

FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER December 2014

Christmas Is All About Light

“The glory of the Lord shone around them.”

Luke 2:9

**“In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God...
In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines
in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**

John 1:1-5

**“I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me
will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”**

John 8:12



Since 1894 the unique Minot lighthouse off the rocky coast of Scituate, Massachusetts has been a faithful granite guardian for countless ships and their sailors. While most lighthouses exist for the single purpose of **rescuing** sailors by guiding ships to safety, those who operate the Minot lighthouse hold deeply to a second vital purpose. They must not only warn sailors of danger, disaster and death, they must also encourage, strengthen and give them **hope** as they sail out to the high seas. That is why the powerful beacon of this lighthouse has flashed **“I LOVE YOU”** using the nautical code 1-4-3 multiple times a minute without fail for 120 years.

On that first Christmas when God Himself became man it was all about radiating the glory of His light. And like the Minot lighthouse, Christ also had two purposes for invading our planet to live among men. First, He **rescued** us from the sure disaster and impending death caused by the storm of our sins.

**“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of
His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”**

Colossians 1:13-14

Second, through the Cross, He is constantly flashing the Father’s powerful message, **“I LOVE YOU,”** calling men to find hope in the character of His sovereign grace.

**“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us
and we saw His glory...full of grace and truth.”**

John 1:14

Continue to pray for us at Focused Living that during this Christmas season, God would continue to use us to rescue men from their sin through Christ and flash His constant message of hope multiple times a day. Thank you for standing with Focused Living Ministries this year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Focused Living Core Guys!

David Andes, Perry Bowers, Rob Buck, Creig Dupuis, Jason Yarborough, Paul Yarborough

A Chorus of Thanksgiving from FLM Men!

God, Thank you for not giving up on me even as I let you down time and time again. Knowing that I am forgiven is so humbling that it takes my breath away. **Bryant**

"Lord, I'm so glad to know that You are sovereign and I'm not. I came to the Focused Living Forum by mistake, but it turns out to be the best mistake I ever made. At times I am far left but Your way is right. Thank you for helping me to trust You more and more." **Ernest**

Lord, thank you for reviving me and again allowing me to disciple young men. **Wally**

Heavenly Father thank you for the many blessings in my life, especially your gift of my family, and for introducing the people in my life who helped me start my walk in faith with you. **Bruce**

“WOW – look at all the wonderful things You have done for me and my family, Lord. I am just blown away by Your Love for us! **Kevin**

Father, your mercies are new every morning and I thank you that as I look back in my life you have taken care of me in every situation. **Chris**

Father, thank you for guiding me to study your word with desire, to try to see more clearly your direction for me, and to LISTEN more carefully as you speak to me in so many ways trying to reveal your earthly and heavenly plans for me and my family; in Jesus' name, Amen. **Bob**

Father thank you for all of the incredible blessings you have bestowed on this unworthy sinner, all thanks and glory belong to you. **Rich**

Most gracious and everlasting father thank you for all the many blessings that you have granted me and my family during this year of many challenges. **Wally**

Ministry Prayer Items

STRATEGIC PLANNING We thank God for our 100% Core member participation at our recent Strategic Planning sessions this fall. Join us in prayer as we discern how to accomplish all that God is putting on our hearts to do.

WRITING PROJECTS We are hoping to write a follow-up tool for new believers in Christ during the **first weeks in December**. Thanks for your prayers for that process!

FINANCES We praise God for His faithfulness to this ministry over the past 21 years of financial highs and lows. Please join us in praying for God's continued provision that we might overcome the budget shortfall for this year by **December 31**.

FLM CALENDAR

November 30 David preaches on "Death" at Columbia Crossroads

January 9-11 Perry teaches for his ninth time at the Charlotte Leadership Forum with Gordon MacDonald. Pray as he listens to the Lord in his preparation during the month of December.

Bower's Family Prayer

Perry - Perry's heart is softer toward the Lord than ever before and very encouraged/convicted as he wraps up his year long study and application of his focus word "delight." He has been consistently blown away by what the Lord delights in and that He would ever delight in Perry. He has also learned how to serve the Lord out of delight rather than duty. He is also thrilled that Janet re-upped for another 40 years while they were on mission in Greece last month. Pray that each of their grandkids (Lulu, Ezra, Zeq, Elenor, Hannah, Logan) would come to believe and receive Christ as they get older and that they would experience the joy of knowing and serving the Lord Jesus all the days of their lives.

Janet -Humbled and in awe of God's faithful answers to prayers. Desiring God's Spirit to direct me to those with whom He wants me to invest time. Blessed to have time with family over holidays.

Joy & Eddie - Grateful for recent safe travels and blessing of move to home with more space for their family. Pray for continued wisdom and grace to parent Lulu, Ezra, Zeq and Elenor. Godly wisdom in helping the Church help Latinos.

Megan & Marc - Please pray for Marc as he wraps up a difficult set of classes. Pray for wisdom moving forward with possible job opportunities etc. Pray for Megan as she prepares for a busy Spring and a school wide art show. Pray for Hannah and Logan as they learn and grow. We are so blessed to hear them giggle and chase each other around.

Andes' Family Prayer

David & Katherine – Pray that each day, our hearts would be full of gratitude for what Jesus has done for us, and it would be evident as we go about our daily lives. Pray that we would continue to parent both boys, who are uniquely different, in ways that will show the same love and grace that Jesus shows us each day. Pray that we will be intentional about sharing Christ this season with those around us.

Austin (16) & Cameron (11) - Meaningful interaction with each other and enjoy being together over the long Christmas break. Have willing hearts as we come up with tangible ways to do things for others over the holiday.