



FCFI, P.O. Box 15, Lexington, IL 61753 fellowship@fcfi.org | (309) 365-8710

## **PRAYER GUIDE - March 2016**

- 01 "And lest we not grow weary doing good for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart," Galatians 9:6. This is probably one of the best known Bible verses but also one of the most violated. I would say we all get tired of "doing good" when we don't see the results or benefits PDQ (pretty darn quick). Lord, we are an impatient bunch. We want and expect results immediately if not sooner. Forgive us our folly and remind us that "without faith it is impossible to please God."
- 02 "But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed me fully, I will bring (him) into the land where he went and his descendants shall inherit it" Numbers 14:24. Do you want to have a legacy for your descendants like Caleb did? Psalm 37:25 says, "I have been young and now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken nor his descendants begging bread." Exodus 24:4, "You shall not make for yourself an idol ... you shall not bow down ... or worship them for I, the Lord, am a jealous God punishing the children for the sin of their father to the third or fourth generation ... but showing love to a 1000 generations, those who love me ..." Thank you, Savior, for offering me your righteousness and love and extending it to my descendants.
- 03 There are three different exhibits that will take place in March, all in Florida and FCFI will be there to share 'walking sticks' and the gospel message.

Pioneer Days is scheduled for March 3rd to 5th in Wauchula. The Strawberry Festival will be held on the 5th and 6th of March in Floral Park, and Pioneer Days will be in Arcadia on March 19th. Thank you, Prince of Peace, for opening those fairs to FCFI and please open people's hearts and minds to receive You into those hearts and minds.

- 04 "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land," 2 Chronicles 7:14. Atheists and 'other religions' seem to have gotten the upper hand in our great country. What is the solution? My friends, it is up to us, the Christian Church. No finger pointing, all we have to do is humble ourselves, pray, seek God, and put aside our sinful nature. He will do the rest. Thank you, King of Kings, for that mighty promise.
- 05 "So he answered, 'Do not fear for those who are with us are more than those who are with them'," 2 Kings 6:16. That is what Elisha said to his servant when he saw the huge army threatening them. This reminds me of Hebrews 13:6, "So we say with confidence, 'the Lord is my helper. I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?'." Lion of Judah, we so quickly forget that you are always with us. With you at our side our fears are groundless.
- 06 "So because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tent makers," Acts 18:3. Paul was not dependent on others for at least some of his support because he had a trade that earned him some income. Don't think because you are a farmer you can't be an effective witness. I have often thought because I was a farmer I could relate equally well with both laborer and businessman. Carpenter, You, too, had a trade skill. Guide us to use the special abilities we all have to be your witness and to help others to be witnesses as well.
- 07 "He who finds a wife, finds a good things and obtains favor from the Lord," Proverbs 18:22. Boy, can I say, 'Amen' to that. I dare not think where I might be if it were not for my Sue. Alpha and Omega, you are certainly the beginning and the end but you gave me a helpmate to help me through the middle. Psalm 139:14 tells us, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." I will add that she is even more "wonderfully made."
- 08 "Then the Lord answered me and said, 'write the vision and make it plain

- ours. Emmanuel, we need not 'be shaking in our boots'. When we put on the "armor of God no plan against us shall succeed." Praise You, Lord!
- 29 "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him," Job 14:15. Job had such a steadfast relationship with God that even after he lost everything, he could say confidently, "Even if He takes my life, I still trust Him." Can you say that? I would like to think that I could and would. Savior, what I want to say is what Peter said when you asked the disciples if they wanted to leave, "Lord, to whom should (I) go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God," John 6:68,69.
- 30 "...let it be known to you, O King, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up," Daniel 3:8. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were signing their death warrant by not following the Kings demands but they remained faithful to their God. There are many Christians being persecuted and put to death even today across this dark world. Author of Our Faith, we pray today for our brothers and sisters who face severe persecution for their faith. And we pray too, for those who would do them harm. Change their hate into love we pray, in Jesus name.
- 31 Today let us pray for our families, our communities, and our churches in this troubled land. Father, so many have totally forgotten about You and so many of our churches have been preaching a watered down gospel that is pointless and powerless. Come renew our faith, Bring revival to our country. Restore honesty, respect, and a sense of personal responsibility. Guide us to humble ourselves and pray! And seek your face! And turn from our wicked ways! This we pray in the name of your only son, Jesus. Amen

