

FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER Oct-Nov 2014

What Makes A Man Great?

George Washington was a great man because he **gave up** the **extraordinary power** he could've had by **becoming king** of America so this new nation would be built on new principles.

William Wilberforce was a great man because he **gave up** the **opportunity of becoming prime minister** of England in order to devote his life to improving the lives of humans, made in God's image, who were living as slaves.

Eric Liddell was a great man because he **gave up** the **acclaim of his Country**, Scotland, when he pulled out of the 1924 100 meter Olympic race in order to please his Lord Jesus as his Audience of One, by keeping the Sabbath Holy. Then he abruptly **gave up** his sporting career to serve God in China as a missionary.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a great man because he **gave up** his **freedom, safety and, ultimately, his life** in order to do the right thing and stand against the tyranny of the Nazi regime and stand for God's ways.¹

Do you see a pattern? All of these men were considered great because they surrendered themselves to a higher purpose and gave something valuable away that most men would have kept. They made the noble choice to forgo what would be to their advantage and act for the benefit of others. When asked to describe the difference between a great man and a common man, notice what Vince Lombardi emphasizes first. The difference lies in "**sacrifice, in self-denial**, in love and in loyalty, in fearlessness and in humility, in the pursuit of excellence and the perfectly disciplined will."

In ancient Greece and Rome, "**surrender**" and "**self-sacrifice**" were not highly valued. In fact, these qualities were viewed with suspicion in comparison with the prized value of personal honor. The reason that we, in the 21st century, can even equate greatness with the concepts of "giving away" and "surrender" and "self-sacrifice" is because Jesus taught and modeled greatness.

"Whoever wishes to become GREAT among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to GIVE HIS LIFE a ransom for many." Mark 10:44-45

Do you want to be a **GREAT** man? Then ask God for the courage to surrender to Him and ask Him to show you what He would have you give up and give away for His higher purpose. Pray that the Lord would raise up an army of **GREAT MEN** in our city of Columbia...and in yours!

¹ 7 Men and the secret of their greatness by Eric Metaxas



Ministry Prayer Requests

MEN'S FORUMS Pray that the men who attend the various forums would have a "come, hear, do" mentality and apply what God is teaching them. We'll spend October and November on the 10 Commandments. Pray that we'll have this attitude: "I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart." (Ps 40:8)

DISCIPLESHIP Pray that God would continue to lead us to desperate and faithful men who have a heart to pour their lives into other men. Pray for David as he works on a Bible reading plan for his next season of GRIP.

OUTREACH Pray for the Men of FLM, that we would learn to better observe the people God has sovereignly placed around us and take steps to meet needs and share the message of hope.

DAYBREAK CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER Although it sounds like a broken record, please join us in praying for a director for the men's ministry of Daybreak. (God welcomes his children's persistence in this prayer item!). We praise God for the men who have recently responded to God's call to engage this ministry.

FLM MISSION TRIPS Pray for Perry and Janet as they minister in Greece from 10/11 through 10/19. (See attached prayer letter for more details!) Pray also for Fred Altman (Belize), Bill Manley, Derek Gowdy (Guatemala), as they discern direction and details for the trips in 2015.

FLM CORE We thank God for our 100% Core member participation at our recent Strategic Planning session. We thank God for the clarity of direction for 2015 and beyond and ask for continued prayers as we hammer out SMART goals and tactics for the specific areas.

FLM CALENDAR

Strategic Planning gathering for the Core with Rick Parks **November 21**
David preaches on "Death" **November 23** at Columbia Crossroads

Personal Prayer Requests:

BOWERS FAMILY

Perry – Pray that my focus word for the year, "Delight in Him", would characterize me more and more.

Janet: Please pray for growth in my prayer life as my kids and grands live at a distance. For trust in Holy Spirit's guidance as I share with women in various venues in Greece (10/11 – 10/19).

Joy & Eddie : The Centurions (in Chattanooga). They are moving to a different home, neighborhood and school mid October. Praise & thanksgiving for more space and good schools but it will be an adjustment for all four kids (and the dog). Pray for logistics of the actual move and new friendships. Then, just after the move, Joy & Eddie leave the kids for 3 days (first time ever) with Eddie's sister (thankful for her willingness to add 4 to her own 4) while they attend a wedding seeking to be encouraging witnesses to the couple who do not yet know JESUS personally.

Megan & Marc : The Hunsakers (in Michigan). Mark and Megan are parenting a precocious preschooler and 11 month old while teaching and progressing through the rigors of a PhD. Pray for good health as winter approaches and for the wisdom, grace and perseverance to continue to prioritize their marriage, family and work. Wisdom for decisions regarding potential opportunities for new job(s).

