

# FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER May-July 2014

## SENT INTO THE SUMMER

A recent reading of John's Gospel revealed an insight that had not powerfully registered with me before. 39 times Jesus refers to Himself as a "**sent one**". Here's a sampling:

"He whom God has **sent** speaks the words of God." 3:34

"My food is to do the will of Him who **sent Me**" 4:34

"He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who **sent** Him." 5:23

"I do not seek my own will but the will of Him who **sent Me**." 5:30

"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him who He has **sent**." 6:29

"I have not even come on my own initiative, but He **sent Me**." 8:42

"That the world may know that You **sent Me**." 17:23

Jesus' constant and steady mindset was: "**I am on a mission from God the Father.**" His authority, priorities, direction and relationships flowed from his '**sentness**'. In every situation, Jesus had the confidence that He was **sent** there by His Father to accomplish His Father's will. Amazingly, Jesus wants us to experience the confidence, priorities and direction too!

"As the Father has **sent Me**, I also **send you**." 17:18; 20:21

As you navigate your way through these summer months, our prayer is that you would see yourself as one personally **sent** by the Lord...for that is who you really are! Would you join with us in praying this daily for the next two months?

"Father, thank you for **sending** me like you sent Christ. You've **sent** me into my family, my workplace, my neighborhood and my church. You have **sent** me to serve and to proclaim so that You might save. May others experience You living Your life through me, Your **sent** one, today."



## Ministry Prayer Requests:

**MEN'S FORUMS** Praise for a fruitful year of forum ministry under the G:love theme. We praise God for the growth in man to man shepherding that has characterized the forums this year. Pray that many would stay plugged in through the summer as most forums read through the book, *Fearless* by Max Lucado.

**DISCIPLESHIP** Our pilot season of GRIP comes to an end on June 2. Pray that Perry and David will be able to process what we learned about leading men in discipleship. Pray that the men involved will continue to disciple other men beyond this season.

**OUTREACH** Continue to pray for Perry and David's fishing holes. For Perry as he reaches out to his cycling buddies and David as he reaches out to the guys on the tennis court each week. As these guys come to Christ, they are plugging into the men's forums and inviting their friends.

**DAYBREAK CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER** We thank God for the new male mentors that were recently added to the team and continue to ask God for a full-time director for the men's ministry of Daybreak.

**FLM MISSION TRIPS** Focused Living will sponsor two cross cultural mission trips this summer.

The trip to **Guatemala** will happen **July 12-19**. This team (~20 people) will be lead by Bill Manley and Derek Gowdy and will host a medical clinic in a rural part of Guatemala.

The trip to **Belize** is **June 7-14**. **Fred Altman** (leader), **David Andes**, **Perry Bowers**, **Eddie Crosby**, **Drew Hooker**, and **Wally Kizer** make up the team. We will be working with several churches in the 'Burial Grounds' section of Belize City reaching out to the men of this city in order to jump start a vibrant men's ministry which the pastors can continue to develop once we leave. Our hope is that our trip will be a catalyst to this local church in furthering their outreach to men. Please pray for both teams as they minister during these weeks.

## ***Personal Prayer Requests:***

### **BOWERS FAMILY**

**Perry** – that I might wrap up the year faithfully as we head into the summer. That I might hear God's direction on how He wants me to invest my time and talents for Kingdom building. That He would make this a summer rich in leadership development as I invest time in various men. That I would continue to sense the Father's delight in me through Christ's covenant promise and not my performance! That I would slow my pace and rest in Christ.

**Janet** : I'm thankful for opportunities to be with our adult children and the grand kids over part of June and July. I have several private prayer concerns that bring me to my knees often but that's a GREAT place to be. I also need to remain faithful to keep up with physical therapy exercises so pray for discipline.

**Joy & Eddie**: They ask for insight, energy, and alertness to teachable moments with the kids as they grow and change -- turning 8, 6, 4 and 2 over the summer and into the fall. Also, for ongoing strengthening of their marriage in the busy stage of parenting. Praise for Eddie's job with the McClellan Foundation in Chattanooga and opportunities for ministry on various fronts there.

**Megan & Marc**: Praise God for the completion of Marc's first year in his PHD Program. It was non-stop reading, study, writing and working as a liaison between the city of East Lansing and Michigan State University. His Research Fellowship this summer will be intense but he has a slightly more manageable schedule. Megan finishes her teaching year in a couple of weeks and will enjoy extra time with Hannah and Logan as they continue to blossom as an (almost 4 yr old) and smiley 6 month old.

### **ANDES FAMILY**

**David & Katherine** – Pray that we would recognize the tyranny of the urgent and not let our couple time evaporate. The summer schedule is always an adjustment (David's office is at home). In Christ, we keep getting while we keep giving. May we experience that divine simultaneous rest and work!

**Austin (15)** - Praise for Austin's benefit concert at the end of April. He had fun, those in attendance were blessed, and he raised almost \$2000 for a friend of his who needs a special lift device! (See pic on website)  
Pray for us as we make decisions about future therapy and that God would provide another therapist. Austin will turn 16 on June 1. Pray that we will trust that God is orchestrating pieces for his future.

**Cameron (11)** – Praise that Cameron is finishing elementary school well (still working, still practicing the violin). Please join us in prayer for this summer that he will develop relationships with some boys who have similar interests.