## **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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- realize that we are '99 pound weaklings' and that in order to succeed we need you as our leader and guide.
- 23 "So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business' til I come'," Luke 19:13. Are you doing business? Are you using the talents and abilities God gave you "to do business" or are you 'hedging your bets'? God is telling you and to me to 'get going', to take what we have and use it for His honor and glory. Counselor, each of us has been given some tools to use for His purposes. Instill in us the confidence to use what we have whether little or much to do the Lord's business until He returns.
- 24 "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear," Isaiah 59:1. In other words, God can do anything. No one is beyond His reach. No prayer, however soft or seemingly ridiculous, cannot be answered. No sinner, however sinful, cannot be saved. Savior, I have family members, neighbors, and business associates whose hearts seem so impenetrable that they are beyond my reach. Take away my pessimism and their obstinacy so they too can enter your Kingdom.
- 25 Today is Good Friday! Yes, it is good because we see all the filth and shame of this world is being poured out on our Precious Savior. He is taking ownership of it so that we can spend eternity with Him. Thank you, Redeemer, for taking my sin to the cross. Before You did that, I was helpless and hopelessly lost but now I am free. You, alone deserve the praise.
- 26 "Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up," James 4:10. This verse tells me that if I lift myself up, I will not get very far but, if I humble myself, He will do the 'heavy lifting.' Praise God! You, Our Creator, not only formed us but you promote us and save us; that is if we get our proud and selfish selves out of the way.
- 27 He is risen! Yes, indeed, He is risen! The whole impact of our Christian faith rests on this historical fact. Truth is truth whether we believe it or not. Thank you, Jesus.
- 28 "When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him," Isaiah 59:19. The Bible tells us "Be strong and courageous" at least a dozen times. Why? It is because the battle is His, not

- ... that he may run who reads it," Habakkuk 2:2. Do you have a vision, a dream, a plan, a goal for your family, your church, your business? Our Lord tells us to "write it down" and share it with others involved so that everyone knows what we are aiming for. 'If you aim at nothing, you will always hit it'. Author of Our Faith, we are often guilty of not writing down our goal. Guide us to enumerate our goals so that we don't waste time and energy on the wrong things.
- 09 "Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me," John 14:6. Compromise and tolerance are often good traits but some things are not to be compromised. Gravity always works. You put your hand in the fire and you will get burned. Water will turn to ice at 32 degrees and Jesus is the only way to get to heaven. Teacher, many want to change the rules for salvation and still others don't seem to care. Help us to proclaim your uncompromising truth. You are "the way, the truth, and the life."
- 10 "Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her," Ecclesiastes 5:25. I believe in this case the word 'love' is an action word. Have you thanked her, complimented her, done things for her without being asked, given her a gift, taken her on a date? Oops, I haven't done so well either! Holy One, the challenge to love our wives as Christ loves the church is a tall one but with your help we will attempt to do just that. (The challenge can be reversed to "wives love your husbands" but, in general, wives do a much better job of loving their husbands).
- 11 "Pray without ceasing," 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me and I will answer you. I will show you great and mighty things of which you did not know." Matthew 7:7 says, "Ask and you shall receive..." I hope you and I are getting the picture. God is there. He is available. He wants to communicate. He wants to help. Master, I need help. I need direction. I need supply. I need friendship. I need you!
- 12 Don't forget that tomorrow, March 13th is when daylight savings time begins for 2016. Before you go to bed tonight set your clocks ahead one hour. Remember, spring ahead, fall back. Ben Franklin proposed setting clocks ahead one hour in the 18th century to save candles so this directive isn't anything new. Father in Heaven, forgive us our foolish ways and thinking we are saving 'light' by changing the hour on our clocks. You are the creator of

