

FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER GUIDE

September / October 2012

In 1911 there was a great race to see who would be the first to reach the South Pole. British explorer, Robert Scott, found himself competing against Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen. Their teams embarked from different points on the Antarctic coast with similar distances to the South Pole. Amundsen's team decided to follow the **20-mile march per day rule***. Regardless of whether his team was fresh and strong or whether they felt cold, hungry and extremely weak, they marched with relentless rhythm just 20 miles by ski and dogsled. No matter if the weather conditions were perfect or brutally harsh, they faithfully traveled only 20 miles each day. Robert Scott's team, on the other hand, chose a different approach, which proved deadly. When the weather was poor or his team felt especially weak, they stayed encamped until the weather cleared. When they felt strong, the team pushed beyond their limits to make up time. In the end, Amundsen reached the pole in 55 days, 22 days faster than Scott, and without a single casualty because his team was **faithful to a regular daily rhythm**. Scott's strategy of a driving pace and irregular rhythm contributed to the entire team's fatal demise on the return trip.



Roald Amundsen
First to the South Pole

"Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time..." Eph 5:15
"He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much." Luke 16:10

This fall could be a wonderful time of personal growth in Christ! Will you wisely choose the strategy of **consistently, consecutively and faithfully** marching 20 miles, trusting Him when circumstances are not optimal or when you don't really feel like it? Or will you inconsistently and frenetically push the limit with irregular bursts until exhausted?

Lord God, may everyone who reads this be empowered from the inside to walk their "20-mile march" with You each day. Deliver them from being slack or sloppy when the adverse weather hits. Also deliver them from the fleshly desire to over achieve when things seem to be going smoothly. May their reputation be one of faithfulness. Grant them insights into how this 20-mile march principle might apply to their Bible reading, their unhurried prayer times, their dates with their spouse, their intention to finish that pile of books on their table, their family meetings, their personal outreach, their faithfulness at work, their health and exercise plan, and their finances. Help us to "lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles" and consistently, consecutively, and faithfully pursue You. Amen.

*We are indebted to Jim Collins, *Great by Choice*, for the 20-mile march principle

Ministry Praises and Requests:

OUTREACH Pray that more and more men would embrace the 20-mile march attitude by regularly taking steps toward their unbelieving friends. And that men would take advantage of different "Wired Outreach" events we offer this Fall.

DISCIPLESHIP We are praying for more men who take seriously the command to make disciples. God, would chains of disciples (**Man A** invests in **Man B** who invests in **Man C**, etc.) become a normal reality within the men of Columbia.

MEN'S FORUMS Each of the forums have re-launched for the fall season with a theme of, "Becoming an INGMan." Pray for qualitative fruit in men's lives and quantitative fruit of many seeking men coming into the forums.

DAYBREAK CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER This ministry to boyfriends continues to grow. Every few months we get another couple male mentors. Our goal is to have daily coverage at the downtown and Lexington offices. Pray that the male mentors would be discerning and Spirit-led during the 30-45 minutes they have to interact with the boyfriends. Daybreak's annual dinner is **Tuesday, Sept 11, 6pm** at Seawells, 1125 Rosewood Dr. RSVP at daybreakcpc@gmail.com

MISSIONS There were three short-term missions trips that Focused Living men were associated with this summer (Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras). Each trip had its special emphasis (medical, construction, kids, evangelism). We pray that the things God stirred up in each of the FLM men's hearts would continue to grow as they minister in their everyday spheres of influence back here in the states.

CALENDAR

September 9 David preaches at Columbia Crossroads – "People for the City"

September 10 is our next FLM Core (Board) meeting. **September 28** is our Core couples social

September 29 is a Wired outreach "Shootout"

Personal Praises and Requests:

BOWERS FAMILY

Perry: That I would live each day in the present as I walk with my mom across the finish line of life on this earth.

Janet: Janet praises God for the lessons He is teaching her through this season of birth (grandchild Elenor Delia born 7/28/12) and the journey toward death for her mom and Perry's mom both in hospice care. The gift of our salvation and the hope of the Gospel are so much more precious to me on a daily basis.

Joy and Eddie Centurion: Joy and Eddie are blessed with the birth of their 4th child, Elenor Delia, and are experiencing the reality of drawing on God's grace and strength to nurture this family. Lulu started 1st grade and Ezra attends a pre-kindergarten co-op. Zeke loves to help mom.

Megan and Marc Hunsaker: Megan and Marc are in Augusta, GA now. Megan is teaching art in two shared schools and Marc works part-time and studies intently preparing for the GRE in anticipation of doctoral studies in education.

ANDES FAMILY

Praise for a great summer! The boys (Austin 14, Cameron 9) had positive times at "away from home" camps as well as some unique summer experiences (can you say, Neil Diamond concert?!) Praise for a great start to the school year. Praise for good teachers who take a personal interest. Both boys have the same word for the year – *Responsibility*. Pray for Austin as he gets on the bus all by himself this year and for Cameron as he learns that life is not all about his entertainment! As a family, pray that our outreach efforts would be consistent, authentic and motivated from love.

SALTER FAMILY

Please pray for the Salters as the new school year gets into full gear. Zach is in middle school and Hannah is in high school. Lots of homework this year. Please pray that the kids would develop diligent hearts that are willing to work. Teena will be subbing again this year all around the school district. She loves it but please pray for her energy level. Peter is continuing to develop his graphic design business as well as work with men involved with Focused Living and Grace Point Church. Praise God as He has faithfully provided for and encouraged the Salter's hearts over the summer through the Costa Rica missions trip as well as numerous other events and people.