



**FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN FARMERS  
INTERNATIONAL**

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

P.O. Box 15, Lexington, IL 61753



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## PRAYER GUIDE - December 2015

- 01 - FCFI is at two farm shows today through Thursday: the Amarillo Farm Show in Texas and the Peoria Farm show in Illinois. Chief Cornerstone, prepare workers to share your gospel message and prepare hearts to receive it. We pray that many souls will enter Your Kingdom and many more brothers and sisters will rededicate their lives in worship and service to You.
  
- 02 - We have learned of many needs for healing and restoration. Board Member, Chuck Randall, is having trouble with the nerves to his eye and Board Member, Jim Wish, is having problems with balance. Please continue to pray for Janet Schlagel, the wife of our Executive Director, Dennis Schlagel, who continues to struggle with health issues. An Ohio farmer received a kidney transplant and asks prayer for a quick recovery for both the recipient and the donor. Several requests came from visitors to the FCFI booth at the Connecticut farm show. Priscilla, Mary, Joyce, Keith, Kathy, Scott, Fire Fighters, and the Church of the Epiphany all seek Your presence and guidance, Precious Lord, as does Kevin who severely injured his hand in a farm accident and George Z. now dealing with bone cancer and its effects.
  
- 03 - I write this Prayer Guide shortly after the ISIS led massacre of innocent citizens in Paris, France. We pray for the families of those who lost loved ones, the healing of those injured in this attack, and the wisdom and

fortitude to find and eliminate the evil perpetrators of this massive and unnecessary carnage. Thank You, Father, for hearing our prayers.

- 04 - *“Get all the advice and instruction you can so you will be wise the rest of your life,”* Proverbs 19:20. If you are anything like me, I have forgotten more advice and instruction than I remember. Nevertheless, we should continue to seek advice and instruction even if they are repetitious. The old adage, “two heads are better than one,” still holds true. Thank You, Teacher, for all Your wise counsel.
- 05 - *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight,”* Proverbs 3:5, 6. Do you find like I do that often God’s directions are impossible to follow? Trust in the Lord with all you heart; lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him. It is little wonder that our paths aren’t straight. Teacher, may we look at Your instructions as a guide rather than an absolute. We need straight paths, not perfection.
- 06 - *“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, Your God reigns,”* Isaiah 52:7. I have never thought of feet as being “beautiful” but when they carry God’s message of love, grace, and forgiveness they certainly fit that description. Savior, we seek “beautiful feet” that can carry your gospel to those who have yet to hear Your “Good News.”
- 07 - December 7, 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor with a great loss of life, ships, and planes. A song that became popular soon after went like this: “Let’s remember Pearl Harbor as we go to meet the foe, Let’s remember Pearl Harbor as we did the Alamo. We will always remember how they died for liberty, Let’s remember Pearl Harbor and go on to victory.” Master, let us remember Pearl Harbor, 9/11, and 11/13 in Paris, as we pray for peace and security in this evil and troubled world.
- 08 - The Three Day Nebraska Power Farming Show begins today in Lincoln, Nebraska. King of Kings, *“the fields are white for harvest,”* John 4:35. May many volunteers participate in the harvest of souls at this farm show and many more be encouraged to stand for their faith.

30 - According to the calendar, the year 2015 is about to expire, I am sure there are things we have done we wish we had not and things that we didn’t do that we should have. Yet, *“This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it,”* Psalm 118:24 and we could add, ‘this the year the Lord has made ...’ Chief Cornerstone, thank You for each day, each month, each year. You have given us the gift of life. How precious that is and how precious that You give us others to enjoy it with.

31 - The year 2015 has not been a good year on this earth. There has been so much hate, so much misunderstanding, so much killing, so much lying, and so much distrust. Yet, God, through His Word tells us *“Give thanks in all circumstances for that is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus,”* 1 Thessalonians 5:8. He also tells us *“Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,”* Hebrews 12:28. I AM, you are an awesome God. We praise You!

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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@fcfi.org) at the FCFI office.

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man) and He remains our humble King and Savior.

- 25 - *“For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given,”* Isaiah 9:6. Do you ever question the veracity of the Bible? This verse was written several hundred years before the birth of Jesus. Doubt no longer. Yes, today we celebrate Jesus’ birth. *“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him,”* John 3:17. *“Today, in the Town of David (Bethlehem) a Savior is born,”* Luke 2:11 and we give thanks to our Heavenly Father who planned and made it all happen.
- 26 - What can we do as an encore after celebrating Jesus’ birth? Here is a suggestion. Let us get together with all our families and friends and thank the God of the Universe for His awesome love and ask Him how we can reach others so that they, too, can enjoy and celebrate Jesus’ birth.
- 27 - *“Make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord has forgiven you so you must forgive others,”* Colossians 3:13. *“Peter asked ... how many times should I forgive my brother... Up to seven times? Jesus answered ... not seven times but seventy-seven times,”* Matthew 18:22. What if I have forgiven seventy-eight times already? I am sure Jesus would say, “Start counting again.” Jesus, we thank You for forgiving me many more than seventy-seven times and for not even keeping score.
- 28 - *“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend,”* Proverbs 27:17. Since my wife is my best friend, it is up to her to “keep me sharp.” Though “I am not the sharpest knife in the drawer,” I can say “thank you” to her constant vigil to ‘keep me sharp’ and to recognize that that should be my obligation to her as well. Holy Spirit, keep us sharp so that we can be a “cut above” the rest.
- 29 - *“... the earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results,”* James 5:16. I am afraid sometimes we pray “because it is the right thing to do” without really expecting anything to happen. But, this verse implies earnestness and expected results. Teacher, forgive us our lack of earnestness and teach us to pray believing that wonderful results” are just around the corner.