ANDES FAMILY

David & Katherine – Pray for us as we relearn how to parent in this new post-elementary school season. We've been helped by the Love and Logic approach of allowing natural consequences to have their powerful training effect. As always, we need wisdom as a family to know what to say "yes" to and "no" to as we are presented with regular opportunities.

Austin (16) – Austin begins his vocational career as a greeter/ticket checker at Midlands Tech Theater this fall. Join us in praying that he will find work a delight.

Cameron (11) – Continue to pray for Cameron as he learns, by experience, lessons in social interaction and responsibility. Two new areas for Cameron are 6th grade homework and being a part of the church youth group.

MISSIONS TRIP TO ATHENS, GREECE

On his 2nd missionary journey the Apostle Paul visited Athens, Greece. Each day, he boldly proclaimed the Gospel in the Parthenon and in the surrounding marketplace to all who would listen as he explained their desperate need of God's grace in Christ (Acts 17:16-32). He observed that their "city was full of idols" and warned that these false gods would fail to provide quality of life or eternal life! Only Jesus, the true and living God who rose from the dead, was powerful enough to guide, provide and save them.



Janet and I have been invited to minister in that same city among people who still struggle with idols just like us. We will be serving alongside MTW (Mission To the World) missionaries **Phil and Kay Luther** and their pastor, **George Tolia**, who planted a church in Glafada, just south of Athens. We will also minister in several of the mother/sister churches. Because the people struggle with understanding how to live for Christ between Sundays, our theme for the week will be "**Christianity and Daily Life**". Would you faithfully pray for us? Below is our itinerary so that you can visualize where we are and what we are doing. **Athens is 7 hours ahead of EST.** Thank you for partnering with us in this vital ministry of prayer. No prayer; no power!



Oct 9 Leave Charlotte for Munich and then Athens. Pray for rest and a heart transition to leave our ministries in America behind to focus on Greece.

Oct 10 Arrive in Athens. Rest, preparation and acclimation.

Oct 11 Young Couples Conference entitled "**Building a Strong Foundation for Your Marriage**" at Glyfada. Focusing on families to teach the 101 basics of what God says about His design and desire for marriage and family. Pray for receptive hearts as most of what we will teaching will be brand new to the people. At the end we will split up men and women to field questions and drive home the important points.

Oct 12 Speak during the morning **worship service** as well as at a multichurch **luncheon** on God's priority of discipleship entitled "**Your Mission in Daily Life**". This also will be a new concept which they greatly desire to learn. Pray that Christ's last command to make disciples would become their first concern. Pray that it would start in the family and overflow to the church family.

Oct 13-14 Meet with future elders for training, equipping and encouragement using principles from Ephesians 4, I Peter 5 and I Timothy 3. Pray that these church leaders would catch a vision for discipleship by becoming servant leaders as husbands, fathers, elders and deacons. Pray that they would model and pass on a life centered on Christ.

Oct 15 Community outreach evening service entitled "**Handling Stress, Anxiety, and Fear**" where the focus will be to show how God's truth is powerful and relevant to everyday life. Pray for folks to invite and bring their unchurched friends and that the Lord would blow them away with the power and practicality of the truth of His word. Pray that the Gospel of God's love would remove their fear as they receive Christ.

Oct 16 Elder Training. Perry will meet with elders and Janet will meet with the wives of the elders for equipping in a host of areas. Janet will also be working with the prayer and evangelism teams who go into the brothels in the red light district to share the Gospel and pray with the prostitutes. Perry meets with unbelieving men one-on-one and small groups.

Oct 17 Coffee House Outreach. Perry is excited about speaking (tentatively) at a local coffee house to share the gospel with the local men. We will take a free half day to **tour of the Parthenon** on Mars Hill where the Apostle Paul proclaimed God's truth.

Oct 18 Men's Seminar. "**What the Bible Says About the Role of a Man in His Family, in His City, and in His Work**". This will be an exciting morning ministry with a variety of men who have never really heard what God says about being a real man, husband, father or businessman. Perry is salivating over this opportunity! Pray that the Lord would speak clearly and compassionately with conviction through him....and his interpreter.

Oct 19 Preach at Glyfada Church. "**Christianity in Daily Life**" Pray that God's people will be both challenged and encouraged to surrender to His Lordship so that they can live for Him in the marketplace.

Oct 20-26 Janet and Perry celebrate 40 years of God's faithfulness in marriage! Pray Janet re-ups for another 40!

Oct 27 Travel from Athens, Greece to Columbia, SC. Travel mercies and witness on the plane!