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## PRAYER GUIDE - December 2014

- 01 - *"But now a righteousness from God ... comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"* Romans 3:21,22. I believe Paul is emphasizing here that we are all sinners, Jews and Greeks, men and women, slave and free, rich and poor and that our righteousness (our salvation) must come through Jesus. We have no other options. Savior, I am a sinner. You are my only hope. I receive you as my Lord and Savior. Amen.
- 02 - We have several prayer requests. Keith recently had a heart operation, C and G, a married couple, are both having health issues, Dicci is scheduled for an inner ear test, Tina has fallen and broken her arm and injured her back. Lord of Lords, hear our prayer for each of these precious souls and the unspoken prayers of many other hurting people. Restore them to wholeness and bolster their faith as they can continue to sow seeds in your Kingdom.
- 03 - Most likely all of us have family members or close friends who have either strayed from their faith or who have never been presented with the gift of forgiveness through Jesus Christ. James 1:1 tells us *"consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials ..."* and there is no greater trial than when a child or grandchild rejects our Lord. But James continues, *"because ... the testing of your faith develops perseverance."* Light of the World, we all need perseverance. We accept the trials that strengthen and nurture our faith.

- 04 - It takes many people filling many roles to make a church function properly. Besides pastors and office workers, it takes teachers, worship teams, greeters, childcare workers, cooks, maintenance folks, technicians, financial supporters, and prayer warriors. I am sure I missed some. 1 Corinthians 15:58 says, *"Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor is not in vain."* Head of the Church, we pray that you provide all the workers we need and that you provide all the needs of the workers.
- 05 - The old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me" is fundamentally untrue. In fact, it could almost be the opposite. We all know that some "words" can be devastating unless we have "The Word" in our hearts. John 1:1 says, *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* Word of God, help us to use our words to build up, to encourage, to support, to defend, to magnify, to care, and to reinforce rather than to tear down, discourage, and to hurt others.
- 06 - It looks like we, the U.S., are becoming involved in yet another "war." This war or series of wars in the Middle East seems to have a life of its own and will last as long as radical Muslims (I personally believe that all Muslims are radical) "have a man standing." Yet, our Bible tells us, *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms,"* Ephesians 6:12. Prince of Peace, you have the solution. We need to stand firm wearing the armor of God and "keep on praying for all the saints," Ephesians 6:18b.
- 07 - I was just a little boy on December 7, 1941 when Japan attacked the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. I didn't understand the significance of that attack then but it plunged the U.S. into war with Japan and Germany, a war we tried to avoid. It seems that war is the constant companion of fallen man. We don't have what we think we want or need so we fight to get it. The 10th commandment says, "you shall not covet your neighbor's house, your neighbor's wife, his man servants or his maid servants, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." Advocate, help us to live out that commandment both nationally and individually.
- 08 - The recent election resulted in many new faces in our local, state, and national governments. Time will tell whether there are improvements made in the ways we are governed. Yet, whether we like the new

leaders or not, we need to pray for them. Chief Cornerstone, help our elected and appointed representatives to seek not just what is good for them but what is good for those they represent. May they seek your wisdom as they carry out their appointed duties and submit to your guidance.

- 09 - *"Jesus said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation,'"* Matthew 16:15. Are we going and preaching? Some of us can't go physically but we can support those who do. And, all of us can "preach" where we are planted and we can all pray. So let us do just that. Messiah, you came to save all of us. But, many have not heard about your saving grace and some may have heard but need to hear it again. We lift up to you all the brave and dedicated men and women who are "going in to all the world." Keep them strong and healthy, provide for their needs, and encourage them to "keep on preaching" until all have heard your "Good News."
- 10 - Several of our government divisions are racked with scandal and seemingly "thumbing their noses" at those who want to make corrections and remove those who are violating both man's and God's laws. Author of Our Faith, we pray that godly men and women will take charge of these government entities, will root out the corruption, cronyism, and dishonesty, and restore responsible government to our nation. *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,"* Psalm 33:2.
- 11 - *"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him,"* James 1:12. The one thing I learned through a recent study of the Book of James is that you cannot have victory if you don't have an opponent, a trial, or a challenge to overcome or defeat. Lion of Judah, it seems like my life has been one trial after another. How am I doing? Am I persevering? Help me to persevere under the trials that I am going through now and the ones that I will face "down the road."
- 12 - *"In everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus,"* Philippians 4:6,7. Praise God! The King of the Universe is anxiously seeking our requests and petitions and He wants to answer them. Thank you, Holy One, for hearing and responding to all of our prayers.

