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PRAYER GUIDE - June 2013

- 01 - It is June, so soon, and the year is almost half over. It is a big month for marriages and graduations and they are similar in that those participating are embarking on a new season in their lives. Shepherd of Our Soul, prevail upon newlyweds and new graduates (regardless of when that event occurred) that, as they enter this next phase of life, they still need your wisdom and guidance and that your love and grace are received unlimited in both quantity and value.
- 02 - June is a busy month for farmers and ranchers across the “fruited plain”. Some farmers have had a good and productive spring while others have or are battling too much rain and others face continuing drought. But, “Remember the Lord your God for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth”, Deuteronomy 8:14. True Vine, you are the one who gives us our wealth producing abilities and it is only by you that we can prosper regardless of the weather.
- 03 - We have often prayed for our students but failed to pray for their teachers and others who contribute to our children’s education. The Bible understands our need for teachers in Acts 8:30 - 34 where Philip encounters a man reading but not understanding scripture. “Do you understand what you are reading?”, Philip asks. “How can I”, he said, “unless someone explains it to me?”, Acts 8:30, 31. Master Teacher, we thank you for our many teachers and ask that you lead, guide, and inspire them as they transfer knowledge to the next generation.

- 04 - "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight", Proverbs 3:6. This is one of my favorite verses and it is a formula for "straight going". If you (I) do this (acknowledge Him) He will do this (make our paths straight). I sometimes have trouble keeping my part of the formula. How about you? King of Kings, I can see why my paths are not always straight. May your Holy Spirit guide me to "acknowledge" you all the time not just some or even most of the time.
- 05 - "... it (your beauty) should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which is of great worth in God's sight", 1 Peter 3:4. Peter is talking primarily to women here but we men should take heed as well. What has "great worth in God's sight"? A gentle and quiet spirit! Thank you, Heavenly Father, for reminding us that yelling and bravado have no part in any Christian's make up.
- 06 - Today we commemorate D-Day, the day when American, British, Canadian, and Australian troops invaded the German held beaches of Normandy in France. Casualties were high that day, but it marked the beginning of the retaking of western Europe from Nazi occupation and was instrumental in the eventual defeat of Hitler's Germany. Thank you, Most High God, for that pivotal day in World History and thank you for the men and women who put their lives "on the line" so that the rest of us can live in freedom.
- 07 - Are you facing a seemingly impossible situation? Think about Abraham, a man of 100 years married to a 90 year old wife and God is promising him a child by her and God made this promise thirteen years before ("... a son coming from your own body will be your heir", Genesis 13:4) and nothing is happening. Heavenly Father, we, like Abraham, have finite expectations. Your "possibility factor" so far exceeds ours. Inspire us and others to see beyond the impossible to see and acclaim you, the God of possibility.
- 08 - Dryden, a small town in south central New York, hosts Dryden Dairy Day today. Lots of milk is produced in the rolling hills around Dryden and they want to promote this delicious and nutritious product to the area communities. FCF will be there, too, promoting a valuable product, the saving grace offered by our Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus, bless our "sales" people as they share the most valuable product of all, eternal life with you.

- 09 - If we are faithful to confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness", 1 John 1:9. The biggest word in this verse is the first one, "IF". In our culture the prevailing thought is that there is no right or wrong, thus no sin or attempt to confess our sins. That puts us in deep trouble. Savior, you did your part to cleanse us from our sin. Now it is our turn. Move through the culture, especially the church, convicting us of our sinful nature and to confess our sins.
- 10 - "Surely God does not reject a blameless man or strengthen the hands of evil doers. He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy", Job 8:20, 21. Are you or someone close to you going through some tough times? Get ready to laugh and shout for joy. There is an old saying, "every cloud has a silver lining". Creator God, while you are the God of grace, forgiveness, and restoration, you are also the God of laughter and fun and good times. Alleluia! We rejoice in you!
- 11 - "... without faith it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him", Hebrews 11:6. I just learned that there is something impossible, pleasing God without faith. Isn't it redundant to say we can't have faith in something we don't believe exists? Holy God, I do believe you exist and I do believe that you reward those of us who seek you. Thank you for not being hard to find and thank you for your countless blessings.
- 12 - Wow! FCFI in New Zealand. For us New Zealand is a long way away but for the Holy Spirit it's a "piece of cake". Yes, FCFI will be at New Zealand Field Days in Hamilton, New Zealand and, yes, the Holy Spirit will be there as well. Bless this event, Chief Cornerstone, multiply your kingdom there and build a strong foundation so that FCFI can continue its strong witness for many years to come!
- 13 - Do we call those juicy, sweet, red berries "strawberries" because we cover the ground around the berry plants with straw? Whatever the reason, there is a Strawberry Festival tomorrow in Owego, New York where lots of these berries are grown. Creator, you outdid yourself when you created this delicious fruit. Use this event to promote and celebrate strawberries and to build new friendships as FCF members tell people about Jesus and the great things He has in store for them.

