



FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER

January/February 2012

*"Abraham believed God and it was **credited** to him as righteousness." Rom 4:3*

Imagine receiving your bank statement. Opening it, you find, to your horror, that it lists hundreds of debit card transactions, each with insufficient funds! You are hundreds of thousands of dollars in the hole. Immediately you rush to the bank to plead your case to the bank president, asking for mercy. The bank confirms that these are all legitimate purchases made by you. However, to your great amazement, the bank president graciously agrees to **FORGIVE** the debt. Your thankfulness overflows! Smiling and walking through the bank lobby, you have a realization. You have \$0 in your account. You are out of debt, but have nothing to live on. Before you reach the door, you hear the bank president call your name. You stop, turn, and here these words: "In addition, we have CREDITED \$5 million to your account."

As implausible as this scenario is, it mirrors what God has done for us in Christ. Not only has our sin debt been forgiven (Psalm 103:12; Col 2:13), but everything that is in Christ's account as the Lord of the Universe has been credited to your account! Immediately all of Christ's assets including His **righteousness** (II Cor 5:21), **eternal life** (I Jn 5:11-12), **reputation** (Gal 2:20), **full inheritance** (I Pt 1:4), **glory** (Rom 8:30), **Holy Spirit** (Jn 14:17), **citizenship** (Ph 3:20-21), **high position** (Rev 1:6), **love** (II Cor 5:14), **freedom** (Rom 8:2) and **newness of life** (II Cor 5:17) are transferred to your empty account!

Men, being forgiven by God is totally awesome! But, it's only half the story, only half the Gospel. He has also imputed, or credited, Christ's righteousness to you! As you prepare for taxes in the next months, you'll be thinking about your bottom line. We encourage you to look again at your **spiritual bottom line** and be absolutely blown away by the assets credited to you at the Cross. You didn't earn them originally and you still can't earn them. Let your gratitude for your full account motivate you to love and worship God this Spring and invest in those who He has placed in your life!

Prayer Requests:

MEN'S FORUMS

Pray that as we wrap up our year long focus on the Sermon on the Mount, and move towards a new focus in Philippians that we are calling "INGman" (i.e. MaturING, growING, changING, progressING, etc), Men will engage God at new levels. Pray for a steady flow of new seekers coming to the forums.

DISCIPLESHIP

After 24 seasons of the SALT Discipleship ministry, we felt led to take a sabbatical from the "program" of SALT this Spring. Pray for Perry, David, and Peter as they engage a wide scope of men in discipleship. Pray for clarity about the future look of the SALT discipleship tool. Pray for all the men who have "gotten used to" the rhythm of SALT in their lives that they would learn to own their spiritual feeding and be committed to another man on the journey.

DAYBREAK CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER

Join us in prayer for a person to take over coordination of the male mentoring ministry. Pray also for the boyfriends we are starting to see get integrated into our forums... that they would grow in their faith.

OUTREACH

Pray for two Father's Forums happening **Saturday, Feb 25** and **Monday, Feb 27**. Planning to show the movie Courageous and then discuss it. Pray that men would indeed be characterized by true courage. Also, two more Father's Forums are in the works.

CALENDAR ITEMS FOR PRAYER

Feb 3-5 - Focused Living Core Retreat in Georgetown. Nine couples attending. Pray that God would again knit our hearts together relationally and give us clarity for His vision for FLM.

Feb 12 – David preaching at Columbia Crossroads Church and administering communion

March 9-18 - Lift up Perry in prayer as he travels to India with Kent Humphries and Chris Mercer to train pastors in ministry to men in the marketplace. Two cities with ~150 pastors/denominational leaders coming. Pray for much fruit.

PERSONAL PRAYER & PRAISE

BOWERS FAMILY

Perry: His word for the year is “gospel.” Pray that he would allow the Gospel to overflow in his heart. Continue to pray for a Spirit-led pace. Overflowing with praise for Grandchildren!

Janet: I'm so thankful God IS MY ANCHOR in various circumstances. May God's Spirit deepen my hunger and thirst for Him through His word and in prayer. I need motivation in exercise and household responsibilities. Praising God that He continues to exude love through my mom as we seek to keep her comfortable in the nursing home.

Joy and Eddie Centurion: Wisdom & energy parenting three precious but BUSY children five and under. For a Spirit-Ushered transition for their church as a new senior pastor begins. For the beginnings of new ministries including a Latino women's Bible Study and a support group for women suffering loss -- infertility, miscarriage, infant death, etc

Megan and Marc Hunsaker: Wisdom in parenting a toddler. Pray for wisdom in moving toward further education for Marc.

ANDES FAMILY

David & Katherine – That we would have responsive hearts and listening ears to God’s leading in all facets of our lives. In the routine of the weeks, that we would number our days and not take little things for granted.

Austin (13) – Praise for a fun and successful involvement in the Seussical Jr musical this month! Pray for Austin as he builds relationships with his new therapy team...for an enthusiastic start with this team. His recent phrase is, “I’m ready to go to heaven and be with Jesus.”

Cameron (9) – Praise that he is interested in listening to the Bible on audio in the morning before school. Our family is joining our church in reading the Bible through this year. His recent question was, “What does it mean to humble yourself?” We said, “To think of your self less and to think more about God and others.” He asked, “What if you don’t humble yourself?” We said, “Then God does it for you.” He said he would humble himself☺

SALTER FAMILY

Peter – Peter is enjoying new opportunities to disciple some of the men in his church and would appreciate your prayers to faithfully speak all of the gospel to these men.

Teena - Teena is now substitute teaching four days a week and would greatly appreciate your prayers as she tries to balance home and work. The Monday night bible study that she leads begins Jan 23. The women will be studying James. Pray that they will truly meet with God and be encouraging and challenging to one another.

Hannah and Zachary - Our kids are beginning a new semester in school. Pray that they will continue to develop into responsible hard working students and that their love for God would grow to be more and more their own and less and less handed down from their parents.