floods, tornadoes; you name it - some folks have experienced one or more of these challenges. If you throw in some who have experienced illness, injury, accidents, or personal problems, you have some huge struggles. But Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes 3, "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens". Thank you, Jesus, for that promise. Be with those who are under severe pressure and remind them that through your Holy Spirit you are "The Way", John 14:6.

- 04 - Hey! Do you have some fire crackers? It's the 4th of July, you know. Yes, today is Independence Day in the U.S., the day our country declared independence from mighty Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence was actually a pretty bold move because the War for Independence had still to be fought against the biggest "super power" in the world at that time. Thank you, Father, for allowing those thirteen little colonies to back away from the British Empire to form this great country we call the "United States".
- 05 - We ask for prayer for continued good health for C., J., M., B., and L. Reading "between the lines", W.W. is also praising God for good health. You may know others who need and seek God's healing touch or for wisdom on how to deal with a difficult situation. Master, as always we pray for your continued blessing on those who are "sailing along" quite well but also ask for healing and restoration for those who are struggling with all manner of difficulty.
- 06 - FCFI recently sent out a proposal called "Crop Plan" outlining some of the needs of our organization and some suggestions as to how you and I might be of help. Keep the leadership of FCFI and FCFC in your prayers as they make decisions concerning where our emphasis should be and how best to use our finite resources. Pray, as well, that those who can will come forth with funds to meet every need of our organization.
- 07 - "Start children off in the way they should go ...", Proverbs 22:6. The rest of this verse is quite a favorite of most Christians ("and when they are old they will not depart from it") but I want to emphasize the "go" part. It seems more and more that children do not want to "go" and I believe that God's word encourages us to "go" as He directs. Raboni, encourage us and our children and grandchildren to grow up, to mature, to become independent responsible people capable of making their own decisions and paying their own way!
- 08 - Do you know that those who run in a race all run but only one receives the prize ... 1 Corinthians 9:24.? Have you run any races lately? Have you won any races lately? One thing is for sure, if you don't run, you certainly won't win. Paul is challenging us that in whatever we do, we should do it to win, to give our very best effort. Jesus, you have great plans for each one of us and that plan includes winning. Help us to keep our focus, to do our very best, and to know that, when you are with us, we are always on the winning team.

- 09 - "They found the stone rolled away . . . then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus", Luke 24:2,3. I wonder how today's newscaster would have broadcast this story if it happened now? So much of our news today tends to dwell on negative things but this is one of the most positive things that ever happened. "He is not here. He is risen.", John 14:6. Precious one, teach us to be positive. Lots of bad things can happen but you are the way, the truth, and the life. What more good things could we expect?
- 10 - "Two events begin tomorrow in New York where FCFI will be present, the three day 2-Cylinder Show in Canandaigua (try teaching your three year old to spell that) and the four day Madison County Fair in Brookfield. Adoni, these two shows are in small rural towns in Central New York but there are "tons" of people who still need to hear and respond to your message of grace and forgiveness. Cause many to respond positively to that message and dedicate or rededicate their lives to you.
- 11 - "Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own?", Luke 6:41. Boy, it is easy see the faults and weaknesses and imperfections in others without recognizing that we, too, are seriously flawed. Jesus uses exaggeration here to make a very valid point and we'd better pay attention. Jesus, help me to see the sins in my own life and address them before I go pointing fingers at those around me.
- 12 - "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven", Matthew 5:3. Why does Jesus single out the poor? I believe that the rich often think that they "have it made" on their own while the poor realize that they have needs and actively seek spiritual relief. Emmanuel, your message of grace is for all of us but, you, while here on earth, tended to favor the oppressed. Thank you, for reaching out especially to the down trodden to help them see how valuable they are to you and to use them as an example for all of us to follow.
- 13 - "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the Living God", 1 Timothy 6:17. God even has further instructions for the rich (and all of us). "But store up for yourself treasures in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal", Matthew 6:20. Jesus, you have given us plenty of advice on how to handle finances. Thank you for your material blessings and continually remind us that all we have is really yours and that we should not hold on to it too tightly.

- 14 - Moses tells us in Psalm 90:10, "The days of our lives are seventy years ... yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off and we fly away". I would like to include here a little poem taken from Our Daily Bread, "Vigor is fleeting, our best years are brief. Our youth passes quickly, times ever the thief. But hope yet becomes us, death's sting holds no power. We have a redeemer, an unfailing tower". Thank you, Jesus, we will "fly away" to you.
- 15 - One of my favorite Proverbs is, "God loves a cheerful giver", 2 Corinthians 9:7, but He also accepts gifts from the rest of us. When Paul wrote this little verse he wasn't talking just about money. He expects us to also give of our time, our hospitality, our encouragement, our courtesy, our consideration, and our love. Father, may we follow your example of giving as found in Matthew 5:45. "He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous".
- 16 - We received a very special phone call recently. While at our mission site in Romania, we hosted a family from Ohio who were in the process of adopting a baby girl. That little girl is now entering eighth grade and she called to tell us that she had just asked Jesus to be her Savior while at a church camp. While we had precious little to do with her adoption or her salvation, we were "in the mix" and were blessed beyond measure by her phone call. "As for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right", 2 Thes-salonians 3:13. Jesus, we thank you for our little friend and her love for you.
- 17 - "The peace of God ... will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus", Philippians 4:7. Those anxious moments seem to reoccur over and over again. Where are the car keys? Have you seen my wallet? This traffic is terrible. What's their address? We're going to be late again. Why doesn't she answer my calls?, etc. etc. We can get "bent out of shape" pretty often if we fail to realize that God offers "the peace that passes all understanding" and it's available to us 24/7. Good Shepherd, thank you for your offer of peace at all times. Now, please just remind us when we forget this truth.
- 18 - "If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat", 2 Thessalonians 3:10. Boy, Paul wouldn't get far in our "politically correct" world of today, would he? We have to be careful not to apply this verse to those who can not work because of age (young or old), handicaps, or other similar situations. Carpenter, you know how to work and here you challenge us through Paul to "put our shoulder to the plow". But, we also need wisdom to not over do it, to work at something productive

and/or useful, and to be careful when appraising the work (or lack of it) from others. Grant us this wisdom.

