

Faith Advance

Strategic Prayer and Fasting Week

January 14-20, 2016

Call to Faith Christian Fellowship
for season of focused prayer
for the advancement of the Kingdom of God
in Pen Lucy, Baltimore, and the world



“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,
says the LORD of hosts.”

- Zechariah 4:6

Welcome to the most important ministry of FCF: Prayer

In recognition of our weakness and dependency on God for all things, the officers of FCF call all members, leaders, and interested participants to join us for a focused season of strategic prayer and fasting for the glory of God and His good pleasure for Pen Lucy, Baltimore, and the world. We encourage everyone not only to give focused prayer time during this week but also to pray with other believers as couples, in teams, in small groups, and finally concluding in a fellowship meal and meeting.

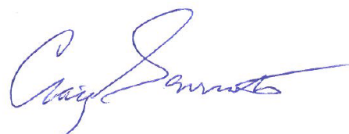
Annual Congregational meeting on Wednesday, January 20 Potluck Fellowship Meal @ 6pm---Congregational Meeting @ 7pm

We realize that for many of us, the idea of a focused season of prayer, or prayer and fasting, is a totally new idea and it may feel rather daunting. The spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting are something that believers grow in. The purpose of this week's calling is not to produce feelings of guilt for those of us who feel weak in this area. The purpose is to encourage each of us to grow individually and corporately in prayer as a means of grace, to enjoy the opportunity to participate with the Holy Spirit in the work He is doing, and to watch God advance His Kingdom through our prayers.

We have outlined 6 goals that have been defined by the leaders of the church as we set our focus areas for this ministry season.

Our hope is that you would experience the power and joy of God in amazing and fresh ways. The following material is intended to encourage you further in this movement of prayer. Thank you for participating in this Faith Advance.

Grace upon grace to you,



Craig Garriott



Stan Long

“The truth is that the church has always accomplished the most when she has deeply realized her own helplessness. Dependence upon God is our greatest need; it focuses our attention on what HE can do; and it makes his glory a supreme reason for all our concerns.” - Ian Murray

Weekly Prayer Schedule – January 14- January 20, 2016

The daily focus for the Faith Advance Prayer and Fasting Focus Week is as follows:

Thursday January 14 – Grounded & Growing in the Gospel of Grace

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Friday January 15 - Goal 1: Serve Pen Lucy

"...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28

Pen Lucy Team

PLAN (Pen Lucy Action Network)

SFH (Springfield Fellowship House)

Saturday January 16-Goal 2: Make Disciples

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." -Matthew 28:19,20

Children's Ministry

Youth Ministry

Christian Education

Prayer Team

Sunday January 17 - Goal 3: Outreach/Evangelism

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

Connections Team

University Connections Team

Outreach/Evangelism Leadership Team

Worship

Monday January 18 - Goal 4: Cross-Cultural Engagement

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some." 1Corinthians 9:22

Unity Task Force

Community Groups

Missions Team

Tuesday January 19 - Goal 5: Leadership Development and Training

"and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2

Deacons & Women's Diaconal Team

Elders & Women's Leadership Team

Spiritual Formation

Wednesday January 20- Goal 6 - Partner with other ministries, churches & organizations

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" Psalm 133

Acts4Youth

Partners for Transformation

New City Network

Pen Lucy Neighborhood Association & Wilson Park North Neighborhood Association

Why are we having a focused season of prayer?

God has made it clear throughout biblical and church history that he uses and responds to special times of humble corporate Kingdom-focused prayer to accomplish His redeeming purposes.

Chronicles' Promise: God has declared that the chief problem of society and the city is not unbelievers living like unbelievers in their unbelief and idolatries. The chief problem is believers not trusting God or seeking God's Kingdom first. The healing of the land and the city begins with believers in humble prayer. The upcoming presidential election gives us a compelling call to humble prayer for our nation.

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." -2 Chronicles 7:14

Nehemiah's City Renewal: The beginning of the urban renewal of Jerusalem after the exile began with the broken heart of Nehemiah that was manifested through prayer and fasting for the broken city.

"And they said to me (Nehemiah), 'The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.' As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven." -Nehemiah 1:3, 4

Acts of the Apostles: The whole forward movement of the gospel of the Kingdom in the early church begins with and is ignited by the prayers of the disciples.

"All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." -Acts 1:14

"And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness." -Acts 4:31

Spiritual Awakenings: God has responded to corporate prayer for the salvation of people by initiating movements of widespread acceptance of the gospel.

"There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer." -Dr. A. T. Pierson

"Out of that second Great Awakening came the missionary movement, the abolition of slavery, popular education and so many social benefits, as well as evangelistic drive." -*The Role of Prayer in Spiritual Awakening*, Dr. J. Edwin Orr

What is the heart of God-honoring prayer?

“Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.”

-*Westminster Confession of Faith Shorter Catechism Q # 98*

“The essence of Christian prayer is to seek God. Behind all true prayer lies the conversation which God initiates - Ps. 27:8 ‘You have said to me ‘Seek my face.’ My heart said to you, ‘Your Face Lord I will seek.’” -John Stott

Why do we pray?

“Believers do not pray with the view of informing God about things unknown to him, or of exciting him to do his duty, or of urging him as though he were reluctant. On the contrary, they pray in order that they may arouse themselves to seek him, that they may exercise their faith in meditating on his promises, that they may relieve themselves from their anxieties by pouring them into his bosom; in a word, that they may declare that from him alone they hope and expect, both for themselves and for others, all good things.” -John Calvin

“At the heart of Jesus’ mission to attack and destroy the forces of evil lies the sure knowledge of the Father as Abba – from the treasures of that relationship we have the power to face sin and evil.” -Joachim Jeremias

“God is attracted to weakness. He can’t resist those who humbly and honestly admit how desperately they need him. Our weakness, in fact, makes room for his power.” -Jim Cymbala

Why do we encourage fasting with prayer?

Jesus affirms the value and expectation of fasting for His disciples and provides guidance for the proper attitude. Jesus talks about “when” his disciples will fast, not “if.”

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”- Matthew 6:16-18

The early church fasted to seek the face of God for the mission of the church.

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’” -Acts 13:2

“I believe the power of fasting as it relates to prayer is the spiritual atomic bomb that our Lord has given us to destroy the strongholds of evil and usher in a great revival and spiritual harvest around the world.” -Bill Bright

***Please see the appendix for more specific guidelines regarding fasting**

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Grounded & Growing in the Gospel of Grace

God is hungry for fruit—spiritual lasting fruit – But it only comes through being deeply & vitally rooted in Christ. Our prayer focus today revolves around this theme of being grounded in His grace and fruitful disciple- makers. Please use any of the material below to assist your prayers.

THE CALL TO FRUIT BEARING:

“Abide in me, and I in you... Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit,”
John 15: 4, 5

THE MEANS OF FRUIT BEARING

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.... As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.” John 15: 7, 9

-Abiding in God’s Words; Praying God’s Will; -Abiding in God’s Love

THE GOAL OF FRUIT BEARING

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

Prayer of confession

Heavenly Father, we confess we dishonor you by our words, thoughts and deeds. We depend on our strength, proclaim our goodness, glory in our righteousness, and indulge in self pity. We are blind to the needs of those around us. Forgive our many sins. Cleanse the darkness from our lives and turn our faces toward you. In the name of your most precious son, Jesus Christ, we pray.

Prayers of thanksgiving

We praise God for:

- The continued multiplication of new life at FCF through marriages, new babies, baptisms, and new members
- A renewed commitment to a prayer movement through numerous prayer warriors

Prayers of supplication

Please pray:

- That the church mission and vision for Pen Lucy, Baltimore and the world would be clearly communicated, taught, and lived out by the entire body
- That everyone in our body would grow toward a greater fullness of reconciliation to God as enabled by the death and resurrection of Jesus, and that in humility and gratefulness for our reconciliation to Him, we would be more deeply reconciled to one another across racial, ethnic, socio-economic, gender, theological, and personal divides
- That the pastors and elders would be discerning about how to convey the truths behind our mission and vision in a way that upholds and does not replace the gospel.

Friday, January 15, 2016

Goal 1: Serve Pen Lucy

Opening Prayer

God of justice, you have long been a defender of the vulnerable, an advocate for those the world doesn't want to hear. You call for freedom for the oppressed, that the chains of injustice would be broken. You despise those who would deprive the poor of justice in the courts. Lord Jesus, you sought out and honored many that the world ignored. And you pursue each of us with that same radical love, redeeming us and restoring us to wholeness. God of grace, you alone can bind up our broken hearts. You long to give us a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a garment of praise instead of despair. Make us a people of great hope who boldly proclaim your coming Kingdom in word and deed.

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, we need you. We ask your forgiveness for the intentions which we have had, but have yet to act upon. Forgive our judging hearts. Move us to action out of our need for a Savior. Help us to reflect your love and mercy in all we say and do. May the sacrificial love of Jesus be our motivation for our acts of service and good work. We pray for a mighty work to be done in and through the next generation and for the current generation to see their need for You.

