



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

PRAYER GUIDE - September 2013

- 01 - The word September comes from the old Roman word system meaning seven. In the old Roman calendar, September was the seventh month of the year. Our calendar is based on the earth circling the sun every 365 days thus a "leap year" every four years. However, it takes the earth just 365.24219 days to complete the circle so every 3300 years, we must skip a leap year to get the seasons back in sync. Creator God, we are awed by your precision, the earth has completed its trip around the sun exactly the same time every year for the past several thousand years. Yes, you are an awesome God.
- 02 - It's Labor Day, an official U.S. holiday. It is celebrated on the first Monday in September and acknowledges the contribution that labor has made in the United States. For many it marks the end of summer and the beginning of the new school year. Carpenter, thank you for all the people who have put "their shoulders to the wheel" to produce the products and services that we all need and enjoy and thank you for all those in the field of education who teach and nurture the most valuable resource we have, our children.
- 03 - In 1752, according to British history, the Brits skipped eleven days (September 3rd to the 13th) to switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar. The Julian calendar had no leap year so was

eleven days behind. Teacher, man can try to adjust times, days, and seasons but we know that you sit on the throne continuously and eternally and that you desire a relationship with us "all the time". Help us to meet this expectation.

- 04 - September is harvest time for many of the farmers across North America. It is a time of hard work and long hours but also a time to revel in the goodness and productivity that we, as farmers, enjoy. Shepherd of our Souls, we thank you for the bountiful harvest we all can participate in. But, let us not neglect our families and other obligations and keep us alert and safe as we bring in the harvest.
- 05 - "I have come that they might have life and that they may have it more abundantly" John 10:10. I believe this verse is a huge challenge to all of us. Abundance means more than enough for our own needs. Are we sharing our abundance with others? Greater abundance means more sharing. Jehovah Jirah, thank you for the abundance you have provided for us. With your help and guidance, we will share that abundance for your glory and honor.
- 06 - "As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me", John 15:4. We tend to live in a "do it yourself" culture and, when we are "stumped" by a task, we seek help almost everywhere but through Jesus. Shame on us. Jesus, you warned us that we wouldn't produce any fruit unless we "abide in you". We give you permission to "screw our heads on straight" so that we can see, hear, and do as you lead us.
- 07 - "... He (the Lord) guides me in paths of righteousness for His name sake ...", Psalm 23:3. It is common belief that we "behave" because it is good for us to do so and that is certainly true, but, that is just part of the equation as this verse illustrates so well. We, to the best of our ability, avoid sin because we choose not to sully the Lord's name. Emmanuel, forgive us for giving your name a bad name. Your name is above every other name in earth and in heaven.
- 08 - Today is Grandparent's Day. If you are a grandparent like my wife and I are, it is nice to have a special day set aside for us. But, I have an idea. Instead of being honored today, let's make a special effort to contact our grandchildren with an email, text message, short note, etc. While we are at it maybe we can share our testimony or tell them how special God is to us. Savior, I need some prompting to share with my family why you are so important in my life. They may not hear it from anyone else.

