



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN FARMERS
INTERNATIONAL

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Sowing, Saving, Reaping for Christ Around the World

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PRAYER GUIDE - January 2015

Editor's note: The November Prayer Guide wrongly stated "the urgent should always take precedence over the important." What I should have written was "don't let the urgent crowd out the important." Forgive me for that gross error. We, at Phillips' Family Farm Inc., want to thank everyone for your prayers and support following our barn collapse after the record-breaking snow fall in late November. We want to especially thank Hank, John, Bill, Corky, Tom, Cathy, Mark and C.P. for their hands-on assistance in getting the farm back in working order and twenty-eight unnamed Canadians (volunteers from Mennonite Disaster Relief) and many others who shoveled off roofs right after the storm to prevent further damage.

- 01 - Happy New Year! I think it is appropriate to take time to thank our Lord for the guidance and provision throughout 2014 and also to seek His wisdom for 2015. Psalm 127:1 says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain" which holds true today as always. Also, a Rick Warren quote, "Pray before you pay." Hold us to those words, Precious Lord.

- 02 - Here are our recent prayer requests but, first let us thank our Lord for many answered prayers and for His guidance and provision. Let us pray for Craig's granddaughter who has Lyme disease and for our pastors and other church leaders that the extra burden of the holiday season doesn't dampen their Christmas joy or that of their families. Others needing prayer are Laura who remains in the hospital, Lou Ann who has neuromuscular disease and a brain aneurism, Dolly

who has just a few days to live, Ann with cancer, and Linda who just had two strokes. Precious Lord, hear our prayers for each one of these situations.

- 03 - *"There is none upon earth that I desire besides you,"* Psalm 73:25. The Bible often uses the metaphor of spiritual thirst as in Psalm 42:2, "My soul thirsts for God, for the Living God." John 4:14 tells us ... the water I (Jesus) give them will become in them a 'spring of water welling up to eternal life.' Living Water, we desire your water that quenches our spiritual thirst and leads to eternal life.
- 04 - I suspect that we all have "blind spots" in our lives where we fail to see potential problems lurking in our surroundings. The one way to avoid those "blind spots" is to follow Moses' admonition in Deuteronomy 6:6 where he says, *"These words (ten commandments) which I command you today shall be in your heart."* Teacher, instill in me the desire to know your Word so that I can avoid all the "blind spots" that could result in failure.
- 05 - *"I am the light of the world,"* John 8:12. How could a supposedly illegitimate man living in a small town in a tiny country with no known formal education and no "connections" before emails, internet, radio, TV, or printing press become the "light of the world"? Many people rightly say "it is a 'God thing'" and today we study the Word and His words lead us to everlasting life. Yes, Light of the World, it is a 'God thing' and we praise you for allowing us to be a part of your world.
- 06 - *"The Lord is slow to anger and great in power ... The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble,"* Nahum 1:3,7. When you think of the Almighty, Omnipotent God who created and rules over everything, do you think what He could do to us and with us "but He loves us instead"? Great and Mighty God, thank you that you are also a loving, forgiving, merciful God who desires to dialog with us. You are an awesome God.
- 07 - *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church,"* Ephesians 5:25. Why did Paul think he had to include that in his letter to the Ephesians? I suppose it was because Ephesian men weren't loving

