



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN FARMERS
INTERNATIONAL

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Sowing, Saving, Reaping for Christ Around the World

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PRAYER GUIDE - April 2016

- 01 - Today is April 1st or April Fool's Day. It is also St. Stupid Day (that is not an April fool's joke). Some clever person said, 'you can't teach stupid' but the Bible says, "*The fool has said in his heart there is no God,*" Psalm 14:1. It also tells us, "*professing to be wise they became fools,*" Romans 1:22 in describing those who denied God. Teacher, we choose to be biblically correct not 'politically correct' so that we can be "fools for Christ," 1 Corinthians 4:10.
- 02 - The Dragon Boat Festival is held in Tavares, Florida today. Dragon boat simply means 'powered by humans' or paddle boats. FCFI will have a presence there and will be fishing for human souls. Head of the Church, May there be an ample harvest of souls at this festival.
- 03 - I am writing this April Prayer Guide in late February as we will be traveling, visiting friends and family and 'goofing off' for much of the month of March in a warmer climate. We ask for your prayers for safe and trouble free travel. Since we should be back up North by now, please direct your safe travel prayers for 'snow birds' are at this time returning to their homes from southern climes. Please pray, too, for Jim who has leukemia and is not responding to treatment.
- 04 - Rockets continue to fall on Israel and when Israel defends herself the world

condemns its people, not the offenders. Ephesians 6:12 tells us *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the power of the dark world.”* Psalm 122:6 says, *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.”* Today, let us pray for the peace of Jerusalem, Israel and the entire world and, in particular, we pray for the misguided people who want to do harm to Israel. Thank you, Lord, for hearing our prayers for this tiny country and its courageous people.

05 - *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,”* Genesis 1:1. That tells us the about the beginning of the Universe. It also should end all controversy about how we got here. Yet, the ‘Theory of Evolution’ has become the standard bearer of those subscribing to “the goo to the zoo to you” coined by motivational speaker, Zig Ziggler. Why has the evolution theory gotten such a ‘toe hold’ in our culture? It is because man thinks he knows better than God. Creator God, forgive us our superior attitude. Draw us back to the fundamentals of our faith and restore in us a concern for those who deny Your Word.

06 - *“Lord if you, are willing you can make me clean,”* Matthew 8:2. That is what a man with leprosy said to Jesus. Do you think Jesus can make you clean? When telling people about the ‘walking stick beads’, I often tell them that Jesus is in the laundry business. He will clean us up if we will ask Him. Messiah, You clearly state why You came to earth; *“to seek and to save what was lost,”* Luke 19:10. Help us to make that our priority as well.

07 - *“Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,”* Psalm 107:2. I think we can take this verse as our ‘marching orders’. We need to tell any and all the we are redeemed (say so) and they can all be redeemed as well. Redeemer, we often act like our redemption is a secret. Open our mouths to speak of the priceless gift You offer to everyone.

08 - *“Let him who glories, glory in this, that He (God) understands and knows me,”* Jeremiah 9:24. What is at the top of the list of your prized possessions? Is salvation at the top of your list? I am rewriting my list of prized possessions. Master, we take so much for granted. The price You paid for my salvation is beyond human comprehension. I trivialize Your gift to me of salvation if I don’t make it my top priority.

29 - *“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth,”* Ephesians 4:29. Do you, like me, find yourself talking yourself out of doing something positive or constructive? ‘I am tired’, ‘George can do it better than I can’, ‘that is impossible’. Creator God, you have the original I can’ personality. ‘I can’t is not in your vocabulary. Thank you for that positive example.

30 - *“Turn us back to You, O Lord, and we will be restored,”* Lamentations 5:21. Jesus doesn’t throw us away when we make mistakes. He restores us. Remember Peter who denied Jesus three times, yet, later, became Jesus’ lead disciple? Lord, I am human and make foolish mistakes. Worse yet, I willfully sin against You. Please forgive me. Change me. Restore me and use me for Your name’s sake.

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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are men and women and someone needs to accept the chore of reaching them for God's Kingdom. Lord God, we, too, wish to be "fishers of men". Use us to gather in many precious souls.

- 25 - *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,"* Philippians 4:13. Many interpret this verse to mean I can do anything and Christ will help me to do it. My interpretation is that Christ is like a filter that allows us and helps us to do things that are important to Him but protects us from doing things that are ungodly or not important. Thank you, son of God, for the strength You provide us to do that which is valuable not superfluous.
- 26 - Al-Abram press of Cairo, Egypt, recently published a statement that said, "Jerusalem is an Arab city because it was invaded by Christian Arabs in 90 BC (90 years before Christ was born). According to the Koran it is okay to lie (in fact it is encouraged) if it gives you advantage. Shepherd of Our Soul, our Muslim neighbors have been 'sold a bill of goods'. How can we be the witness that removes the blindfold from their eyes so that they can see the truth and put their trust in You? As John 14:6 says, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life ..."*
- 27 - *"When Jesus entered Jarius' home to minister to his sick daughter, there was much crying and wailing,"* Mark 5:38. *Why all this commotion and wailing? "The child is not dead but asleep, Jesus said,"* Mark 5:39. *"But, they laughed at Him,"* Mark 5:40. Have you ever laughed at Jesus? Do you, like me, often underestimate what Jesus can do? Holy One, we are a doubting people. Only by Your Spirit can we overcome doubts and flaws. Move on our hearts and minds that we can be the people You created us to be.
- 28 - Proverbs 23:7 tells us, *"As a man thinks in his heart, so he is."* This means we should be reading and following God's Word. It means being careful about what we read and to watch where we go, what people we associate with, what church we attend, and what work we do. Messiah, you came to save us from our sins. You also came to help us keep our hearts clean. Thank you, for your offer of forgiveness and for the grace to avoid those things that tempt us.