- 09 - "Would you like a walking stick? It will only take a few minutes of your time!" These or similar words will be repeated quite often at farm shows and fairs this month. Many people will stop by the FCF tent to get a free stick or other gift and also hear about the free gift of forgiveness and salvation that is available only one place, through faith in Jesus Christ. Son of Man, bless the efforts of FCF workers across our "fruited plain" as they share "the greatest story ever told".
- 10 - "The Egyptians you see today you will never see again", Exodus 14:13b. This is what the Lord spoke to the Israelites through Moses as they stood "shaking in their boots" when seemingly trapped on the shore of the Red Sea by a vast Egyptian army. Do you feel trapped by a circumstance that seems completely unsolvable? Here is God's advice to you and me. "Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today", Exodus 14:13a. My Lord, crossing the Red Sea wasn't a problem in Moses' time so why should we question any Red Sea problem today? Create in me the faith and confidence to walk through my difficulty with you as my guide.
- 11- It's Patriot Day which is set aside to remember the nearly 3000 people who died during the terrorist attacks in NY City, Washington D.C., and in Shanksville, PA on 9/11/01. King of Kings, we struggle to understand the thought process which people go through to wantonly kill others for no apparent reason. We pray for those families devastated by these terrorist attacks and for those who commit such terror.
- 12 - "The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like a wafer made with honey", Exodus 16:31. "The Israelites ate manna for forty years", Exodus 16:35. Can you imagine the Lord supplying the food and provision for the entire Israeli population for forty years? And, yet, they complained. Master, we are such a complaining people. May we learn to rejoice in all we have, in all we do, and in all we are. Thank you for being our source even when we complain.
- 13 - "God has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth", Acts 17:26. It saddens me when people talk about "racial tension" and "racial prejudice" because we are all of the human race, all brothers and sisters descended from Adam and Eve. Jesus, we continue to pray for the universal acceptance

of one another as full brothers and sisters, unique in appearance but the same in ancestry and uniquely similar in hopes, dreams, and ultimate destiny if we trust, you, Jesus, as our Lord and Savior.

- 14 - "To obey is better than sacrifice", 1 Samuel 15:22. In the prelude to this verse, King Saul, tried to compensate for his disobedience by making a sacrifice to God. It is my understanding of this verse that to obey is the ultimate sacrifice. We "sacrifice" our own selfish needs or desires so that we can obey God's calling. Master, we call you Lord, yet we really don't often mean it. With your help we will make you Lord of our lives and obey your wishes and commands not our own.
- 15 - "I write to you because your sins are forgiven for His name's sake", John 2:12. Wow! He forgives us our sins for HIS name's sake. No wonder the third commandment reads "You shall not misuse His name", Exodus 20:7. Heavenly Father, we have all misused your name. Forgive us our sins and help us to sin no more.
- 16 - George and Julie Holmes from New York and Dave and Sarah Van Orman from Iowa have a heart to serve the people of Albania. These couples farm nine months of the year but have done mission work in Albania for the other three months for the past twenty years. Son of Man, we pray that you continue to prosper these folks in their farming endeavors as you prosper them in their outreach to the people of Albania. Provide for their needs and multiply their harvest of souls for your Kingdom.
- 17 - "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom", Luke 23:24. These are the words one of the criminals spoke as he hung on a cross next to Jesus. What was Jesus' response? "Assuredly, today you will be with me in Paradise", verse 43. Wow! That is some answer. Jesus' response was quick and concise. Jesus, thank you for hearing the plea of that criminal and thank you for hearing my plea as well. Show me who else wishes to ask that question so that you can say to him/her also, "Assuredly, today you will be with me in Paradise".
- 18 - Chenaniah, leader of the Levites, was the instructor in charge of music because he was skilled", 1 Chronicles 15:22. People blessed with music skills always amaze me since I have zero skills when it comes to music. Baseball players who can hit that little ball coming at them at ninety plus miles per hour is another skill that amazes

but eludes me as well. Yet each one of us had been blessed with a skill, talent, or ability that God has given to use for His honor and glory. Messiah, help me to develop and use the gift you have given me and help me to encourage others to find, develop, and use this gift to the benefit of all.

