



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN FARMERS
INTERNATIONAL

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Sowing, Saving, Reaping for Christ Around the World

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PRAYER GUIDE - February 2016

- 01 - Please continue to pray for Janet Schlagel and her husband, Dennis, as she battles an auto-immune disease. Continue to lift up FCFI Area Leader, Gary Beery, who is battling cancer and the effects of treatment. Pray for Jenna who has been diagnosed with PKD (polycystic kidney disease) and Bill who is recovering from open heart surgery. Also remember Tony rushed to the hospital with chest pains and Dave who has Alzheimer's. I am sure each one of you can add your personal circle of family, friends, and neighbors who need a touch from the Lord and divine healing.
- 02 - Today is Ground Hog Day and Punxsutawney (PA) Phil is supposed to emerge from hibernation to check and see what the weather will be for the next six weeks. I haven't seen any calculation as to how often Phil is right and I don't think many businesses close for the celebration. (However, there is a big one in Woodstock, Illinois because the film Ground Hog Day was made there.) Yet, King of Kings, it is a good day as any to praise and worship You who created both ground hogs and people (and the weather) and to seek your guidance for this very un-special special day.
- 03 - *"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven,"* Ecclesiastes 3:1. All of us have the same twenty-four hours each day to spend at our discretion but, God has placed us here for a purpose, His purpose. Master, what purpose do You have for me? How can I best spend

that twenty-four hour gift You have provided for me? Perhaps taking a few moments each morning to seek Your guidance would be the best use of 'our' time.

04 - *"He who observes the wind will not sow and he who regards the clouds will not reap,"* Ecclesiastes 11:4. My son (and Jesus) taught me a valuable lesson last fall. As you may know, as a hay crop matures, its feed value rapidly declines and we had several hundred of acres of hay to harvest and the weatherman predicted rain. But, David ordered both windrowers to 'get going' and by late afternoon we had 200 acres of hay cut. The field chopper crew got going and we had 1600 tons of hay crop safely stored in our bunker silo by evening. Rain started falling at 9:30 P.M. Teacher, we put too much faith in the weatherman and not enough in You. Forgive us our folly. Come be our God and our guide.

05 - Today is the first day of the three day Western New York Farm Show held at the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY. FCFI will have a booth there. Stop by and get a 'walking stick' and hear the 'greatest story ever told'. Messiah, bring folks to the FCFI booth who need to be ushered into Your Kingdom or who need a renewal of their faith.

06 - *"...he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully,"* 2 Corinthians 9:6. This is almost the by-word of the successful farmer who carefully selects the seed, fertilizer, and soil preparation to plant his crop. But, do we do likewise when we reach out to our fellow man? Raboni, we need Your wisdom and guidance to wisely use our finances, time, and talents to reach the least, the last, and the lost. Come be my guide.

07 - Super Bowl Sunday - who do you pick? Do you have a favorite? Will you watch the game? Are you betting on the outcome? I think, seeing as it is on Sunday, we should pick Jesus as our favorite. Football is a fun game to watch and we Americans spend billions of dollars on it but, sadly, Jesus comes a distant second with many Americans when it comes to both time and money. Alpha and Omega, we often get our priorities mixed up. Please help us to establish our priorities so we 'seek first Your Kingdom and Your righteousness'.

08 - *"But Jesus said to him, 'No one having just put his hand to the plow and*

next to hers as well as a male friend were murdered before their attacker killed himself. Our granddaughter woke up to this terrible event when the police arrived after being tipped off to it by a 911 call. This tragedy brought to mind the following verse - *"I have been young and now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken nor his descendants begging bread,"* Psalm 37:25. Precious Lord, we thank You for protecting our precious one, our descendant, during this horrible crime.

28 - *"He who has begun a good work in us will not complete it until the day of Jesus Christ,"* Philippians 1:6. Isn't it comforting to know that Jesus hasn't given up on us even though we repeatedly fail. And, we must follow Jesus lead and not give up on those imperfect people who are our family and friends. Jesus, you told Peter to forgive not seven times but seventy times seven (Matthew 18:22). I think that is the minimum not the maximum we are to forgive others.