- 28 - *"There are diversities of gifts but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries but the same Lord,"* 1 Corinthians 12:4, 5. That is painfully obvious to me because though I admire musical talent I have no musical talent myself. Creator, teach us to encourage and enjoy the gifts others have rather than be jealous or try to emulate them. Reveal and hone the gifts we have so that we can be a blessing to others.
- 29 - *"Adam said, 'This is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh,'"* Genesis 2:23. This was the first "marriage" and like every marriage since then it was not perfect. But God did not stop making miracles after the first marriage. It is His miracle that sustains each marriage today. Thank you, Emmanuel, for designing marriage in the first place and for placing a blessing on every marriage since then.
- 30 - *"Evil men and imposters will grow worse, deceiving and being deceived,"* 2 Timothy 3:13. This verse seems to be being fulfilled in today's culture. Good is called bad and bad is considered to be good. It is even hard to tell the deceived from the deceiving, But Counselor, help us to avoid the deception that is happening around us and let us be a light in this dark world living lives that are faithful and true to you.
- 31 - *"Vengeance is mine. I will repay says the Lord,"* Romans 12:19. Boy, it sure is hard to not retaliate when we are wronged, especially when the common comment is 'Don't get mad, get even'. Yet, we must adhere to this challenge as children of the Kings of Kings. We are an unruly bunch often seeking "an eye for an eye." Lord, teach us to rely on you to do the 'repaying'. You are so much wiser than we are.

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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is an awesome responsibility because when leaders go astray so will many who follow. Our church leaders must attain to a higher standard as well. Head of the Church, you set the standard we must follow. Imbue all our leaders with your leadership qualities so that no one will follow the wrong path.

- 24 - *"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain,"* Philippians 12:1. We have lost two very dear friends the last few months. While it is painful to lose loved ones, it is comforting to know that they were confident of their eternal home. As we get older, the reality that "no one gets out alive" becomes more obvious. Yet, we thank you, Lord Jesus, that "to live is Christ but to die is gain."
- 25 - *"Go over this Jordan, you and all this people to the land that I am giving to them,"* Joshua 1:2. Joshua's first thought was probably, "How are we going to get across this raging river?" Then he may have thought, "It would be a lot easier if we could leave behind the lazy, the complainers, and the 'holier than thou.'" But, God said all the people. Jesus, you are in the people business. You love all the people. Help us to be like you.
- 26 - *"Do not marvel that I (Jesus) said to you, 'You must be born again,'"* John 3:7. Nicodemus did "marvel" at Jesus' statement. Today "born again" is so common and often misused in the U.S., we hardly ever think about it. But, Jesus was dead serious when He said it and it is as true today as it was 2000 years ago. Savior, help me to not apologize for using that term. Those are your words and we are overjoyed to proclaim that we are "born again."
- 27 - *"All things work together for good ... to those called according to His purpose,"* Romans 8:28. Does that mean that accidents, illnesses, misfortunes are good? No! It says all things work together for good. Many of us can look back at 'catastrophes' that made us better people or enhanced our business or gave us wisdom to face other trials. King of Kings, we tend to look on the bad side of things. With your help we can change our perspective and see you working to make us grow in our faith.

their wives and because we men today often neglect our wives because we think we have more important things to do. Master, you gave us the very special lady to be our wife. Show us how we can do a better job of "loving our wife."

- 08 - *"To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend,"* Job 6:14. When our barn roof collapsed under the heavy snow load, friends we didn't know responded to the need. What an expression of Christian love that was and that is an example of how we should be at all times. Emmanuel, there are those around us who are "afflicted" that we don't see. Open our eyes to those needs so that we can be the friend that they need.
- 09 - *"It is appointed for men to die once, but after this judgment ..."* Hebrews 9:27. Some wise person once stated that "no one gets out of here alive," but they forgot to add, "no one avoids judgment." However, we who are Christians can confidently say Christ is our judgment and He has paid the price for our sins. Hallelujah! Jesus, thank you!
- 10 - *"Shepherd the flock of God ... by being an example to the flock,"* 1 Peter 5:2, 3. When Peter wrote this he wasn't just talking to the Church leadership, he was talking to all of us. Someone said, "A picture is worth a thousand words" but so much more is a life well-lived. Rabbi, every one of us has an "audience." May they see you in all that we do.
- 11 - *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ,"* 2 Peter 3:18. While everyone who reads this Prayer Guide most likely knows Our Lord and Savior, none of us knows Him completely so we all still have work to do. How do we do it? We do it through prayer, Bible study, and worship. Yes, Jesus, we all "fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Father God, be patient with us. Lead and guide us to a further understanding of who you are and who we are in you.
- 12 - *"Without delay, He (Jesus) called them (James and John) and they left their father ... and followed Him,"* Mark 1:20. They did this so that they could be like Him. We are called to follow Him also so we, too, can be like Him. Messiah, you are the model that we wish to emulate. "Hold our feet to the fire" not just today or this week but every day and every

week. We are in this "for the long haul."

