



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN FARMERS
INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 15 • Lexington, IL • 61753 • fellowship@fci.org • www.fci.org

Sowing. Saving. Reaping for Christ Around the World

P.O. Box 15, Lexington, IL 61753



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

PRAYER GUIDE - July 2016

- 01 - *“These people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me,”* Mark 7:6b. Could Jesus be talking about you and me as well? Do we pray, go to church, sing hymns, drop our money in the collection plate while our thoughts are far, far away? Yes, I am guilty as charged. Redeemer, we are a fickle people. Please don’t give up on us but by your spirit guide us into a less hypocritical life.
- 02 - *“How many loaves do you have?,”* Mark 8:5. That is what Jesus asked His disciples as they faced 4000 hungry people. He asks you and me a similar question, “What do you have to offer?” When we offer what we have, He will provide the increase. Savior, we continually underestimate who you are and what you can do. When we willingly put in our “two cents,” You easily and gladly put in the other ninety-eight cents. We thank you and praise you, Lord Jesus.
- 03 - In Matthew 6:9 Jesus begins the Lord’s Prayer like this. He says, *“Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name.”* He wants us first of all to worship our Heavenly Father. We often get so caught up in listing our needs that we forget to praise the one who answers our prayers. Creator God, you are the source of everything we have including life itself. Thank you for giving us our breath and all things that allow us to keep breathing.

04 - Happy 4th of July! This day represents the adoption of the “Declaration of Independence” which signals our declared independence from Great Britain. It was several years later that the Revolutionary War ended and the thirteen colonies were actually and truly independent. Alpha and Omega, thank you for leading and inspiring our forefathers to lay the groundwork of our beloved country. May we always remember your divine hand in our country’s birth and existence.

05 - *“Do not store up your treasures on earth ... ,”* Matthew 6:19. As farmers we are probably the guiltiest of “storing up treasures on earth” and we sometimes put our shoulders ‘out of joint’ as we pat ourselves on the back for a job well done. Teacher, it is hard to “store up treasures in heaven,” (Matthew 6:20) when we work so hard to produce crops and animals and deal with the frustrations of weather, markets, machinery breakdowns, employee relations etc. until we realize that is you, not our own giftedness, that allows us to prosper. Thank you, Father, for being patient with us.

06 - Please don’t forget to continue to lift up Janet Schlagel to our Lord as she continues with an autoimmune health problem. Remember as well Dennis, their children and close friends who are also impacted by Janet’s illness. Also keep Gary Berry in your prayers as well as he battles cancer. I am sure there are others in your circle of family and friends who seek prayer as well. For all these, Lord Jesus, we ask for your healing hand upon them.

07 - *“Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me,”* Matthew 25:40. As I read this verse, I saw a new revelation, “whatever you did for one of the least” God doesn’t expect us to minister to the whole world, He wants us to focus on one (person or group). Carpenter, I suspect that many of us spread our ‘ministry’ too thin. When you call us, we should focus on that call not at serving all the peoples of the world. Lord, help me to focus.

08 - As a tribute to our dear friend and blueberry grower, Ron Bodtke, who passed away recently, let us celebrate July as National Blueberry Month. King of Kings, thank you for allowing us to share in the life of Ron Bodtke. He was really good at growing and marketing but he was even infinitely better at being a friend and for promoting His Savior, Jesus Christ. Please

‘spectators’ at one time or another. We are quick to see the faults of others while overlooking our own faults. The Bible tells us in 1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, He (God) ... will forgive us our sins”* Acknowledging our sins (the plank in our eye) is the first step toward our Salvation. Messiah, you’ve made the offer of forgiveness. It is up to us to accept it.

31 - *“Blessed are the poor in spirit ...”* Matthew 5:3. How can we be blessed when we are poor in any area of our life? Answer! When we are poor, we need help and our God is ready, willing, and able to make up any deficiency. Thank you, Jehovah Jireh, Our Provider, for being ‘at the ready’ in our time of need. When we are poor, we are rich because of You.

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.
FCFI – PO Box 15 – Lexington, IL 61753
FAX: (309) 365-7023 Phone: (309) 365-8710

am not very enthusiastic about it. Precious Lord, I am not much of a prayer warrior when it comes to praying for those in high places. Not only do I seek forgiveness but also to understand that you have them there for a purpose even though I can't see that purpose.

- 26 - *"A generous man will prosper, he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed,"* Proverbs 11:25. This and several other Proverbs (19:17, 28:27, 14:21, 11:15, 22:9) promise that generosity will be rewarded. But That should not be our motivation for being generous. The motivation should be to copy Jesus and *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself,"* Luke 10:27. Alpha and Omega, guide us to share our abundance with any and all who are in need.
- 27 - *"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus,"* Luke 24:23. This fact is the corner stone of our Christian faith and people need to hear it over and over again. Savior, you paid the price for each one of us to live eternally. But many don't know that and many more know about you but never acknowledge your offer of forgiveness. Guide us to share your story over and over again.
- 28 - *"That you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light,"* 1 Peter 2:9. Do you think you don't 'have what it takes' to share your faith.? Think again! Each one of us is a witness by both word and deed. Each one of us has the Holy Spirit at work in us and through us. Thank you, Holy Spirit for leading us to be a better witness, a positive witness for our Lord Jesus.
- 29 - Today is the first day of the 23rd Annual FCFI Conference being held this year in Branson, Missouri. Pray for safe travel for everyone as they head for Branson. Pray for all those responsible for arrangements, scheduling, guiding, and feeding all those attending, pray that each teacher, presenter, musician and speaker is Holy Spirit lead and that attendees are open to hear what God has to say to them. Pray, too, that all friends, old and new, are re-inspired to serve our Risen Lord. Jesus, hear our prayers.
- 30 - *"Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye but don't perceive the plank in your own eye?,"* Luke 6:41. It occurs to me that we all are

be in prayer for Ron's wife, Phyllis, and their wonderful family.