- 09 - *"Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it springs the issues of life,"* Proverbs 4:23. Our heart normally beats between 60 and 80 times per minute or 3600 to 4800 beats per hour and it pumps around 2000 gallons of blood through 60,000 miles of blood vessels each day. We could take this verse purely from a physical standpoint and it makes a lot of sense. But this scripture refers primarily to our spiritual heart, the center of our emotions and reasoning. Jesus, remind us daily to focus on You and Your Word so that our spiritual heart lines up with Yours.
- 10 - *"You formed my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb,"* Psalm 139:13. Who thought of such a miraculous event as the creation of new life? Was it an accident that took millions of years or the stroke of a mighty, wise, and eternal God? Chief Cornerstone, while recreating new life happens all the time all around us, it still remains the miracle of all miracles.
- 11 - *"You clean the outside of the cup and dish but inside (you) are full of extortion and self-indulgence,"* Matthew 23:25. Many of the religious leaders of Jesus' time followed all kinds of rules to look good on the outside but they were only fooling themselves. Jesus, we too, are often like those religious leaders trying to please man and not God. Forgive us our folly and change us from the inside out.
- 12 - *"Without counsel plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established,"* Proverbs 15:22. Solomon, perhaps the wisest man of all time, wrote that. Another wise person asks the penetrating question, "how much does a 'know it all' really know?" Heavenly Counselor, when it comes to solving a problem, multiple minds find a solution especially when Your mind is one of them. Remind us often that You are the source of all knowledge and wisdom.
- 13 - *"By Him all things are created that are in heaven and that are on earth,"* Colossians 1:16. We tend to think of invisible things as being spiritual but we can't see oxygen, water vapor, radio waves, electricity and a host of other phenomena. Heavenly Father, You are the creator of all things visible, invisible, spiritual, and material. Let us never assume that we know it all or can know it all.

- 14 - FCF Canada is having their Annual Meeting this weekend. Head of the Church, may Your Holy Spirit prevail as these men and women review the past and preview the future. Guide them in their planning, meet their financial and physical needs, and knot them together with a singleness of purpose.
- 15 - Today federal taxes (for some, state taxes as well) are due in the U.S. Remember Mark 12:17 says, *“Render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s (even when we believe the government wastes and spends foolishly) and to God what is God’s.”* Perhaps now is also a good time to check our ‘books’ to see if we have given to Him what is His.
- 16 - *“Be kindly, affectionate to one another with brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves,”* Romans 12:10. Most of us have ‘to do’ lists of things we want to accomplish. Paul reminds us that our ‘to do’ list should include things we need to do for others. Perhaps, even the ‘to do’ list for others should come before our own. Heavenly Father, we need to include You on our ‘to do’ list as well.
- 17 - (1) *“Rejoice always, (2) pray continuously, (3) give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God for you in Jesus Christ,”* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. The Old Testament gives us Ten Commandments, the New Testament just five. The other two? *“Love the Lord Your God with all your heart ... soul ... strength ... and mind”.* (2) *“Love your neighbor as yourself”.* Thank you, Lord, for these ‘new’ commandments. May we follow them with Your guidance.
- 18 - *“Who touched my clothes?”* Mark 5:30. Jesus was on His way to the home of Jarius to heal his ill daughter when someone touched Him. It was the woman with the issue of blood. Though He already had an ‘agenda’ He took the time to address this woman’s pressing need and restored her to health. His is an example for you and me that we should not be oblivious to needs around us even when we ‘don’t have time for that right now’. Master, open our eyes to ministry opportunities as they occur even when they ‘interfere’ with our own plans.
- 19 - *“The Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah and Jonah spent three days in the belly of the fish,”* Jonah 1:17. My grandfather and uncle used to tell stories about things they had done as young men but none were as spectacular as the Jonah story. But, wait! Jesus compared Jonah’s experience to the three days He would spend in the grave before His resurrection. Is anything impossible with God? Teacher, help us to have complete confidence in Your Word.
- 20 - *“Oh, that I had one to hear me,”* Job 31:55. Job had a tale of woe to tell his friends. But, they were more interested in telling Job the when, where, how, and why of this troubles. Listening is often hard work. It requires us to put aside our own ideas, thoughts, and solutions and really listen to the other person. It is the same when the Jesus speaks to us. Jesus, I am not a good listener. Please repeat Your message to me as many times as it takes to get that message across to me.
- 21 - *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ ... who comforts us all in our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble...,* 2 Corinthians 1:3. This reminds me of the word paraclete, a name given to the Holy Spirit. Paraclete means one who comes along side, a comforter. Thank you, my Lord, for providing us with every comfort through Your Holy Spirit so that we, in turn, can be a comfort to others.
- 22 - *“I am the door. If anyone enter by me, he will be saved,”* John 10:9. Jesus has many names but The Door is not one that we use very often. It brings to mind John 14:6 which states, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* Door, praise to you for allowing me to enter Your Kingdom. May we enter through You.
- 23 - *“You shall call His name Jesus,”* Matthew 1:21. Jesus is a variation of the name Joshua or Yeshua. It means “the Lord lives” or “the Lord delivers”. How appropriate that Jesus was so named. Jesus, You were born to deliver us from our sins. Thank you for accepting that challenge to deliver us from our sins.
- 24 - *“Jesus said to the (disciples), ‘Follow me and I will make you fishers of men,’”* Matthew 4:19. Why the analogy of fish and men? Because many of the disciples were fishermen and they and their families had the chore of gathering fish, a valuable commodity to them. How much more valuable