29 - I have a close friend whose birthday is February 29th. So even though he gets to celebrate his real birth date every four years, he still ages just like the rest of us. It reminds me of Acts 2:11 which says, *"For God does not show favoritism."* Redeemer, we thank You that you trust us all equally. We all have the same opportunity to seek You, to petition You, and to worship You. Praise be to Our Lord Jesus Christ!

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@fcsi.org) at the FCFI office.

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overcome these addictions. Lord Jesus, be our guide, our confidant, and our Savior.

- 23 - *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness,"* 1 John 1:9. There are some really critical little words in this verse. IF, the whole verse depends on this word. HE, Jesus, is the one taking action in this verse. US who are receiving the action. ALL describes the completeness of the action (forgiveness). Teacher, we often get caught up in using big words that may sound scholarly but even Your little words carry a lot of weight.
- 24 - Four important farm shows are coming up in the next few days. The three day New York State Farm Show at the Syracuse, NY fairgrounds, the Mid-South Farm Show in Memphis, Tennessee, the Western Farm Show in Kansas City, Missouri, and the Swamp Cabbage Festival in La Belle, Florida. It is going to take a lot of volunteers, a lot of organizing, and a lot of sticks to meet the demands at these four shows. Alpha and Omega, thank you for the opportunity to share your life saving message in so many different places. Bring together all the needs of FCFI exhibits and bring a great harvest of souls through these outreaches.
- 25 - *"Do not give what is holy to the dogs nor cast pearls before swine lest they trample them under their feet and turn and tear you to pieces,"* Matthew 7:6. What is Jesus telling us here? I think He is telling us to be careful where we spend our time and treasure because if spent carelessly, the result could be disastrous. King of Kings, we seek your wisdom and guidance in all we do so that our input will result in valuable output.
- 26 - *"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming quickly,' Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus,"* Revelations 22:20. Are you ready for Our Lord's return? Many people believe that Jesus' return is imminent because of all the turmoil around the world. Fact is, we don't know but that doesn't mean we should not be ready. Tell your wayward son, your neighbor, your hired man, your salesman about Jesus. There may not be another chance. Jesus, help us be prepared for Your return. We want 'no stone left unturned' whether you come or we go first.
- 27 - Our granddaughter, a college senior, just went through an experience I would not wish on anyone. As she slept, the apartment mate in the room

looking back is fit for the Kingdom of God," Luke 9:62. What does plowing have to do with God's Kingdom? I believe that God is telling us that looking back at what we did in the past will divert us from what God has planned for us in the future. Holy One, we all have experiences in our past that were contrary to Your Word. Help us to 'let bygones be bygones and focus on Your will for our lives'.

- 09 - Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that God is (exists). Do you believe that God answers prayers? Why bother to pray if we don't believe God exists and that He doesn't answer prayers? Chief Cornerstone, we have little faith. But, according to Luke 17:6 if we have faith *"as small as a mustard seed,"* we can move mountains. I want to be a 'mountain mover'.
- 10 - The popular Louisville, Kentucky Farm Show begins today. Lots of new machines, tractors, electronics and other new farm inputs will be on display and salesmen and saleswomen will be more than happy to tell you why you need their product. There is one booth there to tell a 2000 year old story that will be as up to date as anything else there. It is the story of love, grace, and forgiveness available through our Messiah, Jesus Christ. Build Your Kingdom, Lord, through this FCFI outreach.
- 11 - *"You should not muzzle the ox while it treads out the grain,"* Deuteronomy 25:4 and 1Corinthians 9:9. "If we should take care of the 'beasts of burden', how much more should we care for the people who work for us or with us. Carpenter, Many of us are owners or managers of farms or other businesses. Impress upon us that our workers are just as deserving of a 'piece of the pie' as we are. Not only do they deserve adequate wages but reasonable hours and working conditions as well.
- 12 - *"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work,'"* John 4:34. I think Jesus is telling us that we should be doing "the will of Him who sent me." How do we know? What do we like to do and what are we best at? Those qualities are pretty good indicators that God has made us to use those talents and desires to do "the will of Him who sent me." Teacher, show me how I can use my God-given talents to accomplish what You have planned for me.