- 09 - *"The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak,"* Matthew 26:41. This brings to mind Romans 7:15 where Paul says, "for what I want to do I do not do but what I hate I do." Can we agree with Paul as he states in verse 14, "What a wretched man am I"? Savior, thank you for your promise to Paul and to me as well, "Thanks be to God who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord (verse 25)."
- 10 - *"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good work which God prepared in advance for us to do,"* Ephesians 2:10. When you see a fellow believer, do you say, "There is an example of God's workmanship"? No, neither have I, but that is about to change. Creator God, I never thought like that before. But, as a Creationist, I should have realized that "without Him nothing was made that has been made," John 1:3. Praise you Father, Our Creator.
- 11- *"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do,"* Ephesians 2:10. Yes, I repeat myself, but I want to emphasize that God prepared good works in advance for us to do. Good Shepherd, your love for us knows no bounds. Our finite minds can barely grasp the planning and directing that You do so that we can do "good works" in your Holy Name. Thank you, Lord.
- 12 - *"Love each other deeply because love covers over a multitude of sins,"* 1 Peter 4:8. This verse could be a short version of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world" Messiah, you died for our sins but you also give us an avenue to cover our sins against one another. *"And now there remain, faith, hope, and love but the greatest of these is love,"* 1 Corinthians 13:13.
- 13 - The Madison County Fair opens today in Brookfield, New York. We pray for the success of the county fair and especially for the FCFI tent and workers. Emmanuel, bring to our tent the needy, the curious, and the undecided so they may hear of your love and peace that is always available to them and give our workers the words and action that will make a difference in people's lives.

14 - *“Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it night and day so that you may be careful to do everything in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful,”* Joshua 1:8. How many books on success have this verse in it? Not many, I would guess. But, Holy One of Israel, you have supplied and sustained the only Book we need to be successful. Thank you for that wonderful gift.

15 - Did you know that today is ‘Cow Appreciation Day’ in the U.S.? I am not sure whether or not the appreciation is for cows or people to celebrate, but, Creator God, you gave us cows to provide us with meat, milk, many dairy products, and various leather goods that make our lives better and more complete. We praise you Father God, for creating animals as well as plants and people.

16 - *“(God) He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus,”* Philippians 1:6. True Vine these are comforting words for they mean that you are not finished with me yet and that you have completion in mind. It is a comfort to know this. Thank you!

17 - *“It is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous,”* Romans 2:19. This verse emphasizes the difference between hearing and doing. Master, help me to put into practice all your laws. I want to be declared “righteous.”

18 - *“What is man that you are mindful of him ...”?* Psalm 8:4. I would guess that the question has crossed everyone’s mind from time to time. With multiple billions of souls on this earth, how can God be concerned about me? Yahweh, while we may not know the how, we do know that you care deeply about each one of us. Jesus demonstrated that and we thank you that individually and collectively, your love is total and complete.

19 - ASAP generally means As Soon As Possible. But, could it mean as well, Always Say A Prayer? Today I encourage you to ASAP for the need, concern, guidance, or praise that is most pressing for you right now. Lord, hear our prayer.

20 - *“The Lord does not see as man sees for man looks at the outward*

appearance but the Lord looks at the heart,” 1 Samuel 16:7. We may be able to fool others and we may be able to fool ourselves but we can’t fool God. There is an old saying, ‘Oh what a web we weave when first we practice to deceive’. Messiah, you see through our sinful deceptions. Forgive us, chastise us if we need it, and restore us to wholeness we pray in Jesus ‘name.

21 - *“Do not be afraid of their threats nor be troubled,”* 1 Peter 3:14. Have you been criticized or marginalized because of your faith? Many have but Peter tells us not to be afraid. I like this little poem from Our Daily Bread:

We’re told to love the enemies that in this life we face,

For sharing love that’s not deserved reveals to them God’s grace.

Jesus, help us to love revealing your grace to all we come upon each day.

22 - Sue and I have taken on the challenge of helping our South Sudanese friends establish a private Christian School in that country that was torn with civil strife for years and years. Because of it, there had never been a school in a remote village called Mundari Burra. Peace has been restored in that new country but please pray with us for continued peace, wisdom, and provision as well as godly teachers and leaders to make this school an enduring reality. Precious Lord, hear our prayers.

23 - *“Let your hand become my help,”* Psalm 119:173. While cleaning out our manure storage pit, I slipped and sat down with a thud. Fortunately, one of the truck drivers was nearby and he helped me get back on my feet by extending his hand to me. Our Lord has a much stronger hand than any person and He is more than willing to ‘lend us a hand’ if only we ask. Thank you, Lord for always being available when we slip and fall.

24 - *“He has not dealt with us according to our sins nor punished us according to our iniquities,”* Psalm 103:10. Praise God! He has forgiven us for our failures (grace) and He has not dealt with us according to our iniquities (mercy). Thank you, Savior, for dropping all charges against us. May we follow your example when dealing with others?

25 - *“Pray for kings and all those who are in authority,”* 1Timothy 2:2. Ouch! I have trouble praying for those who are in authority and even when I do, I