



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN FARMERS  
INTERNATIONAL

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*Sowing. Saving. Reaping for Christ Around the World*

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## PRAYER GUIDE - April 2015

- 01 - Happy April Fool's Day. I have decided to designate April 1st as the Atheists' holiday since the Bible says (Psalm 14:1), *"The fool says in his heart, "There is no God".* The Bible also says, *"Since earliest times men have seen ... all God made and have known His existence ..."* Creator, we pray today for those people who claim to be Atheists. May we be the bridge that moves them from unbelief to faith in You.
- 02 - Wow! It has been a cold winter here in the Buffalo area (I am writing this Prayer Guide on 2-23-15). I got to thinking, how long would it take the earth to get cold if the sun were to stop shining altogether? I doubt if mankind would exist for more than a few weeks without the sun's heat and light? To me this underscores our need for the Son as He is the *"light of the world,"* John 8:12. Light of the World, we take so much for granted, not only the sun (which you provide) but the Son, Jesus, who took the punishment and endured the pain of sin in our place. Thank you, Jesus, for your indescribable gift.
- 03 - Today is Good Friday. Why call it good when Jesus succumbed to punishment and sacrifice on that day? Some say it replaces the term Holy Friday. Others say that it is good because all our sins were carried to the cross on that day. Whatever the terminology, it is the

- day that Jesus died on the cross taking with Him the punishment that you and I deserve. Thank you, Jesus. Our finite minds cannot comprehend the cost you paid for us but we are eternally thankful for your priceless gift.
- 04 - Since we won't be home much during the month of March, I am preparing this Prayer Guide in late February and there is no list of timely prayer requests. But, please do not stop praying for those who find themselves in difficult situations. Sickness, injury, personal relationship problems, financial difficulties, and the like don't take a vacation just because we do. Great Physician, you don't take vacations and many around us need your healing hand and/or wise counsel. Reach down from heaven and renew, restore, replenish as only you can do.
- 05 - Easter. *"He is not here; He has risen just as He said He would,"* Matthew 28:6. This is the greatest day in the history of mankind. A mortal, yet sinless man, was beaten, whipped, then nailed to a cross to die a slow, horrible, painful death rises from the grave victorious over sin and death, talks to many people, then rises to heaven where He prepares a place for you and me to join Him. What a powerful picture of His love for us. Thank you, Jesus.
- 06 - When it was built the Titanic at 882 feet long, 92 feet wide, and 175 feet high was the largest ship afloat in its day. Though it was supposed to be unsinkable, it struck a huge iceberg on its maiden voyage in 1912 and sank taking with it over 1500 of its 2224 passengers and crew. Another big ship that was over 400 feet long and built a long time ago was built away from any lakes, rivers, or seas and carried just eight people. We know this ship as Noah's Ark and it saved the people on board from certain death. Noah's Ark was a forerunner of Jesus Christ who came to save *"that which was lost,"* Luke 19:10. Savior, though man's ways are often wrong, we know we can depend on you. Come, be my Savior.
- 07 - *"The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do,"* John 5:19. I think that should apply to you and me as well. God can and often does things through what we call our "imagination." Father in Heaven, you have given us a tool (our imagination) that we can use to "learn from" and "see from" you. Help us to use that tool to draw close to you, to give us direction, and to live a life worthy of you calling to us.
- 28 - *"Turn away from looking at worthless things and revive me in your way,"* Psalm 119:37. What a great suggestion! We are not very effective when we focus on the wrong things. Old temptations, new responsibilities, ongoing desire for possessions or pleasure can quickly turn our eyes away from the One who knows what is best for us. Hear our prayer, Lord, turn our eyes away from worthless things and restore our hearts to you.
- 29 - *"But, because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy made us alive together in Christ ..."* Ephesians 2:4, 5. As we share the colored beads presentation with show goers, it is evident that most people don't realize that they are dead; that they are destined for hell if they don't ask Jesus to be their Savior. Jesus, help us to make it clear to any who will listen that they (we) are dead in our sins until we request forgiveness through Jesus.
- 30 - We pray today, Lord, that your life transforming Word will go forth with power and conviction and that many will respond to your call to make Jesus the Lord and Savior that they want and need at our farm shows, expos, and fairs.

