



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

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## PRAYER GUIDE - July 2015

- 01 - Did you know that July is National Blueberry Month, National Cell Phone Courtesy Month, National Hot Dog Month, and National Ice Cream Month? No? Neither did I ,but let us make July National” Put your Trust In Jesus Month” too. Proverbs 3:5,6 tells us, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight.”Thank you, Lord, for that promise.
- 02 - The news broadcasts are filled with commentary about the many candidates for the presidential election in 2016. It is commendable that so many are willing to seek the highest elective position in our land and many seem to be quite qualified (in my opinion) for the position. But, they all, like you and me, have “holes in their reality.”Let us pray that whoever is selected by the delegates of all political parties will realize his/her own limitations and seeks Holy Spirit guidance on a regular basis.
- 03 - ‘If you want a safe 4th (of July), don’t buy a fifth on the third’. That is a definite play on words but it introduces the topic of addiction. We used to call them ‘bad habits’ but, whatever we call them, they can destroy our health, break up families, cause severe financial problems, ruin careers, and, most importantly, separate us from God. Savior, many of us have ‘bad

habits' that interfere with our relationship with you and others. We seek your guidance and discipline to overcome any bad habits or addictions.

04 - On July 2nd the Continental Congress representing the thirteen original colonies voted in favor of independence from Great Britain. On July 4th, this Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence. It wasn't until late 1781 that the colonies achieved total victory over Great Britain but several colonies had already declared July 4th as Independence Day. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the bravery and foresight of our Founding Fathers who pioneered the founding of our great nation.

05 - We recently visited with a family with a Mennonite background and one of them expressed opposition to any involvement in war or any form of physical confrontation. While we don't totally agree with him, we admired his total trust in the Lord in such circumstances. *"When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him,"* Proverbs 16:7. Grant us your peace, Lord Jesus.

06 - In the Muslim community this is the month of Ramadan, a time of daily fasting. It should be a reminder that we Christians should be praying for all Muslims but especially for those who have converted to Christianity or who are contemplating such a decision. Jesus, you died for Muslims, too. Help us to fulfill the Great Commission, *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you,"* Matthew 18:19, 20.

07 - Just one more reminder --- the 22nd Annual FCFI Conference begins July 31, 2015. You may want to come a day early (Jul 30) to participate in some special events. You can still make a reservation if you do so today. Shipshewana, here we come!

08 - Here are some of the fairs and farm shows where FCFI will have a presence. They are as follows: Madison County Fair, Brookfield, New York for July 9 - 12; Two-cylinder Tractor Show, Canandaigua, New York July 9 - 11; Lycoming County Fair, Hughesville, Pennsylvania July 16 - 25; Four State Farm Show, Pittsburg, Kansas July 9 - 11; Michigan Ag Expo, Lansing, Michigan, July 21 -23. Savior, many people will hear your promise of salvation and grace at these various fairs and shows. May your Spirit

when asked where He was staying. When we witness to someone they may ask, "What do you do in church?" or "How do you use the walking stick?." Another question might be, "How do you live a Christian life" and we can answer, "Come and you will see." Teacher, someone said, "Seeing is believing" and we want to be the example that others might come to know you through our examples.

30 - *"Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me by your generous spirit,"* Psalm 51:12. This was part of David's prayer after he committed adultery with Bathsheba. David felt separated from God because of his sin and desperately wanted to restore that relationship. Messiah, we can take a lesson from David because we, too, sin and we, too, desperately want to restore our relationship with you. "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me by your generous spirit".

31 - *"If the foot should say, 'because I am not a hand I am not (part) of the body, is it therefore not (part) of the body,'"* 1 Corinthians 12:15. Our home church is going through some struggles including seeking a new pastor. Some people have left and it leaves a hole because they were part of our 'body'. Part of our struggle is because we are 'handicapped' (missing a body part). Raboni, we are all valuable parts of the Body of Christ and are needed whether we preach, sing, or hand out church bulletins. Hold us together by your Spirit so that we can fulfill our calling as individuals and corporately.

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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 Schlager (email: fellowship@fci.org) at the FCFI office.

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do's and don'ts man has conjured up for us to follow. Yet, Jesus distilled all of these rules into just two. "Love the Lord your God (Matthew 22:37) and love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39). Prince of Peace, we (mankind) are a whole lot better at making rules than we are of following them. Thank you for these two all-encompassing commandments. We need your help to follow them.

25 - "...Be content with such things as you have. For He, Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'." Have you ever lain in a hospital bed at night? You hurt, you can't move, you can't sleep, no visitors, no nurses come by. These are tough times and it seems that our prayers just bounce off the ceiling. But, Jesus, you said that you would not leave me or forsake me. Looking back, you didn't. Forgive me my impatience and my shallow faith. I am here and together we made it.

26 - "Make haste to help me, Oh Lord," Psalm 70:1. One of my favorite verses is Matthew 14:30. When Peter, who was walking on water and began to sink, he yelled, "Lord, Save Me." His prayer was immediate, timely, and short. Master, this verse reminds me that our prayers need to be specific, timely, and not necessarily lengthy. Come, Jesus, be my Lord and Savior.

27 - "(The ant) provides her supplies in the summer and gathers her food in the harvest," Proverbs 6:8. How big is an ant's brain? How does it know enough to gather food supplies to last through the winter? How come some of us with much larger brains do not do the same? Creator God, you placed instincts (we have no better word) in ants, bees, squirrels, wood chucks, etc. to make provision for leaner times but you gave us (mankind) a much better gift; the gift of reason and thought. Thank you for that wonderful gift. May we use it wisely?