- 13 - Mark 16:18b says "... they will place their hands on sick people and they will get well." Who are "they"? Jesus is speaking to His disciples. He says (vs. 17), "those who believe." That is you and me. Have you laid hands on anyone lately? Master, give us the faith and the courage to "lay our hands on the sick" and believe in their healing. "Here I am, Lord, send me!" Isaiah 6:8.
- 14 - *"They continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine,"* Acts 2:42. The writer of the Book of Acts is telling us how the early church was steadfast (unwavering) in gathering to worship, pray, learn more about one another, and he is reminding you and me also that "church" is more than "something to do on Sunday morning." Image of the Invisible God, create in us a burning desire to gather with like minded folk to draw closer to you and to each other.
- 15 - *"Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests ...,"* Ephesians 6:18. We can pick up our cell phone and call some one in Oregon, Belize, or Chicken, Alaska (or almost anywhere else on earth) and talk with them as if we were in the same room. Have you ever thought about how many messages are floating around in space yet we are able to connect with just the right one? Prayer is like that. No matter where we are, we can still connect with God. Thank you, Beloved, for the miracle of prayer. We are privileged to be able to talk with you any time and anywhere (and with no monthly bill).
- 16 - *"I will heal their backsliding,"* Hosea 14:4. Israel, God's chosen people, had fallen away from God and indulged in all kinds of sinful practices. Yet, God extended the "olive branch" of forgiveness and restoration. He does the same for you and me. Shepherd of Our Souls, we all "backslide" from time to time. Thank you for your offer of forgiveness and for supplying us with the "backbone" to turn from our wicked ways.
- 17 - *"(Jesus) appointed twelve that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,"* Mark 3:14. What a great teacher Jesus was and yet He called just twelve to be His disciples and what a great lesson that is for us. Each of us can disciple a few and that few can become many. Teacher, teach me so that I can be a teacher to someone else. Here I am, use me!
- 18 - *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death 'till He comes,"* 1 Corinthians 11:26. I still struggle with "communion." I want Jesus to be a part of me and I need to be

reminded that He went to the cross for me. But, the symbolism of communion is tough to take. Messiah, I still have a long way to go to understand and live as you would have me do. Thank you for your patience and your bottomless gift of forgiveness.

- 19 - *"Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest,"* Matthew 11:28. Is your "to do" list endless? Do you go to bed thinking of ten things you have left unfinished? God wants to talk to you (and to me, too). You cannot earn your way to heaven for you cannot earn God's love. That is why God tells us to "come unto me and I will give you rest." Redeemer, I need your rest. I often am busy being busy. Thank you for your offer of rest. I accept.
- 20 - Have you finished your Christmas shopping? Have you spent more money than you planned to spend? Have you lost the Christmas spirit trying to live the Christmas spirit? St Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:7, *"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver."* One of my "proverbs" is "God loves a cheerful giver; He also loves a grouch." But, He is much more pleased with those of us who give because we want to bless others not because it is Christmas and we think we have to. Alpha and Omega, restore in us the spirit and the joy of the Christmas season all year long.
- 21 - Today is the first day of winter (according to the calendar) and it is also the shortest day (hours of daylight) of the year. Isn't it "just like God" to begin winter by giving us a glimpse of spring at the same time by gradually lengthening our daylight hours? God, you are an awesome God. Many of your gifts are so subtle that we don't even notice them. Thank you for your unending thoughtfulness.
- 22 - *"Let the mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus who made Himself of no reputation taking the form of a bond servant,"* Philippians 2:5-7. Do you have the mind of a bondservant? Me, neither! But that is what Paul suggests to the Philippians and to us also. Paul also tells us *"Therefore God exalted Him (Jesus) that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow ... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,"* Philippians 2:9-11. May our tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God.
- 23 - *"Fear not for I am with you. Be not dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand,"* Isaiah 41:10. It might be more difficult for "lefty's" to accept that

