

FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER

January/February 2013

*"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of **grace** and **truth**."* John 1:14

This year one of my (Perry) most prized Christmas gifts was this priceless work of art proudly presented to me by our 3 year old grandson, Ezra. By comparison, through my biased eye, Rembrandt is a rube, Picasso a piker, Monet a minor, van Gough a vapor. Why is this picture so valuable? Because it teaches me simply to be more like Jesus and color outside the lines! Though Jesus obediently painted within the Father's commandments, He passionately colored outside the conventional box with grace towards others. He said the uncomfortable, did the unexpected, lived the unconventional and modeled the unconditional as He yielded to the Spirit moment by moment. Here are but a few.



He challenged the good. *To His best friend, Peter, He said, "Get behind Me satan!...you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."* Mt 16:23

He befriended the bad. *"Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach."* Lk 15:1

He touched the ugly. *"Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him... 'be cleansed.'"* Mk 1:41

He forgave His enemies. *"Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."* Lk 23:34

He confronted the false. *"Truly, truly I say to you..."*

He included the outcast. *"His disciples... were shocked to find him talking to a (Samaritan half breed) woman..."* Jn 4:27

He restored the broken. *"Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin."* John 8:11

He encouraged the weak. *"Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet..."* Mk 9:27

Now I don't know about you, but I am way too selfish, insecure and proud to live with this kind of love, pathos and vision. But in the hands of the Master, He promises to carve, chisel, mold and make me into such a man. Will you join in asking the Father to make us bold, compassionate and relentless this year as we color outside the lines with the men whom the Lord sovereignly places in our lives?

Prayer Requests:

MEN'S FORUMS

Pray that our forums would be used more and more by believing men to invite seeking friends. Pray that we will finish well in our "INGman" theme.

DISCIPLESHIP

Pray for the four GRIP groups currently meeting, that each man involved would multiply his life through discipleship. Pray that fruit would remain from Perry's recent training of Charlotte, NC businessmen **January 11-13**.

DAYBREAK CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER

January marks the 40th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. Pray for many more male volunteers so we can attain full calendar coverage for this vital ministry of counseling the boyfriends to choose life. Also pray for wisdom as Perry and David finish designing a 4 week parenting class. Pray for the pilot of this parenting class starting at the end of January. We also have a training session for male mentors on **January 21**.

OUTREACH

Pray for a 5 week Father's Forum starting on **January 27** that Perry is facilitating.

Evangelism training for the Palmetto Presbytery on **January 24**

Evangelism training for St. Andrews Pres on **February 17**

Praise God for two men who have surrendered their lives to Christ within the last month!

CALENDAR ITEMS FOR PRAYER

February 1-3 FLM Core Couples Retreat in Georgetown.

PERSONAL PRAYER & PRAISE

BOWERS FAMILY

Perry: (Feel free to rap it to the Lord)

1. Pace: Pray for a steady endurance and times of deep heart/soul refreshment as the ministry is at full throttle for the year. I would remain faithful to the Sabbath as God has commanded.
2. Face: that I would seek and enjoy the Father's face during my daily time of prayer and Scripture reading.
3. Grace: that I would understand the depth of the Lord's grace in my life and reflect His grace in my attitudes, thoughts, motivations, words, and actions.
4. Marketplace: that the Lord would open many doors for compassionate and effective ministry with men who do not yet know what it means to follow Christ.
5. Replace: my focus word for 2013 is "repent" so that the Lord would help me to replace in my life...lies for truth; complaining with contentment; fear with faith; worry with worship; and dead idols with the living Christ.

Janet: Renewed commitment to exercise. I need a partner for accountability. I'm asking Holy Spirit to open my eyes to my own sin so I can repent and by His grace be changed more into the likeness of Christ this year. Wisdom in priorities for time.

Joy and Eddie Centurion: Daily dependence on Christ for His grace to direct them in loving each other and parenting four precious, active children. God's grace as well in loving the many who are visitors in their home and church.

Megan and Marc Hunsaker: Praise for Marc being accepted into his top choice Higher Education PhD program! God's wisdom and guidance for the many decisions and details that will accompany this exciting next step for their family. Daily dependence on Christ to love one another and parent Hannah Caroline as a precious, precocious little 2 1/2 year old.

ANDES FAMILY

Praise God with us for meaningful times of interaction with our neighbors over the holidays. Pray that our upcoming "soup night" we are hosting would further those relationships. Pray for discernment as we guide our children in their choice of new extracurricular activities. Both boys participated in a musical (Willy Wonka) over January 11-13 and we are very proud of them! Cameron will transition into another musical (Alice in Wonderland) while Austin will pursue Special Olympic Swimming. A new calendar year inevitably brings a new rhythm to our life. Pray that we will discern little adjustments we need to make for a smooth running operation!