- 13 - *"Then God saw their works, that they turned from their wicked ways and God relented,"* Jonah 3:10. This is what God did after Jonah preached to the City of Nineveh, a haven of followers and idol worship, and they repented of their sins. God, hold open that same door of forgiveness to us today. Creator God, encourage us to repent of our sinful ways and seek your amazing grace and forgiveness.
- 14 - *"Fight the good fight of faith,..."* 1 Timothy 6:12. Accepting Jesus Christ as Savior is the easy part. Allowing Him to be Lord of our lives is hard. Paul tells Timothy to "fight the good fight of faith" and Paul should know for he tells us in Romans 7:15 "What I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do." Teacher, we all are in a spiritual battle. Strengthen our resolve to be more like you and to help others along the way as well.
- 15 - *"If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it"* 1 Corinthians 12:26. Bill Clinton was famous for biting his lower lip and saying, "I feel your pain." That was probably a political play but we should "feel the pain" when brothers and sisters in Christ are battling any calamity. Precious Lord, help us to share and bear the pain with those around us who need our support and encouragement.
- 16 - *"You did not choose me, but I chose you..."* John 15:16. Have you ever wondered why God chose you? I certainly have and I am sure that there are lots of others who would and could be better servants, better workers, and better worshipers. Jesus, thank you for choosing me. With your help I will try to "bear fruit that none will be lost."
- 17 - *"You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,"* Hebrews 12:22. When we pray, whether it be alone or with many, we need to remember that we are joined by many angels. It reminds me of Matthew 18:20, *"For where one or two come together in my name, there am I also."* Savior, it is comforting to know that we are never alone, that you and the Heavenly Host are "at the ready when and wherever we might be.
- 18 - *"Distinguish between holy and unholy, between clean and unclean,"*

Leviticus 10:10. How do we distinguish between holy and unholy, between clean and unclean? The best place to start is our Bible. It not only tells us about God, it tells us about how God wants us to live. Master, thank you for your message to us, our Holy Bible, and thank you for all the people who lived it, wrote it, preserved it, translated it, and tried to live by it.

- 19 - Today is Martin Luther King Day, an official U.S. holiday honoring Dr. King. He was shot and killed while seeking equal rights for all people. Dr. King emphasized serving one another, a theme the Bible also emphasizes. *"And He sat down and called the twelve and He (Jesus) said to them, 'If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.'"* Jesus lead me to a life of service.
- 20 - *"Both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all of one, for which reason he is not ashamed to call them brethren,"* Hebrews 2:11. That sentence is a difficult one to assimilate. Let us just say saved and savior are one so we can all be called brothers and sisters. Savior, I had not thought of you as a "brother" before but because of your sacrifice, we are fully adopted into God the Father's family. So, thank you, Brother, for your powerful redeeming work on our behalf.
- 21 - *"Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap,"* Galatians 6:7. It only makes sense that a corn seed results in corn and an acorn brings forth an oak tree. But, by God's design, sowing physical and spiritual things results in reaping what we sow as well. Creator God, you created a unique universe where like begets like. May we join you in sowing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, Galatians 5:22,23.
- 22 - *"Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow,"* Psalm 51:7. King David had sunk to the depths of sin; seduction, adultery, lying, and murder. But, when confronted, he confessed his sin, and was renewed (Psalm 57). We, too, have the same option. Jesus, I have sinned and seek your forgiveness. Cleanse me and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 23 - *"A Bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God,"* Titus 1:7. Leadership