Prayers of thanksgiving

We praise God for:

- For an amazing, fruitful Pen Lucy work weekend whereby servants from our church, Cumberland brothers and sisters united to work among homes in Pen Lucy and surrounding neighborhoods.
- The Pen Lucy Team of passionate and talented leaders who care deeply about Pen Lucy and FCF's witness in the community. Team members are: Jeff Beans, Laura Clark, Andy DeVos, Craig Garriott, Blake Scheidt, Laura Scott, Marshalyne Seavers, Emily Sippel, Paulette Sullivan, and Shellery Washington.
- The PLANarts program for youth this summer which reached the neighbors of Pen Lucy, under the direction of Sarah Kennedy and Kellie Zephir.
- The provision of Erin Kauffman to lead the PLAN Learning Center
- Completion of the PLAN Learning Center semester and the good work/relationships that were built.
- The Springfield Fellowship House (SFH), for the foundational leadership of resident director Paul Aiyetan and for resident brothers Michael Leonzo, Daniel Odegaard who became a band of brothers to love God, each other and the Pen Lucy Community.

Prayers of supplication

Please pray:

- Pray for continued wisdom and energy among Pen Lucy Team members.
- Pray for mutually encouraging relationships between the Pen Lucy Team and the elders.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to unite the FCF body in a movement of reconciliation and justice in Pen Lucy
- For the work of the Pen Lucy Team, which will seek to build a stronger connection between the church and the community for the purpose of sharing the love of Christ and bringing the gospel to bear in this community by co-laboring with residents to revitalize the neighborhood
- Continue to pray for the families, students and tutors participating in the PLAN Learning Center
- Pray for the new initiatives for the PLAN education services and loving the community well
- Pray for the board and leadership of the SFH & Luis Osnayo, the new resident director and the addition of resident brothers to forward the mission of SFH.
- Pray for the financial and ministry needs of PLAN to come from the hand of God. If you have an Amazon account, you can designate PLAN as the If you shop using Amazon, you can designate PLAN as your charity when you shop using smile.amazon.com.

Saturday, January 16, 2016

Goal 2 Make Disciples

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” -Matthew 28:19,20

Opening Prayer

Hallowed be your name. Lord, enable us to glorify your holy name forever, by giving thanks to you with our whole heart, and by bearing much fruit, for by this is our heavenly Father glorified. Enable us as we have received gifts, so to use them to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. And if we suffer, enable us to suffer as Christians and to glorify God in that name; for this is our eager expectation and hope: that always Jesus Christ may be honored in our bodies, in life and death. Father, glorify your Name.

Prayer of confession

Almighty Father, we acknowledge that we are needy sinners, born in guilt, prone to evil, unable to do well. We endlessly violate your laws in ways we don't even know. We grieve your Holy Spirit. Forgive us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ and strengthen us to repent of our evil ways. Remove our guilt, captivate our hearts and grant us daily increase of your grace that we might live for the praise of your glory. In Jesus' all powerful Name.

Prayers of thanksgiving

We praise God for:

- The provision of our new Director of Children's Ministry, Cindy Newton
- The provision of additional nursery workers, Children's Sunday School teachers and Friends of Jesus volunteers. Praise that we have kept the nursery open nearly every service
- The teaching and fellowship that we enjoyed at this year's women's, high school, and middle school retreats
- The gifted and passionate Soul Food teachers who helped us more deeply understand and apply God's Word to our lives
- For our new Prayer Room assembled by Steve & Libet Garber, Jim Whiting and several others

Prayers of supplication

Please pray:

- That the Prayer Team would be established to strengthen current prayer ministries, establish a Prayer Counselors Team, and to teach effective prayer habits, encourage more dependence on prayer throughout all of the ministries of the church. Please pray for our leaders: Pastor Craig & Maria Garriott, Stephen & Libet Garber, Vernetta Abrahams, and several others.
- For our established prayer wrestlers to remain faithful in their task and to be an example to others
- For our faithful nursery volunteers to recognize the value of the work that they do and see it as a vital ministry to the church
- For Nursery volunteers to remember their commitments and serve faithfully
- Praise for and prayer for our newly formed Children's Advisory Team. That God would equip them with wisdom and discernment. Michael Rading; Cindy Newton, Pastor Stan Long, Sarah Landis, Wendy Pitts, Doug & Martha MacIver, Adrienne O'Connor
- Pray that those with gift of teaching children would consider being a substitute for next year. Pray that we would have enough teachers to be able to offer 4 elementary Sunday School classes in the coming year.
- Pray for those who serve in our Children's Ministry (Nursery, Friends of Jesus & Sunday School): Adrienne O'Connor, Andrew Scott, Andy Chrismer, Ann Maouyo, Anne Johnson, Aubrey Bauck, Calvin Landis, Cara Johnson, Celeste Mejia, Cindy Crown, Cindy Newton,

