



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN FARMERS  
INTERNATIONAL

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

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## PRAYER GUIDE - December 2016

- 01 - Br-r-r December is here and so is the chilly weather. The calendar says that winter starts on December 21st but I think it should officially start on December 1st. Regardless of what season it is the Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 4:2, *“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season, correct, rebuke, and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. Teacher, you have given us our ‘marching orders.’”* Guide us to preach your Word, not someone else.
- 02 - Have you noticed? We just came through an election in the U.S. and while I am moderately pleased with the outcome, our country faces daunting changes in the coming year. 1 Timothy 2:1 tells us, *“I urge them, first of all that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone, or kings and all those in authority ...”* Head of the Church, we pray today for our new president elect. We also pray for the present president, his cabinet and advisors, and every office holder through out the land. We also pray for the Clintons that they, too, may come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- 03 - When I read the verse, *“He made the storm stop and the sea be quiet,”* I immediately thought of the disciples struggling on the Sea of Galilee but the verse is from Psalm 107:9. Then I noticed that there several verses referring to God’s quelling a storm. Do you have a storm in your

life that needs quelling? Most of us do. Master, you are the ultimate storm queller. Come now and quiet the storms that threaten man and fortify my faith that I will put my complete trust in you. Remember --- 'In trouble, to be troubled is to have your trouble doubled'.

- 04 - *"Jesus said to him, 'Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you and how He had mercy on you.'"* Mark 5:19. I don't know of a single Christian that doesn't have testimony of what Jesus has done in their life. But lots of us hesitate to tell others about it. Creator God, guide and empower us to share with others how you came into our lives in a powerful way!
- 05 - *"Through Jesus, therefore, continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess His name,"* Hebrews 13:15. Have you ever wondered why praise is considered a sacrifice? Here are my thoughts on it. When we praise God, we place ourselves in a subordinate position to Him. Thus, we are sacrificing our own importance. Chief Cornerstone, we so often fall prey to the notion that we are number one. May we step aside and acknowledge that you are the great I AM, master and ruler of all things.
- 06 - *"He said to them (the disciples), 'Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest awhile.'"* Mark 6:31. Christmas is coming. shopping, holiday card writing, cooking, putting up decorations, calling family and friends. Wow! When do we have time to rest? Will you take a few moments and rest? Jesus didn't suggest it, life commanded it. Author of Our Faith, we often get wound up in our busyness. Forgive us and lead us into a time of rest and prayer. Thank you for the order!
- 07 - Remember Pearl Harbor? That attack on our naval fleet stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii is ancient history for most people alive today. But, that surprise and savage attack on our Pearl Harbor Naval Base cost over 2000 lives and plunged our country into World War II. What ensued was the bloodiest, costliest war known to man, our national freedom was at stake. But, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching ... then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free". Thank you, Jesus, for the truth.
- 08 - *"By the seventh day God had finished His work. On the seventh day, He rested from all His work,"* Genesis 2:2. This is not a very popular

of these were the merchants who sold supplies to the 'prospectors'. Savior, save us from our greed for it comes in many ways. Help us be content with what we have.

- 30 - *"Jesus said, 'And which of you by being anxious could add a single hour to his span of life,'"* Luke 12:25. Being anxious is like spinning your wheels when you are stuck in the mud. It neither gets you anywhere and it doesn't address the problem. Anxiety is kind of like a brother to worry. Emmanuel, we all have our anxious moments but You supply the answer to our problems. Thank you for always being there and always willing to address our needs.
- 31 - Good bye 2016. Many things came and went. But, Messiah, when I look back at the last year, I can say thank you. Many things changed but You did not. Many sins and mistakes were made but your offer of forgiveness still stands. Some dear friends have passed from this earth but you welcomed them with open arms. This I know, cold or warm, wet or dry, high or low, abundance or lack, we can count on you. Praise your Holy Name! Bring on 2017!

