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PRAYER GUIDE - September 2015

- 01 - Continue to pray for Janet Schlagel as she struggles with an autoimmune disease. Pray also for Gary Beery as he battles with cancer and the effects of chemotherapy. Master, these two giants of faith who work for FCFI need your peace. Be with them and their loved ones as they fight to regain their health. Thank you for your healing and comfort.
- 02 - On September 2, 1945 Japan officially surrendered to the allied forces on the battleship Missouri ending WW II. This was a war that cost many millions of lives and enough money to build a three bedroom house for every family in the world, all because a few selfish people thought they should rule over the rest of the population. Author of our Faith, please don't let tyrants become so strong and influential that they again try to control all of humanity. May we as a people realize that you alone are capable and qualified to rule the world.
- 03 -FCFI workers continue to share God's gifts of grace and forgiveness at farm shows, fairs, and other outreaches throughout the U.S. and Canada. Chief Cornerstone, we often don't see the results of our ministry but we pray that every seed of faith and every comforting word will grow, mature, and flourish to bring faith, healing, and salvation to the needy world around us.

- 04 - Oh, God, how long? Psalm 6:13. *“What is man that you (God) are mindful of him?”* Psalm 8:14. Why do you (God) hide in times of trouble?” Psalm 10:1 *“Why, Oh Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?”* These are questions that King David asks, among many others. I suspect that you have questions, too. I know I do. Creator God, our finite minds have loads of questions and I would guess that if you answered some of them, we would be more puzzled than ever. But, we praise you for the wisdom and the glory that surrounds you and ask that you answer the questions so that we can understand.
- 05 - *“O Lord our God, I pray, save us from his (Assyrian King) hand, that all the earth may know that you are the Lord God, you alone,”* 2 Kings 19:19. This is the prayer King Hezekiah prayed when attacked by Syria. We must pray a similar prayer today. Save us, O Lord, from our present day tormentors so that all the earth may know and acknowledge that you are the one and only God of all creation.
- 06 - *“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus,”* Philippians 3:14. We all press toward some goals but Paul here emphasizes that the most important goal is the “upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Holy One, we often get distracted from our primary goal of becoming more like our Savior, Jesus. By your Spirit, guide us to fulfill the most important and most rewarding goal of all.
- 07 - Today is Labor Day in the U.S., an official holiday set aside to honor the men and woman who do the work that enables all of us to live comfortably, Carpenter, you know the value and the rewards of hard work. You know also that “for what shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul,” Mark 8:36. Help us to fully understand that concept.
- 08 - *“The Lord does not see as man sees: for the man looks at outward appearances but God looks at the heart,”* 1 Samuel 16:7. I am sure that you have heard politicians or other famous people flatly deny something he or she may be accused of. That denial may fly with people but it never works with our God who sees and knows all things. Counselor, we are good at bluffing aren't we? Forgive us our foolishness and turn our hearts toward truth, honesty, and accountability.
- 09 - *“Even if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you are blessed,”* 1

Peter 3:14. Peter is admonishing us to live a righteous life whether we are applauded or cursed because we will be blessed either way. Savior, we have you as our example so we appeal to you to help us stay the course regardless of our surroundings.

10 - *"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God,"* 1 Peter 4:10. As we reach out to others through supply, love, or encouragement, let us always remember that it is by His grace, not our own, that we are passing on to others. Prince of Peace, your grace is amazing. May we share it with all we meet.

11 - 9/11/01. Who doesn't remember that fateful day when terrorists caused the deaths of nearly 3000 people? It is hard to comprehend how someone(s) could hate so much but it is a graphic illustration of who Satan really is for he is the thief who comes only to kill, steal, and destroy (John 10:10). Redeemer, we live in a world where hate seems to have the upper hand. May we have the ability to counteract that hate with the love only you can give?

12 - *"He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities,"* Psalm 103:10. We have all heard the admonishment "don't get mad, get even." We can be eternally grateful that this does not describe our forgiving Heavenly Father. Father in Heaven, thank you that you designed a way for us to be forgiven and freed from the penalty of sin. You did that through Jesus who is "the way, the truth, and the life," (John 14:6).

13 - *"Pray for kings and all who are in authority,"* 1 Timothy 2:2. I have to admit I don't care for the "man in the Whitehouse" these days. I feel the same way about many in Congress and the Supreme Court. I am remiss in not praying regularly for them. Would you pray with me today for all those in leadership and authority? King of Kings, we now pray for the leaders of this world, both here at home and abroad. Minister to each one in the time of their need.

14 - *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself,"* Luke 10:27. It is pretty easy to love those who are "like us." It is another story when it comes to those who look, act, talk, or think differently than we do. Jesus told the parable

of the “Good Samaritan” to remind us that being different should not make a difference. Teacher, we all need to be constantly reminded to “love our neighbor as ourselves” for that is what you do.

