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PRAYER GUIDE - April 2014

- 01 - Today is called "April Fool's Day." It reminds me of Psalm 53:1 which states, "The fool says in his heart "There is no God". What a tragedy. Good Shepherd, make us instruments of your will so that we can minister to the "fools" around us.

- 02 - We write the Prayer Guide for April 2014 in mid-February as we will be away from home for the next month. A main attraction for us will be our two softball playing granddaughters (one from Hope College in Michigan, one from SUNY at Geneseo in New York) participating in a college softball tournament in Claremont, Florida. Bread of Life, we give you praise and thanksgiving for the families you have blessed us with. Bless each one, protect them, help them to thrive, draw them into your kingdom and find suitable mates for those unmarried.

- 03 - Many in our families are in school now and struggling to keep up with school work and to avoid the many temptations there. Holy One, send angels or other believers to encourage and support our young people and use this time in their lives to bring them closer to you.

- 04 - In his book A Brief History of Time Steven Hawkins promises that science will eventually give us "a complete understanding of ... existence". Someone should tell Mr. Hawkins that the greatest scientist of all time has already "given us a complete understanding of existence" in a book called the Bible. Let's pray for Hawkins and many others who defiantly ignore our Creator and His written Word the Bible. Open their eyes to see and heart to receive your Word, Teacher, and to embrace you as their Lord and Savior.
- 05 - While many farmers are prospering, others still struggle because of high input costs, increased rents, poor health, advancing age, weather difficulties, and other road blocks to prosperity. True Vine, we pray today especially for those facing financial difficulties. Pour your peace into those families, provide for their needs, and fill their hearts with gratitude for the things they do have.
- 06 - I don't have specific prayer requests to pass along at this time but that should not stop us from praying today for folks in our own communities and those who are facing health issues, financial problems, relationship challenges and needs for understanding and wisdom. All Knowing Father, you know better than we do who needs your special care. Heal, restore, strengthen, and guide those who come before you with their concerns.
- 07 - For five years the US has been at war, longer than our Civil War or our involvement in World War II. Light of the World, we pray for our troops who bravely carry on so that we and many others may have freedom. We also pray for our leaders, those who make the decisions for us as a nation. Lead and guide them in all that they do.
- 08 - In our little community, we have had several deaths recently. Accident, illness, and "old age" are some of the causes. Living Water, comfort those who have experienced loss, rejoice with those whose loved ones are now safely home with you, and remind each one of us that we are all "fatally flawed" and need our Savior Jesus Christ. Let us remember to tell others about our special Savior.

- 09 - "for better for worse, for richer for poorer, till death do us part". Ever hear those words? Most of us who are married have said them. But, it seems as if they don't mean much anymore. Prince of Peace, marriage in general, and many of our marriages in particular, are in trouble. Come renew and restore our marriages so that we, particularly the church, can be the salt and light you have called us to be.
- 10 - The Message Bible translates Psalm 34:9 as follows: "Worship God if you want the best; worship opens doors to all His goodness". Wow! I certainly want the best; I want open doors to all goodness. Thank you King of Kings for your manifold blessings --- for life, for vision, for provision, for family and friends, for my church, for the sun, for air to breathe, for food, clothing, and shelter, for all the intangibles, and, especially for a Savior who paid for my sins long before I was even born.
- 11 - "So the sisters (Mary and Martha) sent word to Jesus, "Lord the one you love (Lazarus) is sick", John 11:3. Do you have a need or a problem? Do not hesitate to ask. Have faith like Mary and Martha. Take your requests to the one who can help.
- 12 - "--- many even among the leaders believed in Him (Jesus). But --- they would not confess their faith --- for they loved praise from men more than praise from God", John 12: 42, 43. Teacher, don't let that happen to me. I seek praise from God, not men, and I want to keep it that way.
- 13 - "At once they (Peter and Andrew) left their nets and followed Him", Mark 1:18. When Jesus calls are we ready to act --- immediately? Chief Cornerstone, help me to be ready regardless of circumstances to answer your call now, not tomorrow or soon or when I am ready.
- 14 - Today our Jewish friends celebrate the beginning of Passover when the "Angel of Death" passed over the Jewish homes where lamb's blood had been put on the doorposts while they were still slaves in Egypt. Jesus, too, celebrated Passover in what we Christians

often call "The Last Supper". "This is my body given for you ..." Luke 22:19. "This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for you", Luke 22:20. Thank you, Jesus, for this new covenant.

