



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

## PRAYER GUIDE - January 2014

- 01 - Happy New Year! It will probably take me a couple of months to remember to write 2014 instead of 2013. Maybe Jesus will return this year. What do you think? It would be great if He did. But those of us who are "born again" really shouldn't be concerned because Jesus tells us in Matthew 28:20, "And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age". What a promise! Thank you, Lord Jesus.
- 02 - It may be a new year by the calendar but many old problems still exist. Aches and pains, sickness, injury, financial difficulties, strained relationships, doubts and fears do not pay attention to the calendar; but Jesus pays attention to our challenges. He says in John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full (or abundantly)". He also says in Matthew 7:8, "For everyone who asks receives ...". So today we ask, Jesus that you renew, restore, replace, strengthen, protect, and provide that specific request.
- 03 - The U.S. government is in turmoil because of lies, broken promises, careless spending, over regulation, inept management and, especially, not putting faith in and seeking guidance from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Holy One, we pray today for the people who run, work for, and manage the U.S. government. Draw them into your kingdom, forgive them their sins, renew their faith in you, and guide America back to being an honest, repentant, and ethical country.

- 04 - Many in our military forces find themselves in some faraway place, away from family, friends, and a familiar language and culture. Some are in almost constant danger, some have had serious injuries, and some have paid the ultimate price. Messiah, we thank you for those brave men and women who volunteer to do battle for us. Keep them safe and help them to accomplish what they are fighting for. Provide for their needs, comfort them, and bring them back home safe and sound.
- 05 - "He gives power to the faint and to them that have no might, he increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary and the young men shall utterly fall. But, they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles: they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint", Isaiah 40:29-31. Lord, I claim every word of this passage.
- 06 - "Nevertheless, I have this against you (the Church of Thyatira). You tolerate that woman, Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality ...", Revelations 2:20. Have we, the church, been tolerant of the sexual immorality that is so rampant in our society today? Teacher, our society promotes tolerance of many ungodly perversions. Help us, your church, to not only avoid these temptations but to stand undivided against them.
- 07 - Have you ever been reading your Bible when something jumps out at you that you have never noticed particularly before? "Whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord ..." Ephesians 6:8. This is similar to 2 Corinthians 9:6 where Paul states, "whoever sows generously will also reap generously", but Ephesians emphasizes the "good". Thank you, Heavenly Father, for that promise. Your Son, Jesus, illustrates that perfectly.
- 08 - In Ephesians Paul talks a lot about how to behave as a Christian and, an important reason for this, is because we Christians are all part of the same body. Ephesians 4:25 states, "therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor for we are members of one another". Raboni, I don't want to sully the reputation of my neighbor. Lord, guide and discipline me to be all you have called me to be, nothing more and nothing less.
- 09 - In today's culture we generally use the word "saint" to describe someone whose behavior is above and beyond that of most others, yet Romans

3:23 tells us, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". In the Bible the word "saint" means one chosen by God. Thus we Christians are all saints because John 15:16 says, "You did not choose me but I chose you". We praise you, Jesus, for choosing us "and appointing you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain", verse 16b.