- 15 - *“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run but (only) one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it,”* 1 Corinthians 9:24. Wayne Gretsky, the great hockey player, commented, “Every shot I don’t take doesn’t score.” Paul tells us that it takes effort and determination to be a Christian. Master, we sometimes are lazy Christians. It is only with your help and guidance that we can expect to “win the race.”
- 16 - *“They found the stone rolled away from the tomb ... and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus,”* Luke 24:2, 3. What is the difference between Christianity and other “religions”? We have a Savior who lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and was placed in a grave. But, He rose from the grave victorious over sin and death. Thank you, Jesus, for taking my sins to the cross and rising victorious over sin and death. Help us to spread that beautiful truth wherever we may be.
- 17 - *“Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye?”* Luke 6:41. Jesus knows us pretty well doesn’t He? We can easily identify the faults of others while we gloss over our own. Lord, help me not to get caught up in pointing out the little sins in others while ignoring my own glaring sin, I am thankful that with repentance comes forgiveness.
- 18 - *“Blessed are the poor in spirit ...”* Matthew 5:3. Why would Jesus single out the poor and needy as being blessed? I believe that they are blessed because they are fully aware of their insufficiency and recognize their need for something outside themselves. Then they seek God, the only one who can truly satisfy. Teacher, whether we know it or not, we are not self-sufficient. Come fill in the holes in our reality and complete the blessing we so desperately need.
- 19 - *“The days of our lives are seventy years, and, if by strength, they are eighty years ...”* Psalm 90:10. As I grow older, I become more and more aware of my mortality. The question often comes to my mind, “How much time do I have?” Yet, the more important questions are these. Have I trusted

Jesus as my Savior? Am I using my remaining days to please the one who loves me eternally? Jesus, I trust you as my Savior. Guide me to use my remaining days as you would have me live them?

20 - *“Esau ran to meet him (Jacob) and embraced him,”* Genesis 33:4. Jacob was fearful because many years before he had deceived Esau but, his fears were groundless. Esau came as a friend and we need to come as friends as well. Our Lord will help us befriend others without fear. “I went outside to find a friend but could not find one there. I went outside to be a friend and friends were everywhere” This poem was take from Our Daily Bread of 2010. Lord, remind me when I have to opportunity to be a friend.

21 - *“He by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that same poor man,”* Ecclesiastes 9:15. So insignificant is this person that Solomon didn’t know who he was. But, it really didn’t matter. What is important is the souls that were saved because of what he did. Savior, that holds for me as well. I need your wisdom to the witness that you created me to be. To you goes the credit, honor, and glory.

22 - George and Julie Holmes have been spending their winters in Albania for the past twenty-two years, telling a predominantly Muslim nation about Jesus Christ. They provide much of their own support and yes, they plan to go back again this winter. Bread of Life, we pray for George and Julie. Please continue to provide for their needs, keep them healthy and safe, and richly supply them with the wisdom to reach a very difficult people.

23 - Today is the fall equinox, or more commonly known, as the last day of summer or the first day of fall. I don’t know why it varies between the 20th and the 23rd of the month, but I do know that it happens every year at the same solar system time and that God’s creation and timing are perfect and precise. Creator God, your creation is nothing short of spectacular. From the tiniest virus to the expanse of the universe your creation is awesome. You are an awesome God! For this, we give you thanks.

24 - FCFI has had a “good” year. Multiple thousands of sticks have been handed out and God’s grace and salvation message has been shared. Several teams have gone forth to help farmers who have experienced fire, hail, drought, hurricane, blizzard, and floods. Several short term mission

trips were made and much accomplished. Most of the outreaches are self-financed yet, there are salaries, office and supply expenses, and fees and vehicle expenses to pay. Our bank accounts are slim. Can you spare a few extra \$\$\$'s to keep our doors open? Thank you, Lord, for many generous folks.

- 25 - Through the years many folks have traveled to Mexico to work on churches, parsonages, schools, and other projects. For many of these trips Ed and Starlene Williams have organized, led, fed, and preached to our volunteers. Ed has encountered some personal problems but he is still our Christian brother and now, more than ever, he needs our prayers and support. Lord, we thank you for Ed and Starlene. Minister to him, quiet him, forgive and strengthen him. Assure him of Your plan for his life.
- 26 - *"God loves a cheerful giver,"* 2 Corinthians 9:7. One of my "proverbs" is "God loves a cheerful giver but He will accept money from a grouch, too." That may be funny but it really isn't true. God doesn't need our money. What He wants is you and me and how we handle our money to reflect our relationship with Him. Head of the Church, it is easy for money to become our God. Help us to hold our money and possessions loosely so that you, not they, remain the center of our lives.
- 27 - *"God has set the members, each one of them in the body just as He pleased,"* 1 Corinthians 12:18. Have you ever wondered, "Why is that person head of the deacons? Why isn't the best piano player the worship leader? But God selects people who are team players, not necessarily the most talented. Prince of Peace, when will we learn that "your ways are higher than our ways" and that your selection is always the right one? We ask you to help us live by your Word.
- 28 - *"The grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant,"* 1 Timothy 1:14. Paul knew that God's grace was exceedingly abundant because Paul, as Saul, mercilessly persecuted the early Christian Church. But His grace is exceedingly abundant toward you and me as well. And that grace is available to all if we acknowledge Him as our Savior. We all have sinned and fallen short of your glory, Messiah. Forgive us our foolish and unrepentant ways and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- 29 - *"Don't worry about tomorrow ..."* Matthew 6: 34. Some wise person said,

“Turn your worry list into a prayer list and turn your prayer list into an action list.” When we put our worries into prayers, we are turning the outcome over to God and when we take action, we are putting feet to our prayers. Beloved, help us to put our worries squarely on your back and then act like they have been taken care of. Thank you for listening and responding to our every need.

30 - *“All these having been obtained, a good testimony through faith did not receive the promise,”* Hebrews 11:39. The writer of Hebrews is telling us that many in Hebrews “Hall of Faith” in Chapter 11 did not see the promise of glory in this life but had to wait until physical death to receive their reward. That is the message to us as well. Messiah, we all want to receive the promise in this life. But, we stand on your promise whether we receive it in this life or the next.

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@fcfi.org) at the FCFI office.

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