- 15 - "I tell you the truth, whatsoever, you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me", Matthew 25:45. Have you ever passed up an opportunity to help someone out? I know I have. Jesus, open my eyes to see opportunities to help others (and you) and forgive me for the many times I've failed in the past. Thank you for new opportunities.
- 16 - "When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd", Mark 5:27. Have you heard about Jesus? Is the crowd keeping you from reaching out to him? Author and Finisher of Our Faith, I have heard of you. I, too, am unclean. Allow me to reach out and touch you; receive your healing strength and power. Thank you, Jesus.
- 17 - "I can do everything God asks me to do with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power", Philippians 4:13. I love Paul's "can do" attitude. But, I am afraid I am not there yet. How about you? Master, I am glad that you are not done with me yet. I want to be like Paul and you. Do with me what needs to be done.
- 18 - "This one thing I do", Philippians 3:13. St. Paul wasn't a multi-talented person. He did one thing; he preached the gospel. How about you? Or me? Rose of Sharon, we need your help to focus on the one or two things you've called us to do and to step aside so that others, with different callings, can do their thing to.
- 19 - The New Century Version of the Bible quotes 2 John 6, "Live a life of love". Yes, but, you don't know my sister-in-law or the boss' secretary, or the IRS auditor or ---. Maybe not, but God does. Wonderful Counselor, open my eyes to see others as Jesus sees them and loves them. They, too, are "whosoever's".
- 20 - "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us", Daniel 3:17. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were pretty confident, weren't

they? Lion of Judah, I'm not sure I have that kind of confidence. May I have "a measure of faith" to get me through all the trials that come my way from now on.

- 21 - "I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last", John 15:16. Are you kidding, Master? Well, okay. What is my assignment? Yes, I want to be a fruit bearer.
- 22 - "All over the world, the gospel is bearing fruit", Colossians 1:16. Bright Morning Star, you have given us our directions. Preach the gospel, share the gospel, live the gospel; it will bear fruit.
- 23 - "For we wanted to come to you --- but Satan stopped us", Thessalonians 2:18. Old Mr. Roadblock himself always wants to get into the act. But, Head of the church, you are greater. Grant us the patience and willingness to stand firm in our faith and purpose. Together, we will overcome.
- 24 - "The man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob but Israel---", Genesis 32:38. Have you ever wondered what God's name for us is? Here are a few examples. You are "the head not the tail", Deuteronomy 28:3; "part of a chosen generation", 1 Peter 2:9; "more than a conqueror", Romans 8:37; "part of a royal priesthood", 1 Peter 2:29; "a peculiar treasure", Exodus 19:5; "the citizen of a holy nation", Exodus 19:6. Thank you, Lord.
- 25 - "Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you", Luke 6:28. Do you mean, Prince of Peace, that I should pray for the terrorists whose aim it is to destroy the US? Yes, I believe you do. Father in Heaven, reach down with your hand of blessing and touch the Islam fascists who wish to destroy us. Tear out their heart of hate and replace it with a tender heart of love and compassion.
- 26 - "--- if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in Heaven may forgive you your sins", Mark 11:25. Father in Heaven, who do I need to forgive, my parents, my siblings, my mate, my children, my neighbor, my employer? My eyes are blinded to my need to forgive. Show me your way.

- 27 - "Enlarge the place of your tent --- do not hold back; lengthen your cords; strengthen your stakes", Isaiah 54:2. Are you in a rut? Is your life dull? God says, "Get out of Dodge". Holy One, help us shake off the dust of complacency; show us your "new" plan for us; push us to a new plateau; sharpen our dull wits and skills.
- 28 - "--- if it is a boy, kill him, but if it is a girl, let her live", Exodus 1:16. Those were the instructions Pharaoh gave to the Hebrew midwives when they helped women give birth to their children. Satan has been attacking men since day one. Father in Heaven, we pray today for boys that they grow up to be the leaders we need in our homes, schools, businesses, and government.
- 29 - "The Lord --- granted him (Joseph) favor in the eyes of the prison warden", Genesis 39:21. King of Kings, grant me favor today as I go about my daily affairs. I seek to serve you and I need your favor in all I do and say.
- 30 - "--- it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only", Matthew 4:10. Author and Finisher of Our Faith, forgive us where we have fallen short of this command and fortify us to worship and serve a Risen Savior with all we have.

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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