



## FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER GUIDE

November 2012

Last month, premier base jumper, Felix Baumgartner, leapt from a capsule floating 24 miles above the earth. Millions around the world watched live his dramatic free fall reaching speeds of 833 mph before safely touching down on the ground. During a press conference after the jump he said, *“Sometimes you have to go up really high to understand how small you really are... When you are standing on top of the world you **become so humble.**”*

Fortunately for us landlubbers, we don't have to “go up really high”, free fall 24 miles or break the sound barrier to experience true humility before God. Indeed, authentic humility doesn't start by **us** doing something, but by understanding what **God** has already done for us. We experience true humility when we slow down to ponder these three words: **Condemned, Cross, Clothed.**

- **Condemned** – Sure, it sounds negative. But, just like the man who has lost significant weight often carries around his “before picture” in his wallet as a reminder, we need to be reminded of our spiritual “before picture”. We each had rejected our Creator God as we tried to become our own god so we could call our own shots in life. As a result, we justly deserve and eternity away from the very Father who created and loved us. It's against this bleak, black background that we can best see His grace shining like a brilliant diamond. *“For the wages of sin is death...” Rom 6:23*  
*“You were dead in your sins...” Eph 2:1*
- **Cross** – A man “stands on top of the world” when he humbles himself at the foot of the Cross. For it is from there that he can clearly see that God met the demands of his Holy Justice with His own love. He sent His only Son to receive the death penalty that was due us for our rebellious heart that had rejected God. When we believed in Christ and received His grace we passed immediately from a state of condemnation to a state of acceptance, forgiveness, and life as a part of His forever family! *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Rom 5:8* *“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God...” 1Pet 3:18*
- **Clothed** – Humility is admitting that we are absolutely dependent on God for everything...gravity, air, your last heart beat, grace, salvation, eternal life just to name a few. Just as Baumgartner was absolutely dependent upon his space suit to sustain him during his free fall, we are clothed in Christ's righteousness. God now sees us as being just as righteous as Jesus Himself! How humbling is that going from the rags of a sinner to wearing the royal robes of one of His children! *“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God” 2Cor 5:21* *“Put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” Eph 4:24*

As you walk through the holiday season, allow these realities to blow you away like a free fall from heaven!

### **Ministry Praises and Requests:**

Would you join us in praying in the Apostle Paul's prayer for the believing men in Columbia and beyond!

*I pray for you that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:9-14*

- November 18** David preaches at Columbia Crossroads
- December 1** Guns 'n Roses Daddy Daughter Shootout
- December 2** FLM Year-end Core Gathering.
- December 16** David preaches at Columbia Crossroads

## ***Personal Praises and Requests:***

### **BOWERS FAMILY**

**Perry:** Praise God for His extreme faithfulness in walking us through the death of my mother and for sovereignly calling her to faith in Christ. Thank you all for your prayers, comforting words of grace and your friendship. Pray that I may be focused on men who desperately need Christ and be sensitive to His Spirit as He leads me in the marketplace daily. Also pray for rest as I am numb and bone tired.

**Janet:** Janet's focus word for this month is Ps. 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God". With Perry's mom passing and my mom continuing in hospice and Thanksgiving coming, it is GOOD TO BE STILL and IN GOD'S PRESENCE.

**Joy and Eddie Centurion:** Joy and Eddie have his parents from Paraguay visiting for two months. Pray for quality time with them and Eddie's Sister's family through the holidays.

**Megan and Marc Hunsaker:** Megan and Marc desire to follow God's lead as Marc takes the GRE and prepares for the next season of their lives. Pray for humble listening hearts and for patience and perseverance in the waiting.

### **ANDES FAMILY**

Is there a Bible verse that says, "children do not exasperate your parents?" If there isn't, there should be! Along with many of you, we are in the season of discipling our children and reaching their hearts. Pray that we will have increasing insight into how our Heavenly Father parents us so we can model that among our boys. We are thankful for the many good things that God gives us. We desire to live as if we REALLY trust God in ALL things.

### **SALTER FAMILY**

This last part of the year has brought many changes into the Salter's lives. Peter is transitioning off of Focused Living Staff towards the end of the year but will continue to stay involved with discipling men through FLM and his church. Teena has been a full time sub for a French teacher for the last month and is greatly looking forward to a break over Thanksgiving. Hannah and Zach continue to plug away at school and are looking forward to having their cousins from Colorado come to visit over Christmas! Thank you so much for your faithful prayers!