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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@fci.org) at the FCFI office.  
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- 24 - Today is Christmas Eve. Many of us are scurrying around trying to get all the details covered in preparation for the big day tomorrow. Raboni, don't let us forget 'the reason for the season'. It is a good time to tell others, 'I love you and so does Jesus'.
- 25 - Merry Christmas! It is finally here. The biggest holiday in the world. Many cultures and countries celebrate Christmas and they don't even know or realize that it is Jesus' birthday. What an opportunity to tell them Jesus' story and to tell family and friends that Jesus came specifically to seek and save the lost (Matthew 18:11; Luke 19:10). Thank you, Jesus, for coming!
- 26 - Do you have the Monday morning blues? All the excitement, all the preparations, all the food. Do I have to get up today? For almost all of us the answer is, 'yes'. But the reality of Jesus' birth and His reason for coming to earth are just as valid and important today and every day. So, let us praise Him today even though the house is a mess, the bank account is depleted and I have a headache. Jesus, you are the best!
- 27 - *"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God,"* Romans 10:17. How does faith come? By hearing. Have you shared your faith today? That is how you first acquired your faith, someone told you. So, let us tell others how Jesus has impacted our lives. Jesus, it took many people telling me about you before I believed. May I join the chorus telling others about You. May what I say and do have a positive effect on someone(s) today.
- 28 - *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness,"* 1 John 1:9. This is one of the most powerful verses in the Bible and it begins with the biggest little word in our language, if. Heavenly Father, our whole lives depend on this little word --- if and so does our salvation. Thank you for making the word if set me free.
- 29 - *"He said to them, 'Beware and be on your guard against every form of greed for not even when one has an abundance does life consist of his possessions'"*, Luke 12:15. When we visited Alaska the big story was (and is) the gold rush of the late 1800's. Men (and a few women) risked everything in their scramble to find that elusive gold claim. Many died, many more lost whatever fortune they had; just a few profited and most rule any more. Do you know of any restaurant or fast food shop besides Chick-fil-A that is closed on Sunday? It is little wonder that so many people are 'strung out.' Author of Our Faith, come rule in our lives once again. We turn from your commands at our own peril.
- 09 - *"... But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us,"* Mark 9:22b. That is what the father of a demon possessed son asked of Jesus. The question is dripping with doubt. Do you and I sometimes doubt Jesus' abilities? I know that I have been guilty of that. Jesus, we are all doubters. Shore up our faith so that we can put our doubts aside and be the disciples you created us to be.
- 1 - *"When you ask (Jesus) you must believe and not doubt ...,"* James 1:6. There is the reason many of my prayers are not answered. I doubt that He hears my prayer or I doubt that He cares or I doubt that my prayer is important to Him or I doubt that He can fulfill my request or on and on and on. Jesus, I am doubter. Change me.
- 11 - *"One thing you lack ... Go sell everything you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come follow me,"* Mark 10:21. This is what Jesus said to the rich man seeking eternal life. It was a bomb blast to those around them because people believed that wealth was a gift from God. The lesson is that anything that takes precedence over God is wrong. Money, fame, prestige, possessions, power, beauty --- these are all 'gods' that often push our Lord into second place. Teacher, we are often enticed away from you by worldly things. Come, straighten us out quickly.
- 12 - *"For with God, nothing will be impossible,"* Luke 1:37. Can I disagree for a moment? God cannot lie. He cannot change His mind. He cannot deviate from the truth. Having said that --- He can change you and me. He can change or influence our surroundings and He can give us a new heart. Creator of the Universe, create in me a new heart, one just like yours.
- 13 - *"Jesus said, 'let her alone. Why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to me'"*, Mark 14:6. This is what Jesus said after Mary poured expensive perfume on His head. I don't think I would appreciate someone pouring anything on my head. But, Mary was expressing her love for Him and He so much appreciated it. How quick we are at times

to criticize others actions because they differ from our own. Father God, teach us to appreciate the loving actions of others even though they seem 'different'.

- 14 - *"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, lie and say all kinds of evil things about you because of me,"* Matthew 5:11. Take note of the last three words "because of me". It seems that in the last few years many in the U.S. have been openly critical of Christians especially when they have stood their ground on such things as gay marriages, public prayer, and abortion. Jesus, fortify those who refuse to give in to 'popular' culture and give us all the backbone to stand for what is right and true.
- 15 - "Jesus said, 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst'", Matthew 18:20. It doesn't take very many to have a church nor to invite Jesus' presence. In fact, is only takes one. Come, Lord Jesus, we invite your presence whether it is one or one thousand and one.
- 16 - *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,"* Matthew 28:19. This is our marching order. Father, I hear your command and I have gone out in the world but I have neglected my neighbor right next door. Help me to reach those near as well as those who are far away.
- 17 - *"We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy. They are busy bodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat,"* 2 Thessalonians 3:11, 12. St. Paul was a stickler for people, in so far as possible, to work and not be dependent on others. Someone said the cure for poverty is a four letter word - work. Carpenter, you set the standard for all of us. Some are handicapped and need our support but most need to provide for their own needs and the needs of the less fortunate. Help us to remember this.
- 18 - *"When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, 'Put out into the deepest water and let down your net for a catch'"*, Luke 5:4. 'Yeah, right', said Peter who had fished all night and caught nothing. But, Peter forgot one thing, Jesus knew where the fish were. Jesus, show me where to cast my nets. I have been fishing for many years but you still know better than me where to fish. Thank you for the tip.

- 19 - *"Jesus said, 'Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Whoever hits you on the cheek offer him the other also'"*, Luke 6:28,29. God doesn't expect us to be a punching bag but He does want us to be concerned for the eternal well-being of every one, friend or foe. King of Kings, show us how to respond to every adverse condition we face and remind us that you came to seek and save that which was lost (Luke 19:10). That includes everyone.
- 20 - *"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use, it will be measured to you,"* Luke 6:38. I like the verse and have committed it to memory. Yet, I often think of it in terms of money and forget about time, effort, and concern. Lord, forgive me my narrow interpretation of this verse and create in me a generous heart for all things of value, not just money.
- 21 - Happy winter! Yes, today is the day with the fewest hours of daylight in the northern hemisphere. It really isn't a holiday but it illustrates the perfection and accuracy of God's creation --- a perpetual motion that is scientifically impossible, without God. Thank you, Creator God, for our temporary home in this vast universe that defies even the most brilliant scientist.
- 22 - *"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops then your barns will be filled to overflowing,"* Proverbs 3:9,10. In Biblical times most people were farmers. Today few people have crops to give but we all have income of some kind so I believe it behooves us to give (many believe it is the tithe) to the Lord first before we pay our other 'bills'. Master, you provide us with so much. Impress upon us the obligation of giving back to You in honor and gratitude for your manifold blessings.
- 23 - *"Jesus was surprised when he heard this (the centurion believing that Jesus would heal his servant), He turned around and said to the crowd following Him, 'I tell you, I have never found faith like this in all Israel'"*, Luke 7:9. It takes a lot to surprise Jesus but the centurion's faith did. Jesus, I would like to have the kind of faith that surprises You. May I have that kind of faith?