28 - "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God," John 1:1. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us," John 1:14. The concept of the Trinity is difficult for our finite minds to grasp yet here we see that there was, is, and will be a Father and Son. Holy One of Israel, thank you for your triune nature, for your everlasting love, and for the revelation we receive from your written Word.

29 - "Come, He replied, and you will see," John 1:39. That was Jesus' response

guide those telling the story and open the spiritual ears of those hearing your story so their names will be entered in the 'Book of Life'.

09 - Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:27 says, "God created man in His own image ... male and female He created them." That is not what is taught in school. So, who or what is right? I'll go with God's Word. After all, He's the only one who was around back then. Creator God, many (perhaps, most) in our culture believe that we 'evolved'. How can we convince people that we are not 'accidents' and that you love and care for your unique creation - that's us! Help us, Lord, to share this truth.

10 - "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy," Luke 12:1. Sin is correlated to hypocrisy because a little spreads to contaminate the whole person. Jesus, we all have a tendency toward hypocrisy. Forgive us and cleanse us before it spreads throughout our entire being.

11 - "As Jonah became a sign to the Ninavites so also the Son of Man will be to this generation," Luke 11:30. Jesus came to save us and to teach us. But, He also came to warn us. "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is ... His good, pleasing, and perfect will," Romans 12:2. Thank you, Jesus, for that warning!

12 - "Blessed is He comes in the name of the Lord," Luke 19:38. People threw their cloaks and cut palm branches to give Jesus a 'royal' welcome as He approached Jerusalem. Yet many wondered "Who is this man?" Many people still wonder today. Jesus, how can we today inform those who wonder "Who is this man"? We seek the wisdom to spread the word that "Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost".

13 - "He himself is our peace who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of separation," Ephesians 2:14. Paul is talking here about the former separation of Jews and Gentiles. He is also referring to the separation of God and all of mankind. That is the monumental gift that Jesus gave to us. Thank you, Jesus, for restoring the relationship between God and man. We are helpless if we try to do it ourselves.

- 14 - *"I, even I, Am He who blots out our transgression for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins,"* Isaiah 43:25. I think the punctuation in this verse should be "I, even I Am, He who blots out transgressions ... Also this verse tells us I Am who sees and knows everything won't remember our sins! I Am, that is a miracle in itself and we praise and thank you for that fantastic promise. Halleluiah!
- 15 - *"He poured out His soul unto death, and He was remembered with the transgressors and He bore the sin of many,"* Isaiah 53:12. That is the perfect description of Jesus on the cross but given by Isaiah many hundreds of years before Jesus. If anyone doubted the Bible being God's word to us, this should be the clincher. Alpha and Omega, we all have doubts. But this verse, penned by Isaiah, should remove any doubt that your Word is true and we can bet our life on it.
- 16 - *"He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord your God,"* Luke 1:16. What turned you to God? Was it parents, grandparents, neighbors, siblings, a TV evangelist? Whoever it was deserves lots of credit and is a reminder that someone(s) might be depending on you to help them turn to God. Redeemer, thank you for putting that certain someone in my life so that I would turn to you. Help me to be that certain someone who points another doubter to you.
- 17 - *"Their words seemed to (the disciples) like idle tales and they didn't believe them,"* Luke 4:11. This is the scene when the disciples were told that Jesus' tomb was empty. But, they soon found out that it was true. Jesus had risen. How about you? Do you believe that Jesus rose from His grave? Redeemer, our whole Christian faith rests on your victory over sin and death. We praise you for taking our sins to the cross and we praise you for your victory over the grave. Thank you for your most valuable gift to us.
- 18 - *"I am the resurrection and the life ... ,"* John 11:25. That is a pretty gutsy thing to say but Jesus 'put His money where His mouth is' and certainly did rise from the grave. That is why we can rest assured that we, too, will one day "rise from the grave' and join our Savior in perpetuity. Savior, the pain and disappointments we experience here are but a glitch in our future with you.
- 19 - *"I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ which is for the better,"* Philippians 1:23. I haven't yet met anyone who "has a desire to depart" yet, there are a few who I often wish would (depart). Jesus, I can't say that I have a great desire to depart but, as Paul states, (heaven) is "far greater." Thank you that I have a blessed life here but "When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there".
- 20 - *"In the multitude of words sin is not lacking but he who restrains his lips is wise,"* Proverbs 10:19. When an unkind word or gossip is spoken it often leads a long and damaging life. So we must be careful about what we verbalize. Remember, silence can never be misquoted. Master, many of us could be accused of 'running at the mouth'. Forgive us our folly and help us to restrain from useless and damaging speech.
- 21 - *"God gave them over to a reprobate mind,"* Romans 1:28. Have you noticed that many who preach 'tolerance' are the most intolerant of those who disagree with them especially concerning we who are 'Christian'? Wonderful Counselor, when people are intolerant of our Christian faith, we often respond with 'intolerance' of our own. Forgive us our foolishness and remind us that you love them as much as you love us. Instead, we should pray for their salvation.
- 22 - *"Where grace abounded, sin abounded even more,"* Romans 5:20. Does this give us the permission to continue to sin? Paul answers that question in Romans 6:2 when he says, "by no means." Messiah, we are all sinners and we trust in you for your grace of forgiveness. Yet, we need your support to avoid, as much as possible, our sinful ways.
- 23 - *"The glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord,"* 1 Kings 8:11. King Solomon had just completed the Lord's temple and the Lord filled the temple with a cloud signifying His satisfaction with it. Israel rebelled. Solomon sought earthly pleasures with many wives and God was displeased. Bright Morning Star, we are like Israel and Solomon. Sins and confusion, birth and death, success and failure seem to be our lot. Yet, You reign over all and we rest in your promise that eventually bad times will end.
- 24 - *"On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets,"* Matthew 23:40. There are Ten Commandments and a plethora of other