God is right-handed but accept the symbolism that will strengthen you, help you, and uphold you with His awesome, unlimited, and righteous power. Thank you, I Am, for making all you have and all you are available to us.

- 24 - *"So Joseph ... went up from ... Nazareth ... to Bethlehem, the Town of David ... He went there to register with Mary ... who was expecting a child,"* Luke 2:4,5. Joseph and Mary headed to Bethlehem to "register" (and to fulfill prophesy found in Micah 5:2). It is amazing how God orchestrates events to fulfill prophecy. He not only did it for Jesus but He does it for you and me as well. Praise you, Heavenly Father, for shaping the events that led to our salvation. Use us to be part of the "events" that lead to salvation for others.
- 25 - Merry Christmas! It may not be politically correct but it is certainly spiritually correct to wish each other "Merry Christmas." *"Today in the Town of David (Bethlehem) a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord,"* Luke 2:11. Yes, it is indeed a Merry Christmas, Emmanuel. You chose to come down from heaven to clean up the mess we humans have made for ourselves. Thank you for your ultimate and perfect sacrifice so that we could spend eternity with You.
- 26 - Do you have some "gifts" to exchange, some leftovers from Christmas dinner to take care of, some other chores that need your attention? Relax. Enjoy family, Bask in the glow of the love of family and friends. Jesus wasn't in a hurry. He was thirty years old when He began his ministry. Psalm 27:14 says, *"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart; and wait for the Lord."* Jesus, we wait for your direction and counsel.
- 27 - A friend of ours, Scott, has been diagnosed with stage 3 lymphoma. Another friend, Norm, is diabetic and losing his vision. Would you pray with us for these two men. They both love the Lord and know in their hearts that He is in complete control. But they are scared as you and I would also be in such circumstances. Yet, Deuteronomy 31:8 tells us, "do not fear or be dismayed." Savior, we pray for these two men and we also pray that we see the needs of others around us.
- 28 - Proverbs 14:12 says, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."* How many of us were sure we knew the way to such and such a place only to discover that we were lost? That is a simple illustration of the truth of this verse. Author of Our Faith, when will we learn to put our trust in you, put our whole trust in you? You are the only "GPS" that never is in error. Come, be our guide.

- 29 - *"From that time on many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more,"* John 6:66. Jesus was popular when He fed 5,000 plus people but, when he asked for a commitment, many went away. When that happened, He asked His disciples, "Do you also want to go away (vs. 6:67)?" Peter's answer, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life," (vs. 6:8). Lord, that is my answer, too. You have only have the words of eternal life. Thank you.
- 30 - *"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repent,"* Mark2:17. I love this verse because it reminds me that Jesus came for me. It reminds me, too, that I should always look for and be available for those who need prayer or assistance, Redeemer, you called us to live out our Christian walk by reaching out to others. Here I am. Send me.
- 31 - *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness,"* Lamentations 3:22,23. Today marks the last day of the year of our Lord 2014. I suspect we all have had some victories and some defeats this year. But, fortunately, just because the calendar says 2014 is caput does not mean our Lord is taking a vacation. His mercies never come to an end. Thank you, Master. Your mercies never end nor does our need for them.

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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@fcfi.org) at the FCFI office.

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**FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN FARMERS**  
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*Sowing, Saving, Reaping for Christ Around the World*

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