- 19 - "What ever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord, not to men", Colossians 3:23. Most of us are not in professional ministry but that doesn't mean we aren't working for our Lord. Someone has to build cars, drive busses, teach our kids, grow our food, and clean up our messes (just to name a few) and those jobs are just as important and critical to our society. So "whatever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord". Teacher, many of us think of our tasks as mundane and unimportant. Inspire us to do our work and let that alone make it important.
- 20 - "Why do you spend money for what is not bread and your wages for what does not satisfy?", Isaiah 55:2. Our local fair is one of the largest and longest running fairs in the U.S. (nearly a million attend each year). Yet, until recently the "Fair Board" had to scrimp and save to earn enough money to continue operating but, not any more. What has changed? They now have a gambling casino. People who wouldn't spend money for good clean fun will throw it away on games of chance that they have virtually no chance of winning. Jesus, why do so many of us waste our resources on such frivolous things? Create in us a sense of responsibility to use our resources effectively.
- 21 - "They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light", Revelations 22:5. This verse "sheds a little light" on what heaven is like. When someone asks me what I think heaven is like, I say "I don't know but it is where God lives and that is good enough for me. Heavenly Father, we can only imagine what heaven is like but you said in John 14:2, "I go to prepare a place for you" and that sounds like "heaven" to me.
- 22 - "To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin", James 4:17. I suspect that virtually all of us have committed this sin. Opportunities to do good are all around us and we may respond to some or even many of them but some go sailing right on by us without our recognition. Counselor, our spiritual eyes need a check-up. Would you provide us with the corrected vision to see and respond to each opportunity to do good?
- 23 - "You also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy", Matthew 23:28. Jesus was assailing the Scribes and Pharisees of His day because they worked hard at appearing holy but not very hard at being holy. Could we be guilty of the same

thing? Most assuredly! Messiah, we are often like the Scribes and Pharisees. Forgive us our hypocrisy and change us from the inside out. We want to be as clean as we look.

- 24 - "I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made", Psalm 139:14. How does one sperm and one egg combine to make one cell? $1+1=1$ is God's math. How does that one cell divide into muscles, bone, skin, brains, eyes, and a stomach? How do teeth that are harder than steel form? You had better believe that you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Master Builder, you are beyond a genius. Thank you, for all the fantastic construction projects you have "fearfully and wonderfully made".
- 25 - "Those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the Word", Acts:4. This verse describes what happened when persecuted Christians left Jerusalem. It also is a reminder that wherever we go, even on vacation, there is no wrong time or place to share the Gospel. Hound of Heaven, remind us that we are always "on call". Prepare us to share our most important gift day or night, working or playing, at home or away.
- 26 - "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also", Matthew 6:21. We who are farmers and other businessmen and women have a great deal of capital plus lots of sweat equity in our possession and we run the risk of making that our "great treasure". Yet, Matthew 6:19 tells us, "Do not lay up for yourself treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal". And, I might add flood, fire, bankruptcy, divorce, bad weather, and a whole host of other ills that can destroy our earthly treasure. Jesus, you are the ultimate money man. Teach us to not hold on to "things" too tightly but to store up what has eternal value.
- 27 - "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble", Nahum 1:7. We all face trouble. How we face it is the question and here the Bible tells us where to find the strength to face it. I am reminded of John 3:18, "Whoever believes in Him (Our Lord) is not condemned but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only son". Lord, you have challenged us to tell as many others as we can about your saving graces so that they, too, can have "a good stronghold" in the day of trouble.
- 28 - Here are a couple of prayer requests just received. JR has a spot on the lung and seeks healing. Ken finds he is at risk for a stroke because

of medication he is taking. A wife asks prayer for her husband who is a good man but not saved. You most likely have friends and/or family who need prayer as well. Advocate, thank you for hearing, processing, and responding to our various needs. We praise you for the answers we have received and the answers that we will receive. You are an awesome God.

- 29 - "The things which are impossible with man are possible with God", Luke 18:27. It is impossible for God to have impossible in His language. Have you ever tried to save someone? It is impossible for you and me for that is the work of the Holy Spirit. But, we can begin the process by sharing God's Word and our own testimony, Holy Spirit, here we are ready and willing to "plant some seeds", or "water the crop" but you have to do the harvesting. Move mightily in our midst, "capture" many for God's Kingdom.
- 30 - "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many", Matthew 20:28. Jesus set the perfect example for us. We must be willing to give up anything or everything to make it better for others. How are you doing as a servant? Me? I'm not doing so well. Son of Man, our walk so often doesn't match our talk. Would you provide us with a cure?
- 31 - Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ", Galatians 6:2. A true friend is one who sticks with us when the going gets rough and no friend is truer than Jesus. He willingly bore our burden of sin on the cross. We can't provide eternal life to others but we can forgive, encourage, support, provide, and sustain those in our own little world. Jesus, thank you for your example of how to "bear one another's burdens".

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