Daniel Clark, Eric Chin, Erik Crown, Erin Fisher, Gerry Sutter, Hannah Saeli, Heather Rice, Jayana Gentry, Jen Pluznick, Jiho Pitts, Jim Hicks, JinAe Arneklev, Joan Nelson, Joanna King, Jocelyn Hwang, John Raine, John & Megan Harris, Jonathan Ellis, Joy Frazier, Joyce Chapman, Julia Wen, Juliana Garriott, Juliet Cannon, Kellie Zephir, Kristina Raine, Laura Clark, Laura Samuel, Laura Scott, Lillian Hansen, Lisa Moose, Lynn Beans, Lynn Hansen, Marshalyne Seavers, Michael Rading, Nicole DeVos, Ofelia Rohan-Gentry, Paulette Sullivan, Rachel Hicks, Rosella Rading, Samuel Clark, Samuel Culli, Sarah Ellis, Sarah Landis, Sharon Busching, Sharla Chinniah, Steve Chapman, Timothy Chinniah, Victor King, Wendy Mu, & Wendy Pitts

- Pray that we would receive two more volunteers to help with Friends of Jesus rotations
- Pray that God would provide more Youth Ministry leaders as well as strengthen and renew the following leaders: Blake & Leeza Scheidt, Emily Sippel, David & Erin Hunter, Danielle Branch, Devon Brown, Julia Wen, James Long, Joel Gladfelter, Marlon & Ardyn Barton, Daniel Clark and Ruth-AnnMcLendon
- For more evangelistic outreach to Pen Lucy and beyond through summer programs and service by our children
- Pray that God would provide healthy high school ministry, commitment and growth. That our youth would grow in the gospel and bear fruit in their lives.
- That we would transition high school students into other ministries.
- For God to provide fund raising for Youth Ministry missions' trips and River Valley Ranch.
- Pray for the vision and wisdom for Adult Christian Education committee members.
- Pray for Soul Food offerings to be relevant, biblical and well attended.
- Pray for the Adult Christian Education training seminar planned for January 30th to equip FCF members to build up the body to know, love and serve God and our neighbors in the power of God's Spirit and His grace.

Sunday, January 17, 2016

Goal 3: Outreach/Evangelism

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Opening prayer

Your kingdom come, for yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. And we desire to speak of the glory of your kingdom, for it is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

O let the kingdom of your grace come more and more in the world. Let that kingdom of God, which does not consist in talk but in power, be set up in all the churches of Christ. Let the kingdom of your grace come more and more in our hearts, in our land and the places where we live. There let the word of God speed ahead and be honored, O give to the Son of man dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages may serve him, to the praise of his glorious grace.

Prayers of confession

O Lord, we have not longed for your coming and your kingdom as we ought. We have not denied ourselves, taken up the cross and followed you. Instead, clinging to the things of this world and counting them dear, we have grown callous to the needs of the poor, the lonely and the suffering. We have not cried out for justice nor cared about those who are without Christ and without hope in this world. Lord, forgive us for our offenses and grant that by the power of your Spirit, we might live in light of your coming again.

Prayers of thanksgiving

We praise God for:

- Lives that have been committed to Christ
- Growing, transformed testimonies among those who are sharing their faith within the Church, Community Groups and in their daily lives.
- God raising up Mark McMillen to lead the Worship Team, and for his leadership with the worship team
- An amazing, worshipful, multi-cultural Advent Concert and Bazaar. Many were reached with the good news of Jesus and approximately \$3,000 was raised for our deacons' ministry to help those in financial need.

Prayers of supplication:

Please pray:

- For a greater longing among the whole body to reach the lost through effective word and deed gospel ministry

- For all of us to have a deeper understanding of the gospel, knowing how to apply it well to our lives and how to share it lovingly and boldly with others
- That God would open up doors for the advancement of the gospel through our corporate ministry and our ministries as individual members
- For the leaders of the outreach ministries to grow in their knowledge of the love of Christ, to perceive of and align their efforts with the work He is already doing, and to have courage and effectiveness in building up teams to work with them in ministry
- That God would replenish the Ushers team with servants and that He would provide an assistant director of Ushers.
- For the establishment of an outreach council that will support the outreach ministry teams by providing feedback, training, and assistance in developing each team's vision and plan for execution
- For the church expansion task force to be formed with a passion to see the church expanded through the planting of a new reconciling church in the Baltimore area
- Pray that members of the church would share in the vision for planting a church, and that those who are called to join in the movement would sense that call and grow in their compassion toward the community where the new church will be located
- For our church to maintain right posture before God and orientation before the world as people sent out by God, existing for the sake of others; not for self
- For members of the Connection Team to be growing in their desire to live out the gospel, to be unified, energized and have a heart for newcomers. The Connections Team members are: Laura Scott, Jim Hicks, Victor King, Carol Pfeffer, Jeff & Adrienne O'Connor, Wendy Mu, Angela Onime, Jane Shen, Carol Pfeffer, Carolyn Williams, Amechi Anazodo, Becky McMillen
- That God would give us wisdom and unity in developing the new members' class. That God would provide 4-5 additional Connections team members to help us care for our visitors
- Pray for the development of new worship leaders, strong relationships among those on the team, and hearts eager to worship God.
- Pray that our United Voices of Faith team would continue to communicate well and work effectively together. Pray that people would join the choir to participate in leading our congregation in active, joyful worship.
- FCF will be hosting the New City Network Worship Conference July 7-10th. Pray for the preparation that will need to happen to make this event a success.