- our light. Guide us to use light and all the other gifts you supply to advance your Kingdom.
- 13 "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life," John 3:16. This is probably the best known verse in all the Bible and well it should be. It reminds us that there are 'coattails to hang on to' to get to heaven. We each have to make the decision ourselves. Messiah, You made the rules so simple that each one of us can avail ourselves of your forgiveness. Thank you for that indescribable and all-encompassing gift.
- 14 I am writing this March 2016 'PRAYER GUIDE' early (February 1 and 2) so we don't have up to date prayer requests. But, please continue to pray for Janet Schlagel as she continues to battle with Autoimmune Disease and for Dennis as he cares for and ministers to her. Pray for Gary Berry as he strives with God's help to beat cancer. Keep all of our leaders, board members, prayer warriors, and volunteers in prayer as they purpose to serve their Savior and their fellow servants.
- 15 "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature' and they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the Word through accompanying signs," Mark 16:15,20. Did you catch that? The Lord working with them and confirming the Word through signs. Wow! God calls us to preach. He will provide the accompanying signs! Master, You have called us to go into the world and preach. So we don't get too swell headed, You will do the hardest part when You provide the signs. Praise be to your Holy Name.
- 16 "So Jesus ... said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?'. The blind man said ... 'Rabboni, that I may receive my sight'," Mark 10:51. Immediately his sight was restored. Rabboni, I believe that you want us to be specific in our prayers whether it is a headache or a financial matter to stave off bankruptcy. You have the power to answer what is best for us if only we are specific.
- 17 Today is St. Patrick's Day. While this is predominately a day that Irish and 'wannabe' Irish celebrate, seldom does anyone praise God for the evangelistic nature of St. Patrick's ministry. He (Patrick) did bring the message of salvation through Jesus Christ to a basically pagan Ireland. Father God, we need many

- more 'St. Patrick's' to preach the uncompromising Word to a stubborn and pagan world.
- 18 "But let him ask in faith with no doubting for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind," James 1:6. Another way to say this is, 'Why bother to pray if you don't believe your plea will be answered?'. Teacher, we all have said prayers when we 'knew darn well' that they would be answered. We prayed for show or because we might be given some 'brownie points.' Forgive us our lack of faith and our selfish attitude. May we come to You in honest and total belief that You not only hear our prayers but answer them as well.
- 19 "Neither filthiness or foolish talking nor coarse jesting which are not fitting, but rather giving thanks," Ephesians 5:4. God is not a 'killjoy' opposing humor and good fun. Rather, He disdains foul language, dirty jokes, and making fun at someone else's expense. Head of the Church, thank you for giving us a sense of humor that we can laugh with others and laugh at ourselves but keep us from making fun of others or embarrassing anyone.
- 20 Today is Palm Sunday which remembers the celebration as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. People lined the road throwing down palm branches and articles of clothing so the donkey would avoid the mud and filth that normally covered the road. Just five days later, instead of honoring Jesus they had him nailed to a cross. Messiah, thank you for your unchanging ways even though we are a fickle and shallow people. We worship You today as our creator, sustainer, and Savior.
- 21 Yesterday was the March vernal equinox or the first day of spring. In fact the equinox occurred at 6:29 A.M. (EDT). What amazes me is that the earth's travel around the sun is so precise that we can calculate it years in advance. How come then, those same scientists can believe that the universe and we people are a chance happening? Creator of the Universe, take the blinders off the eyes of our 'intelligencia' so that they can see your creation and bow down and worship You.
- 22 "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might," Ephesians 6:10. When Paul says, "when I am weak then I am strong," 2 Corinthians 12:10. He wasn't making 'double talk'. He was saying that when he realizes he is weak, he then calls on the Lord to fight his battles. Lion of Judah, we, too, need to