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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@fci.org) at the FCFI office.

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- 23 - *"Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age,"* Genesis 12:2 but Abraham and Sarah remained childless for twenty-five years. Abraham even tried to hurry up the process by having a child with Hagar. Yet, God remained true to His promise and they conceived Isaac twenty-five years after that promise of God. Shepherd of Our Souls, we are an impatient people and often resort to our own methods to make things happen. Forgive us our folly and strengthen our "patience" muscles so we don't try to get ahead of you.
- 24 - *"We did not follow cunningly devised fables ... but were eye witnesses to His majesty,"* 2 Peter 1:16. Peter was telling his audience, "Look, Christ's death and resurrection may seem like a pretty tall tale but we (Peter, the disciples, and many others) saw Jesus with their own eyes. He is risen and you can depend on it, too." It is an historical fact. Thank you, Head of the Church, for your infallible Word.
- 25 - *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,"* Genesis 1:1. *"So God created man in His own image,"* Genesis 1:27. We recently attended a Sunday evening church meeting on the topic of "Creation Verses Evolution." Because of his schooling, the speaker was a die-hard evolutionist until he began to study the fossil record of departed plants and animals. The fossil records show NO evidence of an intermediate species (for example, a pig evolves into a dog) which evolution requires. Author of Our Faith, teach us to depend on your Word rather than the pronouncements of so-called "scientists" and "heal" our minds so that we will never doubt you.
- 26 - *"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you,"* 1 Thessalonians 5:18. A poet once wrote, "As a rule, man's a fool. When it's hot, he wants cool. When it's cool, he wants hot. Always wanting what is not!" True, Whitman helps us get out of our "always unsatisfied" mode and directs us to give thanks for whatever comes our way. After all, you, Lord, are "the way, the truth, and the life." Thank you!
- 27 - *"I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure,"* Ecclesiastes 2:10. Solomon may have been wise in many ways but that didn't stop him exploring any and all means of gratification he could find. But, he was wise enough to realize that those pursuits were a "vanity of vanities." Heavenly Friend, help us avoid the pitfalls that plagued Solomon. Let us not rely on our own wisdom, however great that it may be, but seek your wisdom daily.
- 08 - *"The sower sows the Word,"* Mark 4:14. Here Jesus is drawing the parallel of the sower to His disciples. His explanation is for you and me as well. He didn't tell the sower to sow to just to one group of people. He desires that all hear God's word and some will fall where it doesn't produce a crop. But some falls on fertile soil and produces a harvest. Jesus, you have called us to be sowers and you will determine the results. May we be faithful to "sow your Word" so that "some might be saved" (1 Corinthians 9:22). Please pray for the sowers at the Great Bend Farm Expo in Kansas today through the 10th.
- 09 - *"The beginning of wisdom is this; get wisdom and though it costs you all you have, get understanding,"* Proverbs 4:7. My take on this verse is that you and I should seek wisdom but we are not worth much if we don't have understanding (of wisdom). You might say it like this ... you can be really smart but without common sense (which is uncommon) you are not much. So Jesus, here is our problem. We think we are pretty smart but we lack the common sense to apply our "smarts." Come give us a good dose of your wisdom and understanding so that we can do and be all you have planned.
- 10 - *"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith and this not of yourselves, it is a gift of God".* Ephesians 2:8. But God isn't there something I can do to better qualify myself for heaven? No, verse 9 says, *"Not by works so that no one can boast."* How conceited and boastful we are to think we can do better than Jesus. Raboni, we are so self-centered and so given to boasting. Clean up our prideful ways. Restore us to our rightful relationship with you and one another.
- 11 - *"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ,"* Ephesians 2:13. St. Paul was telling the Ephesian Gentiles that through Jesus they were receiving the opportunity to partake in Christ's redemption offer. That offer exists for us as well. Thank you, Jesus, for offering eternal life to whoever seeks it regardless of race, age, gender, or past history. Please pray for those who are presenting Christ's redemption offer at the Ice Cream Festival in Lakeland, FL. 10-12th
- 12 - *"Having lost all sensitivity they have given themselves over so as to indulge in every kind of sensuality, impurity, and they are full of greed,"* Ephesians 4:19. I think that is a pretty good description of our western culture today. People haven't changed much have they?

