



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN FARMERS
INTERNATIONAL

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Serving, Saving, Reaching for Christ Around the World

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PRAYER GUIDE - March 2015

- 01 - Our three FCFI Area Leaders are all dealing with health issues, Bill Brown (his heart), Gary Berry (cancer) and Walter Powell (vertigo) . Please take time to pray for all these hard working men as they seek healing, restoration, and strength to serve our Savior through FCFI. Restore their health, Lord, renew their strength, enlarge their vision and wisdom, bless their families and provide for their every need, we pray, in Jesus' name.
- 02 - In addition to our Area Leaders, we have several additional requests for prayer. Laurie and Josie battle cancer. Donna and Kathleen seek prayer for their churches (we all should be praying for our churches). Harry is dealing with bladder cancer and Marge has fallen and broken her hip, Ernie is recovering from hip surgery and Bob fell and broke his wrist and sprained his shoulder. Lauren wants to honor God in all she does, as should all of us. Ken has developed a deadly fungus on his face and is currently in the hospital in ICU. Father, the needs of all of these folks have been expressed and there are many other needs for prayer that have not been shared. Hear our prayers, Oh God, even the silent ones. Begin the healing that so many need, Thank you for your marvelous gifts.

- 03 - *"Avoid any kind of evil,"* 1 Thessalonians 5:7. How do we know what evil is? Romans 1:29-31 gives us a pretty complete list of evils. "They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, and depravity, They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful. They invent ways of doing evil, they disobey their parents: they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless and ... they approve of all those who practice them." Raboni, help us avoid all such things.
- 04 - *"Although they know God's righteous decree that whosoever do such things deserve death, they not only ... do these very things but also approve of those who practice them,"* Romans 4:29-31. If I read these verses correctly, it is just as sinful to approve the sin of others as it is to commit the sin itself. I suspect that many in the church would be guilty of the sin of approval. Head of the Church, we stand guilty before you, We seek your forgiveness for our sin, the wisdom to recognize our sins, and the will and determination to stand against sin wherever it occurs.
- 05 - *"I am already being poured out as a drink offering and the time of my departure is at hand,"* 2 Timothy 4:6. My doctor tells me that I have a "fatal disease" --- it is called old age. He can't tell me whether my departure will be in a few days or several years but it is a sure thing. Author and Finisher of Our Faith, regardless of the time I have left, I want to bring glory to your name. Show me the who, what, where, when, and how that you have for me "for such a time as this," Ester 5:14.
- 06 - *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me ..."* Psalm 23:4. When King David said this he had probably read Deuteronomy 31:6 which says, "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear for it is the Lord your God who goes with you, He will not leave you or forsake you." Or, maybe he read Joshua 1:9 which states, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened ... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." True Vine, I, too, have read these verses (and many others with the same theme) and I, too, will "fear no evil for you are with me."
- 07 - *"But at the age of 50, they (Levites) must retire ... and work no more. They may assist their brothers ... ,"* Numbers 8:25,26. Is God telling us that we should retire at 50? No, I don't think so. What He is telling us though is that just because we are retired doesn't mean we can't

mph you will be passed by almost every single car and truck on the road. Even at 70 mph you will pass very few vehicles. Do we fudge God's laws, too? Counselor, point out to me where I compromise your laws, especially when it comes to loving one another.

- 29 - Today is Palm Sunday, the last Sunday in Lent before Easter Sunday. As Jesus approached Jerusalem crowds covered His road with palm branches and clothing to welcome Jesus as their hero. But religious leaders were already plotting to get rid of Him. Do you welcome Jesus as your hero or is He just a "fly in the ointment" of the plans you have made for yourself? Savior, you walked the walk and talked the talk. Now it is our turn. Guide us to make the right decisions.
- 30 - *"I am God and there is none like me,"* Isaiah 46:9. Notice the I Am! And notice, too, that all of us at times "play God" giving orders, solving problems, and making judgments without consulting the source of all wisdom. King of Kings, we are a sorry bunch patting ourselves on the back because of our "clever pronouncements." Forgive us our pompous ways and urge us to our knees to seek and follow you in all we do and say.
- 31 - *"How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the Kingdom of God,"* Mark 10:23. Have you heard the saying "money makes the man"? May I complete the saying by adding "money makes the man think he doesn't need God"? Our God is a jealous God. When we put wealth or the pursuit of wealth at the top of our priority list, we demote God to second (or third) place. Holy One, help us to replace our greed with your creed. 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@fcfi.org) at the FCFI office.

