



FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER April-May 2011

March Madness. This year's NCAA tournament started with 68 teams and was characterized by spectacular last second outcomes and unpredictable upsets. Even though, by Final Four weekend, each team has practiced together daily for nearly 6 months, every coach interviewed is focused on just one vital concept...**"the basics!"** Crisp passing, accurate shooting, limiting turnovers, patient playmaking for the open shot, boxing out on rebounds, selfless teamwork. Not luck. Not showboating. No superstars. Just basic fundamentals. The more successful the team performed in public, the greater had been their practice of the basics in private. The greater the team, the more grueling their basic training. The very best teams NEVER, EVER move beyond their need to rehearse the basic fundamentals.

It's the same in our Christian journey. Coach Paul understood and never violated this life principle. So even though his first century team at U of Corinth was packed with God given talent (I Cor 1:7) he challenged them (and us) with the basics. Listen to his locker room talk as recorded in II Corinthians 5.

- **"Walk by faith, not by sight"** (7)
- **"Make it your only ambition to please Him."** (9)
- **"Let the love of Christ control you"** (14)
- **"In Christ You are a new man"** (17)
- **"Be My ambassador"** (20)
- **"Be reconciled to God"** (20)

As you move into this Spring season with all it's possibilities (and pollen☺), don't stray from the basics!

Prayer Requests:

MEN'S FORUMS Pray for a strong finish for the "Hi-Def Life" theme and ownership for summer agenda in each of the forums.

SALT Pray that the DNA of "life-on-life with another brother" would transcend the calendar of SALT (which 'ends' April 28th). Specifically, that every man involved in SALT would be tethered to another man through the summer months.

DAYBREAK CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER. Continue to pray with us for full monthly calendar coverage of male counselors. Pray that God would raise up volunteers to help with the office expansion.

CALENDAR ITEMS FOR PRAYER

- April 11th** Prayer and training for the Daybreak Male Mentor Team
- April 14** SALT – Perry teaching on 5 Responses to the Cross in preparation for Easter.
- April 18th** Perry Speaks at North East Pres Men's Equip movement.
- April 28** SALT – Final large gathering with spouses (150 folks)
- May 5th** SALT Crew Leader Training and prayer
- May 6th** Perry Speaks at Christ Church of the Carolina Discipleship banquet
- May 7th** Perry gives the invocation for (and participates in) the Cure de Tour (100 mile cycling ride)
- May 11th** Perry Speaks at an outreach Roundtable
- May 15th** David Preaches at Columbia Crossroads Church
- June 16-23** Perry Wilderness backpacking in Colorado

(Personal Prayer Items on Next Page)

PERSONAL PRAYER & PRAISE

BOWERS FAMILY

Perry: that he would operate in the power of the Spirit and not in the emptiness of his flesh and drive. That he would endeavor to accomplish less and enjoy God more. That he would be blown away each day by the Father's love and not the full list of things he thinks he needs to accomplish.

Janet: just plain obedience to exercise in order to promote stamina. Daily prayer time to set my perspective with all the different roles and relationships to which I am called in this season. That I be a good helpmate getting us to bed at an earlier hour. I'm grateful for God's grace as He continually reveals Himself and my "self" to me.

Joy and Eddie Centurion: Busy spring season ahead preparing for "ministry in high gear" at New City....pray for God to raise up volunteers and engage people's hearts to personally respond! Wisdom and stamina for Eddie in overseeing various community outreach ministries. Wisdom and stamina for me in disciplining the kiddos! Not just stopping the behavior but addressing the heart and preparing them for righteous living as mature and capable adults. Starting to have real "conversations" with Lulu & Ezra about God. That God would give me freedom and discernment to scale back on investments outside the home but not bow exclusively to the altar of family: that God would lay one or two women on my heart that I can pursue well this summer, whether latino, from esl or our neighborhood.

Megan and Marc Hunsaker: For Megan to wrap up the teaching semester well, balancing work and mommyhood. Strength and insight for Marc in directing different aspects of ministry and wisdom and guidance for the future.

ANDES FAMILY

David – Wisdom about what to say “yes” to and what to say “no” to among a lot of good options in this season of life.

Katherine – Peace and trust in God for her job situation for next year. Creative ways to help the boys be “other focused” this summer. Wisdom in setting up positive peer interactions for Austin and that they would develop into natural and real friendships.

Austin (12)/Cameron (8) – They would both finish the school year well, doing their personal best in school as well as obeying from the heart at home.

SALTER FAMILY

Peter – Pray that Peter will be deliberate and challenging in his friendships as he starts a couple of new discipleship groups.

Teena - pray for Teena as she has had a headache for 2 1/2 months. The doctors are unsure what is causing it. It's becoming very discouraging.

Whole family – pray as we prepare for an upcoming family missions trip to Costa Rica this summer. Specifically for our Spanish language learning and support raising.