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PRAYER GUIDE - March 2014

- 01 - Wish FCFI's Executive Director Dennis Schlagel a Happy 60th Birthday today @ dennis@fcfi.org! Florida's popular Strawberry Festival is happening today and tomorrow at Floral City. Lots of delicious strawberry treats are available to satisfy your sweet tooth. FCFI will be there also offering the greatest gift known to man; the gift of eternal life through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Advocate, there are many people at that festival seeking to satisfy their hunger for strawberries. There are many who don't realize they have a hunger for this gift you have to offer. Use our people to reach out to these people to fill their needs for the release from the bonds of sin and separation.
- 02 - Brrr! It's been cold here in Western New York this winter but national weather reports indicate that we aren't the only ones. But, Psalm 112:7 says, "He (who trusts in the Lord) will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast trusting in the Lord. Psalm 121:7,8 tells us, "The Lord will keep you from all harm . . . He will watch over your life" Thank you, Good Shepherd, for watching over us, for protecting us, for keeping us warm.
- 03 - We once again have many prayer requests. RN asks prayer for his dad who is suffering from internal bleeding, JF has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer; JL has breast cancer; Bill needs a knee replacement; LL needs healing in his ears; TH wants to continue to do the Lord's

work; CD asks prayer for recovery from surgery; BD has a concussion; KH has a spot on his lung; AP just had the thyroid gland removed; TS's dad is in his last days; DS is praising God for rapid healing of a badly damaged knee. Creator God, you put us together to begin with and we ask you to put us together again, whole, complete, like new. Thank you for hearing each prayer and for your perfect answer.

- 04 - "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man ... He (God) will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear"; 1 Corinthians 10:13. We all are tempted but we all have a way out. Unfortunately, we don't always lean on God to avoid the temptation. Thank you, Servant God, for providing us with the means to resist temptation. Sharpen our spiritual ears to hear and respond to your guidance.
- 05 - Today is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent for most of the Christian community and marks forty days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. Head of the Church, we, your church, look forward to Easter, the day you triumphed over sin and death and declared victory for all who put their faith in you. Glory be to God, Most High.
- 06 - As I write this Prayer Guide, Dennis and Janet Schlagel are in New Zealand attending farm shows there. They returned to the states on Feb 19th. They are working to establish an FCFI presence in that island nation. At the same time a hacker broke into Dennis' computer and messed things up pretty badly. Our two-fold prayer today is the FCFI can become established there (farming is a major part of New Zealand's economy) and that Dennis can have his computer repaired so that no information is lost or compromised and that there are no negative financial consequences to this invasion of his privacy.
- 07 - "Command those who are rich ... not to be arrogant nor put their hope in wealth ... but put their hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment"; 1 Timothy 6:17. Did I read that right? God provides us everything for our enjoyment? I thought God was the God of rules and regulations. Bright Morning Star, many of us "Christians" have a distorted view of who you are. Yes, you are a "fun" God always anxious to bless your people. Help us to be your ambassadors for a faith and relationship that is truly enjoyable.