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question we must ask ourselves. Whatever success we may attain, it should be to His credit not ours. Teacher, it is hard for me not to take credit for your work. Forgive us and give us a large dose of humility.

- 24 - *"There shall be no more death nor sorrow . . . no more pain for the former things have passed away,"* Revelation 21:4. No one knows exactly what heaven will be like but this description is a pretty good start. God's original plan for earth was "heavenly" but sin changed things. But, through His death and resurrection, Jesus restored that promise. Thank you, Jesus. We certainly are eternally grateful for what you did for us.
- 25 - *"Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ,"* 1 Corinthians 11:1. Was Paul bragging when he said this? No, I don't believe so. I think he was urging us to live an unselfish life being careful not to misrepresent Jesus or undermine another's faith by our words and actions. Raboni, people are watching me, they know that I am a Christian and may judge you by the way I live. Keep me from doing anything that could ruin your reputation.
- 26 - *"We, being many are one body in Christ and individual members of one another,"* Romans 12:5. Isn't it exciting when we meet another Christian? We know nothing else about them but are immediately drawn to them. That is because we are "individually members of one another." Redeemer, thank you for our many special Christian friends. Because of you, we have the privilege and joy of association with true brothers and sisters.
- 27 - George and Julie Holmes are in Albania once again serving the people of that nation. We support missionaries in Turkey, Zambia, and South Sudan. Our church supports missionaries in Haiti and Australia. You and your church support missionaries in many other places and we have many "missionaries" right here in the U.S. and Canada. Bread of Life, many people are witnessing for you around the world. We pray a hedge of protection around them. We pray that every need is provided for and we pray for a special anointing on them as they give of their own talents and treasures to serve in your name.
- 28 - *"Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law,"* Romans 13:8. The speed limit on the New York State Thruway (US Rt. 90) is 65 miles per hour. If you drive at 65

help others. Head of the Church, what would you have us do? There are plenty of needs out there. Where do we start?

- 08 - *"Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall,"* 1 Corinthians 10:12. Proverbs 12:15 says it a bit differently, "The way of a fool seems right to him but a wise man listens to advice." We all suffer from "wise-it-is" at times but, Teacher, we need always to seek your advice and guidance. We do that right now.
- 09 - *"He is a chosen vessel of mine to bear my name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel"* Acts 9:15. That is what Christ said of the Apostle Paul. I believe Christ is calling you and me to do the same thing. Jesus, I haven't run into many kings lately but, if that is what you want me to do, bring them on. In the meantime help me to bear your name before Gentiles and the children of Israel.
- 10 - *"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,"* Psalm 145:8. Why is this verse in the middle of the Bible? We all instinctively know that. It is there to set an example for us because you and I are not always gracious and filled with compassion. Master, we are so good at judging others and deciding who is and who isn't worthy of our compassion. Help us to change our ways. Help us to see the value of every person who crosses our path.
- 11 - *"Why do you call me Lord, Lord and not do the things which I say?"* Luke 6:46. James asks this simple question and we don't have a very good answer. Jesus we often misuse the term "Lord" because it means dominium and we are a rebellious people. On my own, I cannot truly call you, Lord. Please help me to change that.
- 12 - *"Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest,"* Matthew 11:28. Are you sick and tired of being sick and tired? Jesus stands with open arms beckoning us to come to Him. That is an invitation that no one should turn down. I am coming, Jesus.
- 13 - *"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,"* Romans 1:16. As I share the Good News of Christ's forgiveness using the colored beads on the "walking stick" I realize that very few people know that hell is the default position for all of us if we do not acknowledge Jesus as our Savior. *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved,"* Acts 4:12. So

be it, Gracious Master.