13 - *“And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye but do not consider the plank in your own eye?”* Matthew 7:3. I would guess that we have all been guilty of ‘speck hunting’ when our glasses are dirty and covered with ‘specks’. Precious Lord, we are a contrary bunch with 20/20 vision for the faults of others and 20/400 when looking at our own. Master, teach us humility; teach us introspection; teach us tolerance; teach us love. Remind us that we are all created in His image.

14 - Today is Valentine’s Day, a day when we make a special effort to express our love to those who are most precious to us. I think it is appropriate to express our love to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as well. Emmanuel, you have demonstrated Your unfailing love to us and we want to return that love for You. We thank You for Your special gift of grace that flows from Your loving heart.

15 - On this date we now celebrate President’s Day in the U.S. Originally in the U.S. we set aside George Washington’s February birth date to honor him and later we set aside February 12th to honor Abraham Lincoln, our 16th president, who led America through the Civil War and authored the Emancipation Proclamation. Father in Heaven, we thank you for both of these stalwart leaders and we pray now also for our present President and all our public officials that they may carry out their duties with honesty and in an ethical manner.

16 - *“...We also glory in tribulation knowing that tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance character, and character hope,”* Romans 5:3, 4. This verse reminds me of Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” (2 Corinthians 12:7) which God refused to remove even after much prayer by Paul. I believe the thorn for most of us is a temptation or irritation that forces us to seek and rely on God because we can’t handle it by ourselves. Redeemer, thank you for the thorn that constantly reminds us that without You we are all not whole or holy.

17 - *“Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it because He rested from all His work which God created and made,”* Genesis 2:3. It is hard to imagine that God ever gets tired and needs to rest. But, you and I do. Creator God, you made us as human beings, not machines. Impress upon our hearts that we need not only physical rest but spiritual rest as well. Come join us in our weekly rest as your fourth commandment states we should do.

18 - *“He (Barnabas) ... encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts,”* Acts 11:23. What a tremendous gift encouragement is. All of us have benefited from the encouraging words of others.

Teach me to love, this is my plea.

May all the Spirit’s graces shine through me.

Tear from my heart all hate and all pride.

Help me to live like Christ crucified. (Peterson)

19 - *“In the world you will have tribulation but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world,”* John 16:33. Are we to be of “good cheer” because tribulation? I don’t think so. Our “good cheer” comes because Jesus has overcome the world. Jesus, there are times when “good cheer” is a pretty scarce commodity. Our world is often a cruel and heartless place. But, thank you for overcoming the world. Your victory is ours as well.

20 - *“After that (appearing to Peter and the other disciples) He (Jesus) was seen by over 500 brethren at once,”* 1 Corinthians 15:6. Paul was telling the Corinthians that Jesus was not a myth because many others saw Him alive after His crucifixion, a verifiable fact. We can learn about Socrates, Plato, Julius Caesar, King Arthur and many other storied individuals of the past who have far less verifiable authenticity than Christ crucified and resurrected. Yet, many still doubt that Jesus lived, died, and lived (lives) again. Son of God, how can we teach the doubters? Here we are. Use us!

21 - A friend of ours, Dr. Alex Bolek Abuk, has undertaken the challenge of providing schooling for the people of his home town (village), Mundari Bura, South Sudan. They have had no school for more than twenty years because of war within the country. We ask for your prayers for Alex, his wife, and fellow countrymen that they will receive the help, finances, and safety to complete their vision for a private Christian school in the village. The Timothy Christian School is set to open this month with four classrooms, teachers, and about sixty plus students.

22 - Many in our society, both in and out of the church, struggle with addictions that negatively impact health, productivity, finances, and re-lationships with others and our Savior. Father God, many addictions (possibly all) are the tool of Satan. 1 Peter 5:8 tells us *“your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour”* which he uses to keep us from reaching our potential. Only with your strength and guidance can we