- 14 - Today is Flag Day which commemorates the adoption in 1777 of the American Flag as we know it today. "We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all". Father, may we never forget that this country was founded by people truly committed to you and to following your ways.
- 15 - While I haven't received any specific prayer requests for this month, it goes without saying that the needs are many and praises abound for answered prayers. Advocate, hear the prayers of many like the folks in Oklahoma, Boston, and London who need healing and restoration. Hear the prayers from those who have lost loved ones, who struggle with pain and disability, and those who face material and financial challenges. And hear, too, the songs of praise and thanksgiving for triumphs big and small. You are a big God.
- 16 - Today is Father's Day across America. While most of us who are fathers don't expect a lot of "hoopla" on Father's Day, there is one Father who expects and deserves all the praise and adoration we can muster, our Heavenly Father. Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- 17 - "For I am convinced that neither death or life, neither angels or demons, neither present or future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord", Romans 8:38, 39. I am convinced, too. How about you? Savior, thank you for that undying, unlimited, all-encompassing love that you have for each one of us.
- 18 - "A quick tempered man does foolish things", Proverbs 14:17. Why does the Bible have to talk about me? A foul word, an angry reply, something gets thrown, a fist to the wall --- how foolish but also common and frequent. Father, you know us too well. Your "crystal ball" is so very accurate. We are all so "fatally flawed". Forgive us our foolish ways. Be patient with us and help us to continually grow in our walk with you.
- 19 - "A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him", Proverbs 28:22. We have a neighbor who is a "millionaire". Others around him describe him as "so tight he squeaks". Yet, recently

he watched his wife waste away with cancer and all his money couldn't save her life. Messiah, we live in a very money conscious culture and tend to think any problem can be solved with "more money". Yet, your Word assures us, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well", Matthew 6:33.

- 20 - "Then they asked Him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?' Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent'"; John 6:28, 29. This verse, I believe, sums up the message of the New Testament, "believe in the one He has sent, Jesus". Messiah, why is it so hard for many people to understand this concept? Your forgiveness is not for sale, it can't be earned. We need all the help we can get to get out the message of the gift of salvation.
- 21 - The summer season officially begins today. At 1:04 A.M. the sun will be directly over the Tropic of Cancer making 6/21/13 the longest day (daylight) and the start of summer. Carpenter, we marvel at the precision of your creation, our world. While some (probably many) still cling to the idea that everything happens "by chance", the precision and magnitude of your creation should convince us all that you are the chance that everything exists as it does.
- 22 - "The master of the servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave his debt"; Matthew 18:27. The servant owed 10,000 talents, almost as much as our national debt and his master forgave him. This little story illustrates that our master is willing to forgive what we deem unforgivable; there is no limit to His forgiveness. Master, even though our minds can't fathom the depth, length, width, or height of your forgiveness, nonetheless we thank and praise you for your immeasurable grace.
- 23 - "They immediately left their nets and followed Him"; Mark 1:18. This verse tells us about the several fishermen who, when they saw Jesus, dropped everything to become His disciples. Is Jesus different today than He was back then? Why do so many hesitate or not respond at all when they encounter Jesus? My answer is that we see only what we look for and many are not looking for the Messiah at all. Savior, so many of us have scales on our eyes. As your disciples, help us to be scale removers so that others may see you and believe.

- 24 - "I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whosoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also", Matthew 5:39. Jesus is full of advice, turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, give him your shirt and your cloak, etc. Then, I stop and think that's exactly how Jesus responds to you and me. Thank you, Jesus that you never respond in anger, resentment, or self-defense when you are "put upon". Help me respond in like manner.
- 25 - Hey, guys, do you ever think that your prayers go no further than the ceiling? This might be a reason. "Husbands ... dwell with (your wives) with understanding ... that your prayers may not be denied", 1 Peter 3:7. I have been married for only fifty-seven years and I still have a lot to learn about my favorite lady. Jesus, I'm guilty as charged. Be patient with me. And, please don't wait until I "understand" my girl to answer my prayers. (I'm sure you won't.)
- 26 - "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called children of God", 1 John 3:1. We often refer to our God in heaven as Father but have you given thought to what that actually means? He loves us so much that he has called us His children and that implies that we are His heirs to everything He has and everything He is. Don't ever again consider yourself poor. Praise you Father. It will take all my remaining days to comprehend the fact that I am "a King's kid".
- 27 - "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn your statutes", Psalm 119:71. This might be seen to many to be a troubling verse yet, how true it is, that often our growth in Christ comes through trial. I dare say that virtually everyone has grown closer to Jesus and others through calamity. Holy One, we are not looking for adversity, but we are eternally grateful that when troubles arise you are the first one there to offer help and release.
- 28 - Each year in Millville, Pennsylvania the firemen have a carnival and each year FCF has a tent there to tell those big tough firemen and their families that Jesus is in the business of keeping people out of the fires of hell. Go Jesus! The prospect of enduring the eternal fire of hell is ever present and our FCF volunteers are ready and willing to share your saving grace with everyone. Father, we pray for their efforts.

- 29- "God has not given us a spirit of fear but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline", 2 Timothy 1:7. Whenever fear creeps into our thinking, we can be sure of one thing; it isn't from God. God of All Creation, why do we tremble when Goliath confronts us? He may be bigger than we are but we can say, "the battle is the Lord's (1 Samuel 17:47). After all, you, Mighty One, are much bigger than Goliath.
- 30 - "These stones shall be a memorial to the children of Israel forever", Joshua 4:7. After the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry ground (at flood stage), Joshua built a stone memorial so that future generations would not forget the miracle of the crossing. Remember, History is His Story and our children and grandchildren need to know how we became who we are and how we came to know Jesus. Thanks you, Jesus, for the miracles that brought you into my life. Thank you for the family that you have blessed me with. Thank you that my family is your family as well.

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.

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