- 14 - *"The Lord took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it,"* Genesis 2:15. We who are farmers and ranchers are stewards of the land we either own or rent. And, that is an awesome responsibility not just because God said so but also because the non-farm public depends on us to produce much of their food. I am by no means a "greenie" or a "tree hugger" but maintaining the productive abilities of our soils is an essential as long as our Lord tarries (and maybe even after). Master, guide us as we till your creation.
- 15 - *"He saved others, let Him save himself if He is the Christ of God, the chosen one,"* Luke 23:35. That is what some mockers said as they watched Jesus as He hung on the cross. Jesus came to save you and me, not himself. That is why He could not save himself. Jesus, thank you for taking the punishment and death I deserve so that I shall have eternal life. You paid the debt that I could never pay.
- 16 - *"When you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,"* Matthew 6:3. We all like compliments, thank you cards, and pats on the back but they should not be our motivation for giving. And, we should never judge the motives of someone else's charitable acts. Our Heavenly Father uses all sorts of ways to bless, provide, encourage, enhance, and supplement those in need including your and my charity. One thing is painfully clear, we cannot out give God. Father, help me to do my best as a giver.
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day is celebrated today by many, some are Irish or descendants of Irishmen and some just like to think they are for one day each year to celebrate St. Patrick. I doubt that he cleared Ireland of snakes (some say there weren't any there to begin with) but he did bring the gift of Jesus Christ to a land that had previously been a spiritual wasteland and that certainly deserves celebrating. Thank you, Prince of Peace, for sending St. Patrick to Ireland. We pray that you will send many like St. Patrick to other "spiritual wastelands" to spread Jesus' forgiveness to many more people.
- 18 - *"And when you pray, do not keep babbling like pagans for they think they will be heard because of their many words,"* Matthew 6:7. *"Do not be like them for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him,"* verse 8. If He knows our needs, why do we need to ask? And, if we are urged not to "babble," why not just ask once and let it go at that? I surely cannot completely answer those questions but I am sure God savors our prayer requests because they demonstrate our faith and love in Him, not some other "god." Jesus, you are our source, you are our healer, and you are all we need.
- 19 - *"Having been set free from sin, you become slaves to righteousness,"* Romans 6:18. When I share the story that goes with the "walking stick" beads, sometimes when I get to the white bead, I tell folks that Jesus is in the laundry business --- He cleans up people. Thank you, Savior, for cleaning me up so that I am "presentable" when I get to the "pearly gates."
- 20 - I like winter except when it is so very cold and so very long like the winter of 2015. So, I welcome today, the first day of spring! Praise God! We wouldn't appreciate spring much if we didn't have to endure winter. Like every other truth, we can't have victory unless we have trial or challenges. Thank you, Creator God, for the privilege of a yearly spring.
- 21 - *"Be hospitable to one another without grumbling,"* 1 Peter 4:9. Which is more important, the hospitality or the grumbling? I suspect that they really don't go together at all. If you are grumbling, you cannot be hospitable. Another verse that parallels this one is "Judge not lest you too, be judged." Jesus, I am often not very hospitable because I am judging someone. May I welcome you into my heart so that I can be hospitable to others as well?
- 22 - *"I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren ...,"* Romans 9:3. Would you give up your salvation if it would mean salvation for a member or members of your family or circle of friends? That is what St. Paul is saying here and it is a tough question to ask. But, I don't think we have to do this. Jesus already went to the cross, taking the death penalty for us all. Jesus, you paid the ultimate price for all of us, but that doesn't mean we should not be willing to sacrifice our time, talents, and/or treasures so that others precious to us can receive your gift of eternal life. Help us to do this when the situation demands it.
- 23 - *"Remember those ... who have spoken the Word of God to you,"* Hebrews 13:7. In today's society we tend to honor and revere those who build great churches or who draw great crowds wherever they go. God has a different standard; did he or she serve in Jesus' name? That is a