- 08 - There is an organization called Answers in Genesis which is the sponsor of the Creation Museum located just outside Cincinnati, Ohio. Their contention is that if we don't accept and believe Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth", then the rest of the Bible is also on shaky ground. While evolutionists labor hard and long to justify their beliefs, they are the ones who are on shaky ground. Alpha and Omega, many in our culture believe the case is closed and evolution is the answer to our origin. Our prayer today is, "How can we, your church, combat this conclusion which leaves you, Creator and Sustainer, completely 'out of the picture'?"
- 09 - Daylight Savings Time begins. We must all set our time pieces ahead one hour so that we then have another hour of light in the evening. Light of the World, we fiddle with our clocks and watches, but you are the source of our light. Thank you for being our source, not just for light but for every good thing. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Heavenly Lights ..." James 1:17.
- 10 - "Remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth", Deuteronomy 8:18. In fact, the Lord, your God, gives you the ability to do anything. We humans are often prideful, dazzled by our brilliance and patting ourselves on the back when it is our God who should get all the credit. Master, we are a proud and selfish people. Forgive us our arrogance and turn our gratitude toward you, our Provider and Sustainer.
- 11 - "He who gives to the poor will lack nothing ..." Proverbs 28:27. When I read a verse like this, I want to ask questions like, "How much should I give and how do I determine who is poor and which poor person should I give to?" Jesus, why can't I take you and your Word at face value? Why do I doubt or question? "Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light on my path", Psalm 119:105. Help me to see that this is all the guidance I need.
- 12 - "The heart of the wise inclines to the right but the heart of the fool to the left", Ecclesiastes 10:2. Was Solomon thinking about 21st Century America when he wrote this? As a radical right-winger myself, I like to think so but I'd like your input on this verse. Teacher, we all tend to have our own narrow minded view of things. Help us to open our minds and hearts to hear from one another, especially from you.

- 13 - "The more the words, the less the meaning", Ecclesiastes 6:11. The Gettysburg Address was forty -seven (plus or minus) words; the Affordable Care Act (Obama Care) was 2500 pages. Guess which one has or will have more historical impact. In today's world with all sorts of instant communication words are flying around at an unprecedented rate. But, they seem to have limited value. Author of Our Faith, your Word contains a few thousand words. Let your Word suffice for all the guidance we need.
- 14 - "Whoever loves money never has enough money", Ecclesiastes 5:10. How true this is as people seek after more houses, more cars, more exotic vacations, more clothes, more jewelry, more things. The more we have, the more we want. How sad. How destructive. My prayer, Lord, is not to have more things but more of you.
- 15 - Guess what! FCFI is going to the Lake Hernando Dragon Boat Festival today in Lake Hernando, Florida. No, we are not entering the Dragon Boat Race but we are going to share Jesus with all who stop at the "Walking Stick" booth to listen. Door to Heaven, we pray today for the success of the FCFI witness team. May at least twenty people pray to receive you as their Lord and Savior.
- 16 - "If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed", Mark 5:28. This is what the woman who had been bleeding for twelve years said to herself. The essence of the story, I believe, is that she put her faith into action. Jesus, I, too, want to put my faith into action. Please show me how, when, and where to do it. I, also, want to be a person of action.
- 17 - Today is St. Patrick's Day, a day when nearly everything in the U.S. and around the world turns green. (It is a really special day to my wife because her grandmother emigrated to the U.S. from Ireland and we have visited the village she came from). St. Patrick though born in Scotland or Wales, brought Christianity to Ireland. He used the three leaf Shamrock to illustrate the Triune God - Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Anchor of Our Faith, we pray that you will use each of us to bring Christ to the town, district, community, or area in which we live much like St. Patrick did in his time.

- 18 - "... whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours", Mark 11:24. I think that often when we pray, we really doubt that anything will come out of it or we pray a "canned" prayer because it is a good thing to do. Savior, I have many doubts and I am guilty of saying prayers that I don't really believe will accomplish much. "I do believe, help me to overcome my unbelief"; Mark 9:24.
- 19 - "Through them (his great and precious promises) you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world ..." 2 Peter 1:4. You may wish to turn to 2 Peter 1 and read this section several times to grasp what he is saying here. We are living far below what God has planned and ordained for us. Lord Jesus, open my mind to begin to comprehend what Peter is telling us here. I want to participate in your "divine nature" not just for me but for my family, my church, my community, and my world.
- 20 - Yay! Spring begins today! At least that is what the calendar tells us. Today is the day when daylight and darkness are about equal in length and the earth begins to warm quickly (in the Northern Hemisphere). Creator God, I am continually awestruck by the precision and accuracy of your creation. Thank you for the magnitude of your creation and for your attention to every detail. You are an awesome God.
- 21 - Galatians 6:7 states, "For whatever a man sows, that shall he reap". Every farmer should instinctively know this since when corn is planted, corn is what a farmer gets, wheat when wheat is planted, watermelons when watermelon seeds are planted. My prayer today is that each one of us can and will plant faith, trust, integrity, love, justice, and productivity, not discord, prejudice, sloth, hate, or selfish ambition.
- 22 - "He that walks with wise men shall be wise but a companion of fools will be destroyed", Proverbs 13:20. I believe that this is a warning to pick your friends carefully. I think it is noteworthy that he uses the term "walk with wise men". Both goodness and foolishness can "rub off" on us just by being around others. Jesus, help me to carefully choose "who I hang around with" and use me to impart wisdom, not foolishness, to those who "hang around" with me.
- 23 - "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name ..." Matthew 6:9. We strive to be good Christians, serving others, supporting our church