- 09 - *“And I will ask the Father and He will give you another counselor to be with you forever,”* John 14:16. I believe the Church of today (that’s us) has forgotten or deemphasized the value and presence of the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives. Spirit of the Living God, we so desperately need Your wisdom and guidance today and everyday as we face the challenges set before us.
- 10 - *“Oklahoma, here we come.”* Well, probably not most of us but today is the start of the four day farm show in Tulsa. Jesus, may each person attending this show find the peace and assurance that only You can give as they hear the colorful and rewarding ‘walking stick story’.
- 11 - The Indiana-Illinois Farm Show heads to Indianapolis on December 15 through 17. While we pray for success at this show for FCFI volunteers, let us also praise God for the powerful witness that our ‘walking stick’ teams enjoy at farm shows, fairs, and other exhibitions throughout the U.S., Canada, and New Zealand. Yes, Lord, you are there, as awesome as ever.
- 12 - *“The law is perfect, restoring the soul. The testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple,”* Psalm 19:7. Father, Your very words have been given to me that I might know You and Your will for my life. Let me never read Your word as routine and without understanding, but allow it to penetrate my heart and change me. *(Taken from the Voices of the Faithful by Beth Moore.)*
- 13 - *“We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ but we were eye witnesses of His majesty,”* 2 Peter 1:16. Peter was telling his audience that he was there. This isn’t a second or third hand story. We, too, have a story to tell of how Jesus has impacted our lives. Teacher, we are not very good story tellers. Guide us to share our personal walk with You to any and all who are willing to listen.
- 14 - *“For the word of God is full of living power, It is sharper than the sharpest knife cutting swift and deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for who we are,”* Hebrews 4:12. Heavenly Father, remind me that when I am sharing with another a verse from Your Word, it is appropriate for the time and the person.

- 15 - *"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us so that through endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope,"* Romans 15:4. Those of us who have read and heard from the Bible for many years may have lost the knowledge and wonder that the Word once impacted us with. That is a big mistake because our Bible is the 'Book of Hope'. Creator God, You inspired those who wrote the Bible, to make it a way to give us hope. May we never tire of hearing Your precious message.
- 16 - *"First seek the counsel of the Lord,"* 1 Kings 22:5b. If at first you don't succeed, seek God's advice. That is not the way the old adage goes but it is often what you and I do, seek the Lord's guidance after the fact. Lord, when will we ever learn? Be patient but firm with us. We need not only your wise counsel but your discipline as well.
- 17 - *"... he who sows and he who reaps (may) rejoice together,"* John 4:36b. As we in FCFI share our faith with the 'walking stick' ministry, we sometimes have the privilege of praying the 'sinner's prayer' with people. But, more often, we sow seeds of faith without knowing whether that person has sincerely asked Jesus for the salvation that comes only through surrendering to His will for their lives. But the verse encourages us to keep on going knowing that even if someone else "reaps" the person's commitment, we can all rejoice together. Thank You, Messiah, for this wonderful promise.
- 18 - *"The Lord is near to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit,"* Psalm 34:18. I believe this is why it often takes a catastrophe or calamity to break through a person's resistance to the Gospel. Master, it took a problem in my life to make me realize I needed You. May I (we) be ready to minister in Your name if and when someone else needs Your grace and forgiveness.
- 19 - *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus, our Lord,"* Romans 6:23. The biggest hurdle to salvation for most people is 'gift'. We all have a tendency to want to earn our salvation. But, God promised, "it is a gift" and it cannot be earned or paid for." Savior, why are we so stubborn or think we can offer You anything of value? May we be Your witness that it is only by Your sacrifice that we are made clean. Without You, we are helpless.
- 20 - Isaiah 55:11 says, *"It (God's Word) will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire."* Romans 1:16 tells us, *"I am not ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes ...."* The Word, you have given us all we need to live and share Your message. Use us to use it to reach any and all who will listen.
- 21 - *"I am bent over and racked with pain. All day long I walk around filled with grief,"* Psalm 38:6. This is King David lamenting over his sin with Bathsheba. If you think your sin has no consequence, think again or ask King David. Lord God, we often think our little (and not so little) sins have no consequence because You paid the penalty on the cross. But, there is still "hell to pay" for our sins, not at the cost of eternity but at the cost of our peace and joy here on earth.
- 22 - Today we 'celebrate' the winter solstice which just means that we have the shortest period of sunlight in twenty-four hours because in the Northern Hemisphere the earth is tipped the farthest away from the sun. It is also called the first day of the winter season but what it demonstrates to me is the precision with which the entire Solar System operates. Creator God, Your workmanship is without equal. The earth, the moon, the sun all exist and perform as if they were created by a master craftsman - because they were.
- 23 - Have you completed your Christmas shopping? Are your Christmas decorations all in place? Have you sent out all your Christmas cards? Do you have all the ingredients for the big Christmas dinner? We have so many things to do that we often forget the most important things like praising God for His special gift, thanking Him for loving us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins, thanking our families for their love, being remembered with all the special greeting cards. Emmanuel, thank You that because of You we are blessed beyond what we could ever think or ask for.
- 24 - Because of a census decree by Caesar Augustus, Joseph and a very pregnant Mary were traveling to Bethlehem to register in their 'home town'. Because many had come to 'register' they had to take their lodging in a barn. It was there that Mary delivered her Son. They named Him Jesus. This is hardly the expected story of the birth of a King. But, *"God's ways are higher than man's ways,"* Isaiah 55:9. Jesus had a humble beginning (as a