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## **PRAYER GUIDE - February 2014**

- 01 - We have many prayer requests again this month. Let us join together to bring the following before our all-knowing, all healing, all powerful God of Grace. TH seeks direction as he retires; AI and KM, SW and KT seek salvation for extended family members; Sheri seeks healing from cancer; Allen has heart problems; RH asks for prayers for family health concerns; RM needs financial guidance; DB seeks pain relief and healing for a badly damaged knee; SL has a cancerous kidney; FG has hearing and vision problems; RB and HF have broken ribs; BB faces serious surgery. God of all provision, we count it a privilege to bring these requests to you. Thank you for hearing these and countless other pleas for healing, restoration, forgiveness, and salvation. We thank you especially for responding and restoring us and those who are precious to us. We pray all this in Jesus name.
- 02 - Many in our society both in and out of the church struggle with addictions that negatively impact our health, productivity, finances, and relationships with both people and our Savior. Teacher, many addictions are the tool of Satan (1 Peter 5:8 says, "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour") which he uses to keep us from reaching our potential. Only with your strength and guidance can we overcome these

addictions. Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, our confidant, and our Savior.

- 03 - A Sudanese friend of ours recently relocated to South Sudan, a country that was newly formed barely two years ago and already there is conflict between tribes in this newly formed nation. Why? Do the "Hatfields and McCoys" even know why they are fighting? Why the killing, looting, and destruction of property? Might it be because the thief (Satan) comes only to steal, kill, and destroy others (John 10:10). Prince of Peace, come boldly to the people of South Sudan and every other group of people where hate (and Satan) reigns. Demolish every stronghold and draw your people back to you.
- 04 - I came across a statement published in Al-Abram Press of Cairo, Egypt that said, "Jerusalem is an Arab city" because it was invaded by Christian Arabs in 90 BC (90 years before Christ). According to the Koran, it is okay to lie if it will benefit you. Shepherd of Our Soul, our Muslim neighbors have been sold such a "bill of goods". How can we be the witness that removes the blindfold from their eyes so that they can see the truth and put their trust in you? As John 14:6 says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..."
- 05 - Tomorrow, the fourth Annual Western New York Farm Show begins its 3 day run in Hamburg, New York. The fair grounds "Showplex" is an ideal place to host this fast growing event. Master, we pray that the FCFI booth will again be one of the "features" of this show and that many will make a commitment to follow you or renew their pledge acknowledging you as their Savior.
- 06 - "Be sure your sins will find you out", Numbers 32:23. It seems that when public figures are discovered in their sins, they express remorse but the remorse is more because their sins were uncovered than because of the sin itself. However, we should not be surprised because the Bible tells us that "your sins will find you out". Savior, we are all sinners (Romans 3:23, "All have sinned ..."). Encourage us to acknowledge and confess our sins so that we can experience your grace. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness".

- 07 - "When Jesus entered Jarius' home to minister to his daughter, there was much crying and wailing (Mark 5:38). Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep" (Mark 5:39). But they laughed at Him" (Mark 5:40). Have you ever laughed at Jesus? Do you, like me, often underestimate what Jesus can do? Holy One, we are a doubting people. Only by your spirit can we overcome our doubts and fears. Move in our hearts and minds that we can be the people you have created us to be.
- 08 - Proverbs 23:7 tells us, "As a man thinks in his heart so is he". To me that means reading and following God's word. It means being careful about what we watch and read, where we go, what people we associate with, what church we attend, and what work we are involved in. Messiah, you came to save us from our sins. We also need you to help us to keep our hearts clean. Thank you for forgiving us and for the grace to avoid those things that tempt us.
- 09 - "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth", Ephesians 4:29. Do you, like me, find yourself talking yourself right out of doing something productive or constructive? I am too tired. I will do that tomorrow. George can do it better than I can. That is impossible. Creator God, you are the original "I can" personality. There was no "I can't" in your vocabulary. Thank you for that positive example. I want to emulate you.
- 10 - "Do not overwork to be rich", Proverbs 23:4. How different (and better) our lives would be if we worked as hard at relationships as we do at our job or business. Sure money is important. Jesus talked more about money than He did about salvation. Why? Because most of us are obsessed with money or the things that money can buy. Here are Jesus' thoughts about money, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well", Matthew 6:33. Thank you, Jesus, for your instructions.
- 11 - "Turn us back to you, O Lord, and we will be restored", Lamentations 5:21. Jesus doesn't throw us away when we mess up. He restores us. Remember Peter? He denied Jesus three times yet, later, he became the head disciple. Lord, I am so human and make foolish mistakes. Worse yet, I willfully sin against you. Please forgive me, change me, restore me, and use me for your name's sake. (Prayer taken from Our Daily Bread - June, July, August 2012).

- 12 - "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have for He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you'", Hebrews 3:5. Have you ever heard someone say, "I covet your prayers" or something similar? Why even pray when "He will never leave you or forsake you"? Here is why. When we pray we acknowledge He is near and it releases God to act on our behalf. Thank you, Holy One, for being with us at all times.
- 13 - "In the world you will have tribulation but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world", John 16:33. Are we to be of "good cheer" because of the tribulation? Hardly. Our "good cheer" comes because Jesus has overcome the world and all the junk that goes with the "world". Jesus, there are times when "good cheer" is a pretty scarce commodity. Our world is a pretty nasty place. But, thank you, for overcoming the world. Your victory is our victory as well.
- 14 - Today is Valentine's Day, a day when we make a special effort to express our love to those who are most precious to us. I think it is appropriate to express our love especially to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, today and every day. Emmanuel, you have demonstrated your love to us and we wish to express our love for you. With all our hearts, we thank you for your special gift of grace and humbly bow before you with love and gratitude.
- 15 - "But I say to you, love your enemies ... do good to those who hate you", Matthew 5:44. I cannot find any place in the Bible where we are encouraged to love Satan. He "converted" from God and was cast down out of heaven. Could he reconnect and again be an "angel of light"? This I do not know but I do know that many who have yielded to Satan can still be saved and we can and should pray for them. Savior, we, like you, want to love and minister to the unsaved. Use us any way you can to accomplish your goals here on the earth.
- 16 - "He (Barnabas) ... encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts", Acts 11:23. What a tremendous gift is the gift of encouragement. All of us have benefited from folks who encouraged us. Teach me to love. This is my plea. May all the Spirit's graces shine through me. Tear from my heart all hate and foolish pride. Help me to live like Christ crucified (Peterson).