and missions, and reaching out to those less fortunate than ourselves. But, we often forget this beginning to the "Lord's Prayer". Let us take a moment right now to praise God, our creator, sustainer, provider, and the one who has given us grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

- 24 - "... do not worry about ... what you will eat or drink ... about ... what you will wear", Matthew 6:25. I am guessing that during these cold winter days some were worrying about having warm clothes or keeping the house warm (and paying the heating bill). But, Jesus goes on to say, "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?" Matthew 6:27. Counselor, when are we going to learn that you have things under control and that we can put our faith and trust in you (and stop worrying)?
- 25 - "The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil", 1 Timothy 6:10. Notice it is not money but the "love of money" and the things it can buy that is "the root of all kinds of evil". I think that the love of money (greed) is an extension of the sin of pride. Some might call it the "me" complex. Father, I believe that we all struggle with pride, of putting ourselves above everyone else, including you. Forgive us our selfish and self-centered ways and lead us to always put you and others first in our lives.
- 26 - "Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man", Matthew 8:3. The man He touched had leprosy, someone who no one was willing to touch. Jesus was more concerned with the health of that man than He was for His own health and safety. That can be a lesson for you and me. Savior, you challenge all of us to reach out to others, to touch, to hug, to call, visit, or write to. Use us, Jesus, as an extension of you to heal, to restore, to encourage, and to enable.
- 27 - "Through the Lord's mercies, we are not consumed because His compassion never fails", James 3:22. In other words, our Lord never runs out of compassion. The best illustration of that is Jesus sitting at the Right Hand of God interceding for us day and night and offering us blanket forgiveness for our sins. Thank you, Most High God, for your constant and everlasting compassion. You never let us out of your sight or your reach.
- 28 - Seratoma Youth Ranch in Brooksville, Florida will host the Blue Grass

Festival starting today and continuing through Sunday. I suspect that the sounds and rhythm of "Blue Grass" will fill the air at this music celebration. We pray that many people will also celebrate a new or renewed relationship with Jesus Christ when they hear the lifesaving message of forgiveness and salvation from our FCFI "missionaries".

- 29 - "There was a written notice above Him which read, 'This is the King of the Jews'", Luke 23:38. This was the sign above Jesus as He hung on the cross. It was supposed to mock Him because His persecutors believed that this was the end of the Jews as a nation. How right was the sign and how wrong were His mockers? Jesus, ever since the cross, people have been trying to mock and to trivialize you. Yet, you remain undaunted. Thank you for taking this punishment and the mocking so that we, Jews and Gentiles alike, have the opportunity to receive eternal life.
- 30 - "As newborn babes, desire the milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby", 1 Peter 2:2. Is your spiritual growth stunted? Peter offers a solution to that problem. Get into God's Word and it will get into you. Author of Our Faith, we all have "valleys" where our faith is weak and our doubts are many. Use your Word to get us turned around so that we can look up to your guidance and inspiration.
- 31 - There is an old saying that, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb". My prayer for today is that the March lamb shows up after a long, cold, and snowy winter. Lamb of God, thank you for the eternal promise of spring with green grass, flowers, birds, and the newness of life. You are an awesome God!!

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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