- 10 - "Holy cow" is an expression of alarm or wonder that was often used in the past when coarse words or swearing were not the norm (longtime Yankee baseball announcer, Phil Rizzuto, used it a lot). It is too bad because the Bible tells us in Ephesians 4:29, "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but let only such a word as is good for edification . . . that it might give grace to those who hear". Shepherd of my Soul, I have been guilty of such unwholesome talk myself. I ask forgiveness and the determination to "clean up my act" from here on out.
- 11 - Do you, like me, struggle with a Jeckyl and Hyde nature that defies what I say that I believe? Join the club. Paul had the same struggle for he says in Romans 7:19, "For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish". I guess that we are a sorry lot but, praise God, that is why Jesus came "because He will save His people from their sins", Mathew 1:21. Thank you, Jesus, for your unbelievable gift to save us from our sins.
- 12 - I often feel powerless, especially when it comes to witnessing to others. But, that is not biblical. The Bible says in Acts 1:8, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witness . . . even to the remotest part of the earth". Wow! Jesus, I do want to be your witness so come, Holy Spirit, express yourself through me and all those who wish to tell others about Jesus.
- 13 - Does God answer prayer? I have it on good authority that He does. John 15:7 says, "If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it shall be done for you". Jesus, I do have some serious needs, needs you already know about. Thank you for addressing them, for answering them, for being more concerned for their solutions than I am.
- 14 - "Lazarus, come out", John 11:43. Sometimes, Jesus is a man of few words. In this case actions speak louder than words. Our actions often speak louder than words, also. Author of Our Faith, often our actions speak volumes. May our actions be in accordance with your will and may they edify you, not us.

15 - "... I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief", Mark 9:24. This is what the father of a boy possessed by an evil spirit said to Jesus when Jesus said, "Everything is possible for one who believes", Mark 9:23. That is my (our) prayer for today. Jesus, I do believe but help me overcome my unbelief.

16,17,18 - Please put your prayer cap on because we have many prayer requests. Let us make them our priority for the next three days. R.S. asks prayer for his wife who has battled cancer for thirty-five years. They both need relief, healing, and strength to continue. Megan's brother and sister-in-law find her pregnant again but with problems as they have lost three babies and need God's intervention to maintain this pregnancy. Angela is having heart problems and may need a stint and G.W. continues to have seizures and no cause has been determined. Kate suffers from a low heart rate and chest pain and her caregiver, Dicci, is frustrated because she cannot be of much help. Duncan has had a tumor removed and seeks healing and reassurance that all is well. Dawn has been diagnosed with late stage ovarian cancer and she and her husband seek peace, reassurance, and healing for both of them. Elma has been told that she has lymphoma and auto immune disease. D.S. struggles with arthritis and generally poor health. L.K. seeks improved health, guidance from the Lord, and financial relief. R.C. asks prayer for his mother's health, and a son who is going through a divorce. Lisa is mourning the death of her forty-three year old brother. N.B. has bleeding in the retina in his eye. Lord of All Creation, though this list is lengthy, it only scratches the surface of needs throughout the U.S. and Canada. But, you are a big God, much larger than we can fathom and we pray that you "fix" each one of these specific requests and also the many others that have not been mentioned. Thank you for hearing our requests and addressing each one as only you can do.

19 - As I write this Prayer Guide, George and Julie Holmes are well on their way to their second home country, Albania. This is the 20th year that they have "packed up their duds", said "good-bye" to family and friends, as they finish preparations for spending the next three months ministering to their favorite people. Chief Cornerstone, go before and with George and Julie as they bring the "Good News" to a needy people in a needy land. Provide for all their needs and open new doors for them to minister in Jesus' name.

20 - Today is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Born Michael Luther King, Dr. King changed his name to follow a family tradition. He quickly became an

avid civil rights leader and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He was shot and killed in April of 1964 at the age of thirty-nine. MLK Jr. took his purpose in life from the Bible verses such as Galatians 3:18 which states, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus". Prince of Peace, thank you for men and women, like Martin Luther King Jr., who seek to end all racial prejudice. Continue to work in the hearts and minds of all people to recognize that we humans are of the entire same race and created in your image.