But, St. Paul urges us to change. He says, *"Put off your old self ... and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness,"* Ephesians 4:22-24. Savior, I want to put on the new self which is created to be like God. Will you help me do it?

- 13 - *"Slaves obey your earthly master with respect and fear and with sincerity of heart just as you would obey Christ,"* Ephesians 6:5. Is this a misprint or a poor translation? Did slave have a different meaning in Biblical times? Give me the liberty to substitute employee for slave and employer for master and expand the challenge to all of us to honor and respect those in authority. Teacher, it is often hard to respect and honor those in authority over us. We seek your will and wisdom in this matter.
- 14 - Across our great land, farmers and ranchers are preparing to "hit the fields" planting the various crops that will feed, cloth, and power our people for the next year. Bread of Life, first of all keep our men and women safe and healthy as they put in some very long work days. Second, bless each seed as it enters the ground so that a beautiful harvest will be forthcoming. Third, may many seeds of faith be planted as well so we can have a double harvest.
- 15 - A quote of former President Ronald Regan goes like this. "If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under." There are scores of organizations in our country who wish to take God out of every aspect of life and they have many willing accomplices to try to do this. It is up to us who believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to not only resist the efforts of our atheistic neighbors but to pray daily for the country we love.
- 16 - World War II is history to most of the people alive today but it was the costliest war in all of history. Over 60 million people died as a direct result of the war and some estimate that the financial cost could have built a three bedroom home for every family in the world. Why do we have such wars? Because some people want to be god! Living Water, we are a selfish, inconsiderate, warring people desiring power and control over others. Change our heart from one of hate to one of love and from wanting to be a god to yielding to you as our God. At the Southern Plains Farm Show in Oklahoma City, OK we will be having our ribbon cutting ceremony for our new shower trailer and will be recruiting volunteers to help with future disasters. Pray that the Lord would bring in many new volunteers.
- 17 - *"I am God and there is none like me,"* Isaiah 46:9. This verse is almost an understatement; there aren't enough adjectives to describe our God. So let us just praise Him with everything we have and rejoice that there never was, is, or never will be one like Him, the Great I Am. Please pray for the workers presenting the gospel at the Southern Plains Farm Show in Oklahoma City, OK 16th-18th.
- 18 - *"How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the Kingdom of God!"* Mark 10:23. Why? Because, when we have riches, we think we don't need Him. Lion of Judah, many of us who have been farming a while have accumulated many valuable assets, especially land. Remind us to be careful about choosing our priorities. Worldly assets don't have heavenly value. Rich and poor alike need you!
- 19 - *"Cause me to hear your loving kindness in the morning for in you do I trust,"* Proverbs 145:8. King David recognized time spent with his Lord each morning made the day more valuable and productive. We need to recognize that daily time with Him is most valuable. Master, guide us to seek you out each morning. We need your guidance, counsel, and vision.
- 20 - *"The birds of heaven sing among the branches,"* Psalm 104:12. I believe birds have always fascinated mankind. Many sing cheerful melodies and their ability to fly is amazing to us all. Creator God, the birds, like the rest of your creation ... "declare the glory of the Lord and the firmament shows His handiwork," Psalm 19:1. Thank you, Father, for this spectacular earth and all the beauty it contains.
- 21 - *"I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but ... as to babes in Christ,"* 1 Corinthians 3:1. St. Paul was essentially saying to the Corinthian people to "grow up" and that message applies to us as well. Teacher, we won't grow spiritually if we don't do our homework. Give us an assignment to study your word, pray often, discuss with other mature Christians, and praise and thank you at all times.
- 22 - Today is earth day. I didn't capitalize "earth day" because I don't agree with many of the methods that our "green" friends employ. However, I do believe that our God *"took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it,"* Genesis 2:15. Creator, you placed us here to *"take care of it and to rule over the fish ..., the birds ..., the livestock ..., and the wild animals ..., and the creatures that move along the ground,"* Genesis 1:26. Guide our way as we carry out that awesome responsibility.