



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN FARMERS  
INTERNATIONAL

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

P.O. Box 15, Lexington, IL 61753

*Happy New Year!*



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## PRAYER GUIDE - January 2016

- 01 - HAPPY NEW YEAR, everyone!! Could this be the year that Jesus returns? No mortal knows. As we who are older approach the finish line, we tend to think more about our heavenly home. The Bible tells us there will be no more sorrow, suffering or fear (1 Thessalonians 4:17). Those are good things but what about those close to us who don't yet know Jesus? When we get to heaven will we just forget about those we left behind? Just asking! Father, we rest in the fact that you have given us eternal life. For whom and what would you have us do while we still have the time?
- 02 - *"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord,"* Psalm 150:6. I am not sure our cows (which have breath) praise God but you and I surely should. Think about this. Every time we breathe in we receive oxygen, a free gift from God, so when we breathe out (that horrible carbon dioxide?) we should praise God if for no other reason than that His free gift sustains us. Creator God, we take so much for granted - the air we breathe, the sun that warms us, the rain that sustains us, and the ground which bears us up. Thank you for your many gifts which we don't even notice.
- 03 - *"For by one sacrifice, He has made perfect forever those who are made holy,"* Hebrews 10:14. I think most of us dwell too much on our own shortcomings, and failures. What we should focus on is not our imperfections but Jesus' perfections and His sanctifying work in us. Savior we are a sorry

lot. But, by your love, grace, and forgiveness you have made us whole and holy. Thank you for your priceless gift.

04 - *“One day Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Let us go over to the other side of the lake;’”* Luke 8:22. This is the story where a storm threatened to swamp their boat and His disciples woke Him up and He calmed the storm. It is a reminder that when we face storms in life we, too, can petition our Master to calm the storm. Jesus, we too often try every idea that comes to mind before we come to you. Help us to ‘get our head on straight’ and seek your guidance, wisdom, and help first, not last.

05 - We have some prayer requests and praise reports. First, praises - Briana had a successful kidney transplant, Bill is recovering from open heart surgery, Kevin’s injured hand is healing well, and building materials arrived safely at the new school site in South Sudan. Requests - Baby Josephine has tumors on her heart, Dr. Alex needs a vehicle to supervise construction of the South Sudan School, our country desperately needs revival, and our granddaughter, (22 yrs.) has been diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease. Lord, we thank you for what you have done and trust you with our pleas.

06 - Did you know that today is Bean Day in the U.S. (maybe elsewhere)? Bean farmers have my permission to take today off and celebrate. But, remember *“God has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; He provides you with plenty of food and fills your heart with joy,”* Acts 14:17. Thank you, Father, for (literally) showering your blessings on bean farmers and the rest of us farmers as well.

07 - 2016 starts off with two big farm shows. The Knid Agrifest in Enid, Oklahoma is January 8th and 9th and the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg goes from January 9th to the 16th. Also, the South Texas mission trip runs from January 9th to the 16th. Redeemer, we pray that the farm shows will not only give farmers and ranchers the information they seek for their businesses but many will receive information that will draw them closer to their Lord and Savior, Jesus and that the mission trip will exceed all expectations for success.

08- *“My Father’s house has many rooms: if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?”* John 14:2. Life here on earth has many uncertainties but Jesus assures that when we leave this

sacrifice covers that entire number. Jesus, how did you do it? Actually, we don’t need to know how, we just need to know. Thank you, Jesus.

31 - John 11:35, *“Jesus wept.”* This verse is probably best known because it is the shortest verse in the Bible. But why did He weep when He knew He would restore Lazarus to life? None can be sure why but He is a God of compassion and He joined Mary and Martha in their grief. The Way, The Truth, and The Light give me a tender and compassionate heart so that I can weep with those who weep.

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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@fcfi.org) at the FCFI office.

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25 - George and Julie Holmes are ministering in Albania for the twenty-third successive year. Albania is almost as much 'home' to them as their American farm home in Trumansburg, New York. The major difference is in Albania the harvest is souls and in America it is the crops they grow. King of Kings, provide all that the Holmes' need as they witness in Your name. Be with the team that will be joining them from the U.S. from January 26th through February 9th. May every 'jot and tittle' be accomplished on Your itinerary and theirs.

26 - Tomorrow the three day Sioux Falls Farm Show begins in that city in South Dakota. I would guess it will be mighty cold in Sioux Falls in January but we pray that warm hearts will connect with many show goers and Jesus will be lifted up, His Kingdom expanded exponentially.

27 - *"I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it,"* Matthew 16:18. I wonder if Satan even read this verse. It seems he is so bent on getting people to fail that he doesn't see his own ultimate failures. Word of Life, our finite minds can't comprehend your plans for our destiny, but we do know that Satan may win some battles but he surely will lose the war and his life as well and we are a part of that victory.

28 - *"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink nor what you will put on,"* Matthew 6:25. If you watch much TV, you will see that a lot of people worry about a whole lot of things. Everything from fancy cars to the right shade of make-up are endlessly advertised to 'make sure that we are more acceptable'. Chief Cornerstone, we are such a vain people. Forgive us our preoccupation with ourselves and turn our eyes toward furthering Your Kingdom.

29 - *"The things that are seen are temporary but the things that are not seen are eternal,"* 2 Corinthians 4:18. Did you know that Fanny Crosby who was blinded as an infant wrote over 9000 hymns? Yet, she looked forward to seeing her Savior when she arrived in heaven. Thank you for not only showing us the way but for being The Way.