- 21 - I just received a letter from a former neighbor who anticipates being released from prison. Ed was convicted of attempted murder and has spent the last twenty-five years in jail. Would you join me in praying for Ed and all soon to be released prisoners that they will seek forgiveness from Jesus? Also that they will return to society without further criminal activity and that they become model citizens of productivity and peace.
- 22 - There is still need for field clean-ups; fence repair along the South Platte River in Colorado following devastating damage caused by the "1000 year flooding". An EF 4 tornado rammed through Washington, IL on November 17th and several other nearby towns causing wide spread destruction. These areas still need volunteers to help people rebuild their homes and get their businesses back in running order. Lamb of God, we pray for these folks who have suffered so much destruction and damage. We pray that many able bodied men and women will avail themselves of the opportunity to help their fellow man and we pray that much "good" will result from these tragedies.
- 23 - Pastor Abidini, an American citizen, sits in a jail in Iran for professing faith in Jesus Christ and needs our prayers and support. It is against the law in Iran to convert from Islam to Christianity (or any other faith). Father in Heaven, why do many faiths, especially Islam, take such a militant attitude against anyone who does not agree with their beliefs? Please use your mighty outstretched arm to release Pastor Abidini and many others held under similar circumstances. We pray for Pastor Abidini to keep his resolve. Give him and his family peace and use him to reach others with your saving grace.
- 24 - College students and their teachers are back in school now after their winter break. As a nation we pour a great deal of money into the education of our children and our prayer today is that that money is well

spent and our next “crop” of adults will “hit the ground running” and lead our country and our world to new heights of productivity, freedom, prosperity, and faith in you.

- 25 - “The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all”, 1 Corinthians 2:7. All of us who are “born again” have the Holy Spirit. After all, that is what “born again” means, born of the Holy Spirit. Yet, most of us, consult the Holy Spirit only after we have exhausted all our human resources. What a shame. Holy Spirit, we need to change our thinking patterns. Discipline us to use your knowledge and wisdom first rather than last. We would all benefit from such a move.
- 26 - “... Let us not sleep as others do, but let us watch and be sober”, Thessalonians 5:6. Are you ready should Christ return today? Most of us have a retirement plan, life insurance and long term health care plans but neglect keeping our “house in order” if Jesus were to return now. Jesus, most of us don’t really expect you to return in our lifetime. Yet, Paul and others say that it could be anytime. Help us to be ready at any time. Whether you come to get us or we come to meet you we should be ready. No one knows the time or place.
- 27 - “The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus Our Lord”, Romans 6:23. Most of us work for our wages but, the wages of sin come quite easily and subtly. Yet, eternal life is a gift bought and paid for by Jesus Christ. There is no charge for a gift. Thank you, Jesus, for your gift to us of eternal life. We cannot comprehend the cost that you paid but we are eternally grateful. We pray that we receive it.
- 28 - “Nor is there salvation in any other for there is no other name under heaven ...by which we must be saved”, Acts 4:12. This is a recurring theme throughout the New Testament. Nor is there any wonder why this message is repeated over and over again. Even before Jesus was born, an angel told Joseph, “She (Mary) will give birth to a son and you are to give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins”, Matthew 1:21. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for your reminding us over and over that Jesus is the only way to salvation.
- 29 - “A merry heart does good, like medicine”, Proverbs 17:22. Ha, Ha! No, I am not making light of this Proverb. We are all saddened by the fact that we are all sinners but, praise God; He has supplied the “Good News” that Jesus has overcome and defeated sin and death. We can and should rejoice. What better medicine than that good news. Thank you, Jesus.

- 30 - "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden", Matthew 5:14. How can this be when John 8:12 quotes Jesus saying, "I am the light of the world". Let me explain. Jesus isn't here. We are here and we are like the moon. When we live a Christian lifestyle, we reflect Jesus. So, Jesus is the light of the world and we are his reflection. Praise God. Light of the World, I never before thought of myself as a reflector. But, I like that idea. Shine away, Lord Jesus, through me.
- 31 - "I will not," he answered but later he changed his mind and went", Matthew 21:29. In Jesus' parable one son said, "I won't" but did and the other said, "Yes" but didn't. God is interested in results, not intentions. Counselor, I seek your grace to do what is asked and/or expected of me whenever I am tempted to say, "I don't want to" which, unfortunately, is all too often.

---

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:fellowship@fci.org)) at the FCFI office.

FCFI – PO Box 15 – Lexington, IL 61753

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