Monday, January 18, 2016

Goal 4: Cross-Cultural Engagement

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some." 1Corinthians 9:22

Opening prayer

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. We rejoice that your will is done perfectly in heaven. O that this earth may be made more like heaven! Rule in our hearts Lord that we might be for the praise of your glorious Name. You who have called us out of darkness into your wonderful light work in us to be Your lights in the world that people may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven. Strengthen to be a church that makes disciples of all nations, all the ethnicities and people groups in our networks and diverse neighborhoods. Give us Your passion and understanding to know how to love and speak to those that are different from us that they may know You, the Only true God and Jesus Christ Your Son. Expand your beautiful family with more sons and daughters you are calling to Yourself from Pen Lucy, Baltimore and the world. Work your perfect pleasure in us for the praise of your glorious Name.

Prayers of confession

Lord God, forgive us. We are blind to our own brokenness, yet focused on the failings of others. We are deaf to the cries of those who need us, numb to the need of those who hurt. We are silent when words are needed, impotent when action is required. Lord, hear our anguish, pity our brokenness, and speak life and forgiveness to our weary souls. Give us faith and courage to follow you wholly. Through Christ we pray.

Prayers of thanksgiving

We praise God for:

- Our missions teams and those who serve abroad
- The Community Groups and leaders, developed through the work of the Community Group Support Team: Bill Bolling, John Raine, Sun-Young Lee, Laura Baltatzis, Stan Long, and Djik Maouyo

Prayers of supplication

Please pray:

- For the Unity Task Force as they seek to organize events for the congregation. This February's Unity Month has a special focus on More Than Equals, by Spencer Perkins and Chris Rice. Several other events will be planned throughout the year
- That our Community Groups would be places where members are disciples and grow in their faith. Pray for coaches, facilitators, support teams that they would feel encouraged and supported. Pray that Community Group members would feel more comfortable and

able to read and understand the Bible on their own.

- For this year's Community Group leaders to grow in their personal spiritual walks, to have all that they need to lead and disciple well, and to have joy in their task.
- For the recruitment, training, and multiplying of community group leaders and groups
- That our University Connections team would be thoughtful and creative about how to most effectively welcome students and to include them into the life of our church.
This year's leaders are: Natalie Robinett, Titus & Katie Jones
- For wisdom and creativity in developing training opportunities and materials for leaders
- For our church to maintain right posture before God and orientation before the world as people sent out by God, existing for the sake of others; not for self
- We pray for the unity among the body of Christ and peace for our city. God's people must be in prayer for the system of justice as the police who had custody of Freddie Gray await the outcome. Matters of race and class always tend to bring swift division.
- Pray for our mission's month soul food series in March-April called "Blessed to be a Blessing"; that it would promote spiritual renewal and missional engagement with the world
- Pray for our Mission's month speaker Josiah Bancroft, missions' director of Serge, preaching on Sunday, March 6th.
- Pray for Dr. Lloyd Kim, Mission to the World coordinator and his preaching at FCF on September 25th, 2016.
- Please pray for our global partners, John and Lori Kempen and family, and the Sight for Souls organization, as they continue to develop the eye ministry in Ethiopia. Praise God that they have started the initial the eye work at MyungSung Christian Medical Center in Addis Ababa, and are planning several outreaches to help the blind in rural areas--physically and spiritually. Please pray for the ongoing work and continued financial needs. If you shop using Amazon, you also can support Sight for Souls at no cost by designating it as your charity when you shop using smile.amazon.com.
- Pray for the Missions' team to continue in their work to support and encourage our partners in the worldwide mission field. Pray that they would be strategic and wise when determining which ministries to support, and that they would have wisdom and creativity in their efforts to connect the broader congregation with the work of our supported missionaries. The Missions team members are: Ananda Kumar, Sahayini Kumar, Rachel Hicks, Timothy Chinniah, Angela Onime, David Onime and Joy Frazier

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Goal 5: Leadership Development and Training