30 - *"Jesus is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you faultless,"* Jude 1:24. Have you ever considered the enormity of Jesus' work on the cross? On earth, at this time, there about seven billion people. I have no idea how many have come and gone before today but I am sure it is in the billions and Jesus'

world, He already has a place prepared for us if we ask Him to be our Lord and Savior. Precious Savior, thank you for your iron-clad guarantee of a home for us in heaven. Now, please help us to tell others.

09 - Believe it or not, tomorrow is 'Peculiar People Day'. We Christians need to adopt this day and celebrate since 1 Peter 2:9 tells us, *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and Holy Nation, a peculiar people (why are we peculiar?) that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."* Thank you, Messiah, for calling us out of darkness.

10 - *"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances,"* Philippians 4:11. As farmers, we tend to complain regardless of our circumstances; it is too wet or too dry, too hot or too cold, prices are too high for the things we buy or too low for things we sell, or neighbors complain about us, our politicians won't listen to us, etc., etc., etc. Paul is telling us to step back and see our situation for we have it a lot better than we think or will admit. Lord, you have blessed us mightily. Help us to see our good fortune and praise you as the author of our success.

11- Two more farm shows on the horizon. The Fort Wayne Farm Show in Fort Wayne, Indiana runs from January 12th to 14th and the Nebraska Farm Show is January 13th and 14th in Norfolk, Nebraska. Teacher, FCFI is committed to reaching out to fellow farmers and their friends through our 'Walking Stick' ministry. Provide willing workers to share your message, Teacher, and guide the spiritually needy to our booth so that they can be fed "the bread of life" that comes only from you.

12 - *"As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word that you may grow thereby,"* 1 Peter 2:2. Are you spending time in God's Word? No matter how long we may have been a Christian, there is still room for spiritual growth and much of that growth will come only if we continue to read and study His word. Lord God, we tend to be lazy and use excuses for not reading our Bibles. Gently give us a 'kick in the seat of the pants' to get us back to your Word.

13 - *"What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God,"* Micah 6:8. Our question is 'how do we do that'? We are promised help in these things through the Holy Spirit for Ephesians 3:16

tells us He is able to “strengthen you with power through His Holy Spirit in your inner being.” Spirit of the Living God, I need your help to accomplish what the Lord requires me to do. Come, be my mentor and my guide.

14 - *“The things that happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,”* Philippians 1:12. Leave it to Paul to rejoice over his being in prison for preaching the gospel. This gave him an audience with the other prisoners and the palace guard. King of Kings, we need that same attitude. Regardless of where we are or who are with us, we need, with your help, the ability to share your Good News.

15 - *“You didn’t choose me but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit ... that will last,”* John 15:16. I find it amazing that even though I thought I chose Jesus to be my Savior that He actually chose me. How humbling and rewarding at the same time, Jesus, you never cease to amaze me. You leave ‘no stone unturned’ in your quest for us ‘sinners’. Thank you for your unlimited and undying love for us.

16 - *“Do not do your charitable deeds before men to be seen by them,”* Matthew 6:1. Would you preach a sermon, write a book, or sing a solo if God were your only audience? That is a question I had not asked myself and I am afraid of the answer I would give. But, King David wrote many of the psalms for God alone and that should be your goal and mine as well. Rabbani, we have so much to learn. We tend to be proud of our humility and forget about you. Forgive us our foolish ways and restore us in our relationship with you.

17 - Had you heard that today is called ‘Ditch Your Resolutions Day’? I quit making resolutions many years ago because I could never keep them anyway. Matthew 6:37 tells us, *“All you need to say is simply yes or no. Anything beyond that comes from the evil one.”* Father in Heaven, you are the only one who can make resolutions and promises and we praise you for your absolute trustworthiness. You are an awesome God.

18 - Today is Martin Luther King Jr. Day remembering a man who fought and died for racial equality in the U.S. While racial equality is an important and noble goal, it is too bad that any lack of equality even exists. Head of the Church, you must be disappointed that your people have prejudices. We pray that through your Holy Spirit we can all strive to wipe out all traces of prejudice and injustice.

19 - *“Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,”* Matthew 6:9. These are the beginning words of Jesus’ model prayer for us. This two minute prayer covers all the basics and illustrates that prayer need not be long or detailed. Father God, forgive us our wordy and often worldly prayers. Hear our heart and let’s visit.

20 - *“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord,”* Colossians 3:17. There seems to be a cultural wave that sees college graduates with huge debts ‘flipping burgers’ or even going jobless while jobs like plumbers, electricians, auto mechanics, and brick layers go begging. Teacher, we have our own priorities all mixed up. You challenge us to do “whatever we do in your name.” Help us to do just that.

21 - *“I am going to send you what my Father has promised but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high,”* Luke 24:49. We are much like the disciples as we have a chore and we want to get it done immediately instead of waiting for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. Jesus, we are not very effective when we do things on our own. Thank You for you Holy Spirit who empowers and directs us if only we will let Him.

22 - *“Therefore, be patient brethren until the coming of the Lord Jesus,”* James 5:7. Yeah, ‘that’s easy for you to say’ is a comment many of us would respond. The last of the nine fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22) is self-control and I strongly suspect that is because it is the most difficult to achieve. Creator God, you have a plan for each one of us and for all of us. Help us to marvel at and live according to that plan and leave the details up to You.

23 - *“All who believed we together,”* Acts 2:44. *“A cord of three strands is not easily broken,”* Ecclesiastes 4:12. *“Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I will be also,”* Matthew 18:20. I think the Lord is trying to tell us something. We are not ‘lone rangers’. Jesus, we need each other and we need You. Thank you for your wonderful promise.

24 - An unofficial ‘holiday’ today is Compliment Day, a reminder that we should all complement one another, not just today but every day. And, don’t forget our Lord. If anyone deserves a compliment it is Him. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What a team! Thank You for being the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end and everything in between.