- 19 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God", Ephesians 2:8. Faith in what? Faith in the wrong thing does us no good at all. We must place our faith in Jesus Christ and His redeeming work. Thank you, Jesus, for granting us forgiveness for all of our failures. Your grace is sufficient for me.
- 20 - "God is able to make all grace abound towards you, that you ... may have an abundance for every good work", 2 Corinthians 9:8. I know I have shared this philosophy before but please indulge me. God provides an abundance (more than enough) to us so that we can provide for someone or ones who are less fortunate. Good Shepherd, I believe each one of us has an abundance of something (funds, cheer, optimism, hospitality, encouragement, wisdom, compassion, entrepreneurship) that we can share with others.
- 21 - "He stretches out the north over empty space. He hangs the earth on nothing", Job 26:7. Isn't it amazing? The earth, all sixty-six sextillion tons of it slowly turns on its axis (one revolution per day) and wanders slowly around the sun (it takes a whole year to make the trip) without any visible means of support or propulsion. Creator God, how do you do it? Your creativity and handiwork are all around us. How can anyone doubt that you exist? Lord we pray for all the doubters that they may discover you and come to believe that without you our world would not be possible.
- 22 - Let's see. Is today the last day of summer or the first day of fall? Regardless, it marks the time when daylight and darkness are about equal as the number of daylight hours per day begins to shrink. Both man and animals prepare for the period of winter dormancy that surely follows. Raboni, encourage us to not go dormant spiritually just because the daylight hours are shorter. Pour out your Spirit on all mankind and guide us into new revelation that only you can provide.
- 23 - "I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul", Job 7:11. Job had a lot to complain about.

He lost all his livestock, all his servants, and all ten children in one day. You or someone close to you may be having or recently had a bad day as well. God can take the complaining, even the question and anger. But, He is still faithful and in control and His love is complete, uninterrupted, and never ending. Heavenly Father, thank you that though trials come and go, you are faithful and, to the best of our ability, we put our trust in you.

- 24 - "I wish to give this last man the same as the first man", Matthew 20:14. This is what the landowner in Jesus' parable said to the workers who had put in a full day's work. It reflects Jesus attitude toward those who come to him for forgiveness regardless of when or how they do it. Jesus, when we realize that you came into the world "to seek and save what was lost", Luke 19:10, you have no other agenda and all are welcome.
- 25 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me", Philippians 14:13. This is probably one of the more popular verses in the Bible and I surely like the "can do" attitude it projects. Yet, we must be careful not to misinterpret it, there are some things we can do but should not do. Shepherd of my Soul, I pray today for wisdom to know what I should and should not do and then to actually not do it.
- 26 - "All things were created through Him and for Him", Colossians 1:16. It is hard for me to imagine that the Creator of the Universe would choose to enter the world as a helpless baby. And, it is even harder for me to comprehend that He, our Creator and Sustainer, would choose to die so that we might live. But, Jesus, that is what you did and you did it so your creation could spend eternity with you. Thank you for this priceless gift.
- 27 - "Joseph left his garment in her hand and fled and ran outside", Genesis 39:12. This is what Joseph did when Pharaoh's wife tried to seduce him. When a healthy young man is propositioned by an attractive woman, how many would resist such a temptation? But King of Kings, Joseph did resist that temptation and we praise you that he did for it changed the course of history and set an example for all of us to follow. There is no temptation that we cannot resist when we seek you as our guide.
- 28 - "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Highest will overshadow you", Luke 1:35. This is what the angel told Mary,

announcing that she would bear a son conceived by the Holy Spirit. That sounds pretty “other-worldly” doesn’t it? Yet, you and I experience something quite similar when we are “born again” by the Holy Spirit. Savior, thank you that we, too, can be “born again” by the same Holy Spirit that began your entrance into our world. Thank you, Brother Jesus.

- 29 - “Death and life are in the power of the tongue”, Proverbs 18:21. There is nothing that can compare with the power of God’s Word and nothing can be more damaging than the lies and temptations that come from Satan. Lord of Lords, guide us to use our tongue to cheer rather than depress, to compliment rather than criticize, to encourage rather than to discourage, to love rather than to fear.
- 30 - “I will go to the King which is against the law, and if I perish, I perish”, Esther 4:16. These words of Queen Esther ring throughout the halls of Christendom and yet, very few of us would respond similarly if placed in a like circumstance. My Lord and my God, Esther provides us with the ultimate response when you call us to action. May we be as diligent should any situation, large or small, present itself to us.

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@fci.org) at the FCFI office.

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FAX: (309) 365-7023 Phone: (309) 365-8710