“and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2

Opening prayer

Save your people, O Lord, and bless your heritage; be their shepherd and carry them forever. Give strength to your people, and bless your people with peace; Let the word of the Lord in all places speed ahead, and let it be honored. Lord, let your Spirit be poured out upon your churches from on high, and then the wilderness shall become a fruitful field; then justice shall return to the righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it. O revive this work in the midst of the years, and let these times be times of reformation. Add to your church day by day those who are being saved; enlarge the place of its tent, lengthen its cords, and strengthen its stakes. Raise up leaders O Lord, shepherds after your heart, elders, deacons, leading women who lead in unity who lead your people with wisdom and understanding, with love and mercy. To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of confession

God of all grace, you call us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. Yet we are not sufficient for these things. We confess that our hearts continually turn away from you: from purity to lust, from freedom to slavery, from compassion to indifference. Have mercy on us. Order our lives by your Word. Make your commandments the joy of our hearts. God, conform us to the image of your Son that we may shine before the world to your glory.

Prayers of thanksgiving

We praise God for:

- Jim Whiting’s faithful service keeping the church and white house buildings maintained
- The faithful ministry of our Pastors Craig Garriott & Stan Long
- The leaders who stepped up to preach this summer : Bruce Gustafsen, Blake Scheidt, and Vic King
- The healing and work of God in the lives of those who have sought care through our counseling ministry
- The Men’s Ministry movements under the leadership of Gerry Sutter and several others
- The success of the Women’s Discipleship and game nights and the many women who have stepped up to shepherd younger women toward greater maturity in faith

Prayers of supplication

Please pray:

- Don Rittler in his vital role as Director of Operations
- Wisdom in identifying emerging men and women leaders and training them into roles that would be the best fit for their God-given skills and passions
- For those who are called to leadership roles to grow in knowledge of Christ's love, godliness, discipline, love, good character, and desire to see the gospel advanced in and through the Church
- That the leaders and members of FCF would be faithful to our call as a church to be and build up disciples of Jesus Christ, growing in our knowledge of Him and our desire to become more like Him and to share Him with the world, and that we would be faithful to encourage and sharpen one another so that we may grow up into maturity
- God to provide a Kitchen team to oversee the church's use of the kitchen and in ministries of meals and hospitality
- That God would bless and fill Angela Onime with joy as she has stepped up to lead the hospitality ministry. We also pray for each volunteer to serve with joy and those who come to worship would be encouraged to fellowship and grow in the Lord.
- For the development of a Communications Team and comprehensive communications plan that would provide more timely and informative updates to the whole congregation
- For wisdom in how to carry out communications by means that are accessible to all individuals in our body
- For the Finance Committee to be godly stewards of the church's financial resources, to be efficient in their allocation of resources, and creative in identifying money-saving measures for the upcoming budget year. That our church would give faithfully to God's work and that we would be good stewards of His provision
- For the development of a pastoral transition task force and for its ability to care well for our current pastors and to identify and train up new leaders into pastoral roles in the years to come
- For our pastors to think wisely about their future and to have joy in the remaining years of their ministry
- For our deacons and women's diaconal teams to be unified in their ministry to the church family. Pray as we work to increase the Women's Diaconal Team's partnership with the Deacon's ministry team.
- Pray for our current deacons & those who are transitioning including: Dan Ellis, Sam Culli, Weldon Newton, Gerry Sutter, Jerry Lang, John Decker, Sandy Clark, and Carneal Means, Calvin Landis
- Pray for the current Women's Leadership Team including: Joyce Chapman, Sarah Landis, Terri Long, Grayla Reneau, Caroline Sharkey, Martha MacIver
- Pray for Women's Diaconal Leadership transition as Laura Baltatzis takes a sabbatical.
- Pray for the current Women's Diaconal team including: Sharla Chinniah, Nicole Devos, Rachel Hicks, Betsy Dagold, Audrey Kratovil, Eleanor Daugherty
- Pray as we begin an evaluation for the Annual Food Basket process. Pray that we would

be able to see clearly what is right for our church to do, as well as what's best for those who need help.