- 17 - Today is President's Day in the U.S. Originally set aside to honor our first president and the "Father of Our Country", George Washington. It was expanded to honor our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln who led America through the Civil War and the emancipation of former slaves. I would like for us to take this opportunity to pray for our present president and all of our federal, state, and local leaders. Father God, bless each public official whether elected or appointed. Inspire them to lead honestly and ethically and place the needs of their constituents above their own.
- 18 - "After that (appearing to Peter and the other disciples) He (Jesus) was seen by over 500 brethren at once ..." 1 Corinthians 15:6. Paul was telling the Corinthians that Jesus resurrection was not a myth because many others saw Him alive, a verifiable fact. We learn about Socrates, Plato, Julius Cesar, King Arthur, and many other storied individuals of the past who have far less authenticity than Jesus crucified and resurrected. Yet, many still doubt the fact that Jesus lived among the people of His time. Son of God, how can we reach the doubters? We are here to try. Use us.
- 19 - "Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we having died to sin might live for righteousness...by whose stripes you were healed", 1 Peter 2:24. If you saw the film "The Passion of Christ" you have seen a pretty graphic depiction of the intense brutality that Jesus endured on His way to the cross. He took that beating and death for you and for me. Jesus, you took that beating for me. I can't imagine the pain and suffering you endured. Thank you. I could not have done it myself.
- 20 - The New York State Fair Grounds in Syracuse, New York is host to the Annual New York State Farm Show starting today and going through until Saturday. As always, FCFI will be there offering "walking sticks" and other token gifts to all who stop by to hear "the greatest story ever told". Author of Our Faith, FCF has been sharing your "Good News" for many years now, yet there are still many who have not accepted your offer of forgiveness. Use this venue to reach many more, anoint those who present, and further your kingdom throughout New York and beyond.

- 21 - The Swamp Cabbage Festival begins today in La Belle, Florida. I don't think this event has much to do with agriculture but it has lots to do with people so FCFI has a booth there to share the gospel message using the "walking stick" beads to tell folks about Jesus. Keep our FCF volunteers in your prayers today and tomorrow. Pray for open hearts and minds to receive God's grace and bless the festival with fun, food, and Christian fellowship.
- 22 - "But God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us", Romans 5:8. Wow! That is love which is hard to understand and even harder to duplicate. But, try we must. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life", John 3:16. Thank you, Holy One, for thinking of me and my desperate need.
- 23 - "Blessed be the one who took notice of you", Ruth 2:19. Boaz took notice of Ruth, a foreigner and a widow, who had no way to support herself. You and I have people around us who need help. Open our eyes, Lord, to those around us who have unmet needs. Help me, Lord, to notice the hurting, sick, and lost. Guide me as I help them regardless of the cost (Schmidt).
- 24 - "Faith by itself, if it doesn't have works, is dead", James 2:19. In other words faith that doesn't express itself in a helping concern for others is not faith at all. Motivational speaker, Zig Zigler, is famous for his statement, "If you want to be useful, find a need and fill it." Jesus, I want to be successful and faithful. Here I am. Use me today and every day.
- 25 - "The heavens declare the glory of God", Psalm 19:1. Did you know that there are about 100 million observable galaxies (as seen with the Hubble telescope) and each galaxy has hundreds of billions of stars? I think you can write one billion like this: 1,000,000,000. This is more than any mind can conceive but it's just "peanuts" to God. Creator God, you are so much bigger, greater, smarter, and compassionate than we can possibly comprehend. Your creation declares your unlimited and unfathomable glory. We praise you Lord.

- 26 - FCFI will have a tent in Pioneer Park, Wauchula, Florida for the next four days. Antique tractors, steam engines, and farm equipment will be some of the features at this show. But another feature attraction will be the FCF tent where all are invited to hear the simple but profound message of grace and forgiveness that Jesus offers to all. Teacher, bless this opportunity to reach many with your gospel message. Draw to our tent those who have a God-shaped void in their heart and fill that void as only you can do.
- 27 - "The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost", Luke 19:10. A TV Geico advertisement shows one person saying to another, "Everybody knows that (that 15 minutes can save 15% on car insurance)". But, does everybody know that Jesus came to "save that which was lost"? I am sure many don't know that and it is up to us to fulfill our calling and boldly ask people, "Did you know that (Jesus wants to save you)?" Lots of telling to be done. Lord, give us the will and strength to do it.
- 28 - When "doubting" Thomas saw the nail pierced hands of Jesus, he exclaimed, " My Lord and my God". I am sure we all have doubts from time to time and sometimes it takes something quite dramatic to restore our faith. Since Jesus is not here in person, at present, it might be up to you or me to provide the input to restore one's faith and quell these doubts. Jesus, we are your hands and feet. Inspire us, guide us, and use us to restore others when doubts come their way.

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### 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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