- Pray for our Food Pantry ministry; how we might improve and expand its use under the leadership of Nicole DeVos
- Pray for the Women to Women & Mom to Mom bible studies to be encouraging and challenging as they study the Word of God & fellowship
- Pray for our women's retreat (April 29-May 1)
- For wisdom in responding to mercy requests and for the deacon's fund to remain well funded so that we can provide generously for these requests when needed.
- For more men to be interested in and willing to mentored to serve as deacons & elders
- Wisdom for our Session to provide oversight, guidance and diligence with shepherding the church family. Our current Session is: Jonathan Hansen, Steve Sharkey, Michael Rading, Jeff Beans, Pastor Stan Long, Pastor Craig Garriott
- Pray for our Elders who are serving in other capacities including: Djik Maouyo, Bill Bolling, Ananda Kumar, Don Rittler, Bruce Gustafsen
- For our men's movement as they get to know each other and grow deeper in God's word; pray for the men's retreat on May 13-15th
- Wisdom for Kim Sutter to manage her time well, venues for reaching members beyond one to one meetings.
- For our staff team to be strengthened and encouraged as they serve God throughout the week. Our team includes: Pastor Craig Garriott, Pastor Stan Long, Don Rittler (Director of Operations), Keith Moore (Accountant) , Blake Scheidt (Director of Youth Ministry), Emily Sippel (Assistant Director of Youth Ministry), Cindy Newton (Director of Children's Ministry), Kim Sutter (Counseling), Jim Whiting (Building Supervisor), Adrienne O'Connor (Administrator), Mark McMillen (Director of Music), Trina Coleman (Choir Director), Sarah Kennedy (Music Coordinator) Robin & Kevin Carter (Building Cleaning Services)

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Goal 6 - Partner with local ministries, churches & organizations

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" Psalm 133

"It was that humble posture in prayerful dependence that the Holy Spirit used to transform the desperate lives of the people all around us, where alcohol and drugs had dominated, where prostitutes were working the corners near the church, where urban decay had set in. God opened up the flood gates and drew people to himself through the ministry of the praying people."

Fresh Wind Fresh Fire (Brooklyn Tabernacle), Jim Cymbala

Opening Prayer:

HOLY Father, you have declared in your Word that the world would know that we are your disciples by our love for one another. You have said that the world would know that Your Son, our Savior and Lord has come into the world through our unity. Lord give us the Spirit of Your Son, the Spirit of unity that we might be faithful witnesses of your reconciling power. We ask that you would not only unite us as a worshipping congregation but also that you would unite us with other brothers and sisters, other churches who honor Your Name and other biblically faithful ministries that You would be gloried in our midst. We commit ourselves to this holy unity for Your Kingdom. In Christ we pray, Amen

Prayer of Confession:

God of everlasting love, we confess that we have been unfaithful in our relationship with you and with one another. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our relationship with you and one another. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Prayers of supplication

- Partnering relationships with Acts4Youth who host their weekly meetings at our church
- For Partners for Transformation
- Pray for our Pen Lucy Neighborhood Association and Wilson Park North Neighborhood Association
- For our Partnerships with area ministries, churches and organizations
- That we would be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us
- That we would prayerfully consider how we can better serve and partner with those around us to serve the one true God.
- For our presbytery who will meet for General Assembly in Mobile, Alabama (June 20-24) where the big issue being addressed will be the overture on race
- For our presbytery and denomination as we continue to repent and grow towards a more racially/ethnically diverse expression of the Body of Christ
- For our local and national elections this year; that we would be diligent to elect officials who will govern and guide our city and nation

Prayer Reflections

“The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from the prayerless study, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.”
Samuel Chadwick

“God likes to see His people shut up to this, that there is no hope but in prayer. Herein lies the Church’s power against the world.”
Andrew Bonar

“Why is it so important that you are with God and God alone on the mountain top? It's important because it's the place in which you can listen to the voice of the One who calls you the beloved. To pray is to listen to the One who calls you "my beloved daughter," "my beloved son," "my beloved child." To pray is to let that voice speak to the center of your being, to your guts, and let that voice resound in your whole being.”

Henri Nouwen

“O Christ, our only Savior, so live within us that we may go from here with the light of hope in our eyes, and the fire of inspiration on our lips, your Word on our tongues, and your love in our hearts. Amen.”

Prayers for the City of God, G. C. Binyon

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer *is* the greater work.”

Oswald Chambers

“Pray, and let God worry.”

Martin Luther

Appendix:

What are some guidelines for fasting?

The following is a brief condensation of *Seven Steps to Successful Fasting & Prayer* by Dr. Bill Bright. The full version can be found at <http://www.billbright.com/7steps/>

STEP 1: Set Your Objective

Why are you fasting? Is it for spiritual renewal, for guidance, for healing, for the resolution of problems, for special grace to handle a difficult situation? Ask the Holy Spirit to clarify His leading and objectives for your prayer fast. This will enable you to pray more specifically and strategically. Through fasting and prayer we humble ourselves before God so the Holy Spirit will stir our souls, awaken our churches, and heal our land according to 2 Chronicles 7:14. Make this a priority in your fasting.

STEP 2: Make Your Commitment

Pray about the kind of fast you should undertake. Before you fast, decide the following:

- How long you will fast - one meal, one day, several days? (Beginners should start slowly, building up to longer fasts.)
- What type of fast does God want you to undertake? (Fasting options may include drinking water only, drinking water and juices, fasting only one meal each day, or even fasting something else you're dependent on besides meals)
- What physical or social activities you will restrict to accommodate your fast
- How much time each day you will devote to prayer and God's Word?

Making these commitments ahead of time will help you sustain your fast when physical temptations and life's pressures tempt you to abandon it.

STEP 3: Prepare Yourself Spiritually

The very foundation of fasting and prayer is repentance. Unconfessed sin will hinder your prayers. Here are several things you can do to prepare your heart:

- Ask God to help you come to terms with unconfessed, unaddressed sin.
- Confess every sin that the Holy Spirit calls to your remembrance and accept God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9).
- Seek forgiveness from all whom you have offended, and forgive all who have hurt you (Mark 11:25; Luke 11:4; 17:3, 4).
- Make restitution as the Holy Spirit leads you.
- Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit according to His *command* in Ephesians 5:18 and His *promise* in 1 John 5:14, 15.
- Surrender your life fully to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Master; flee temptation, resist the devil (Romans 12:1, 2).
- Meditate on the attributes of God, His love, sovereignty, power, wisdom, faithfulness, grace, compassion, and others (Psalm 48:9,10; 103:1-8, 11-13).
- Begin your time of fasting and prayer with an expectant heart (Hebrews 11:6).
- Do not underestimate spiritual opposition. Satan sometimes intensifies the natural battle between body and spirit (Galatians 5:16, 17).

STEP 4: Prepare Yourself Physically

Fasting requires reasonable precautions, such as:

- Consulting your physician first, especially if you take prescription medication or have a chronic ailment. Some people should never fast without professional supervision. Physical preparation makes the drastic change in your eating routine a little easier so that you can turn your full attention to the Lord in prayer.
- Not rushing into your fast.
- Preparing your body by eat smaller meals before your fast begins and avoiding high-fat and sugary foods. Eating raw fruit and vegetables for two days before starting a fast.

STEP 5: Begin Your Fast

As you seek the Lord through your fast, here are some helpful suggestions to consider:

- Avoid drugs, even natural herbal drugs and homeopathic remedies. Medication should be withdrawn only with your physician's supervision.
- Limit your activity.
- Exercise only moderately. Walk one to three miles each day if convenient and comfortable.
- Rest as much as your schedule will permit.
- Prepare yourself for temporary mental discomforts, such as impatience, crankiness, & anxiety.
- Expect some physical discomforts, especially on the second day. You may have fleeting hunger pains, dizziness, or the "blahs." Withdrawal from caffeine and sugar may cause headaches. Physical annoyances may also include weakness, tiredness, or sleeplessness.

Tips on Juice Fasting

- Drinking fruit juice will decrease your hunger pains and give you some natural sugar energy. The taste and lift will motivate and strengthen you to continue.
- The best juices are made from fresh watermelon, lemons, grapes, apples, cabbage, beets, carrots, celery, or leafy green vegetables. In cold weather, you may enjoy a warm vegetable broth.
- Acidic juices (orange and tomato) should be mixed with water for your stomach's sake.
- Avoid caffeinated drinks.
- Avoid chewing gum or mints, even if your breath is bad. They stimulate digestive action in your stomach.

STEP 5: End Your Fast Gradually

When the designated time for fasting is finished, how you break your fast is very important for your physical and spiritual well-being.

- Begin eating gradually. Do not eat solid foods immediately after your fast. Suddenly reintroducing solid food to your stomach and digestive tract can have negative, even dangerous, consequences. Try several smaller meals or snacks each day. If you end your fast gradually, the beneficial physical and spiritual effects will result in continued good health.
- Put Yourself on a Schedule. For maximum spiritual benefit, set aside ample time to be alone with the Lord. Listen for His leading. The more time you spend with Him, the more meaningful your fast will be.

STEP 6: Expect Results

If you sincerely humble yourself before the Lord, repent, pray, and seek God's face; if you consistently meditate on His Word, you will experience a heightened awareness of His presence (John 14:21). The Lord will give you fresh, new spiritual insights. Your confidence and faith in God will be strengthened. You will feel mentally, spiritually, and physically refreshed. You will see answers to your prayers.

A single fast, however, is not a spiritual cure-all. Just as we need fresh infillings of the Holy Spirit daily, we also need new times of fasting before God. A 24-hour fast each week has been greatly rewarding to many Christians. It takes time to build your spiritual fasting muscles. If you fail to make it through your first fast, do not be discouraged. You may have tried to fast too long the first time out, or you may need to strengthen your understanding and resolve. As soon as possible, undertake another fast until you do succeed. God will honor you for your faithfulness.

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?”-Isaiah 58:6

*“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”
-Acts 4:31*

“Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” -John 16:24