



*“Do everything without complaining and arguing.” Phil 2:14*

*“What stood out most about your Guatemala missions trip?” asked a close friend of mine upon returning from our Focused Living missions trip.*

A handful of poignant memories swept through my [David] mind. Villagers weeping during Lord’s Supper. The joy of a man receiving his first pair of glasses. The humble field trainer who said, “Thank you for trusting me to serve you this week.” The church growth strategy revolving around answered prayer. The affection of a special needs school boy. But one impression surpassed all of these.

*I answered, “The absence of complaining among our 15 member team.”*

What a breath of fresh air. Our team rule, **‘no complaining’**, exposed in each of us how much we are prone to complain in the

course of our everyday lives. But despite many opportunities and temptations, no one gave in to a grumbling attitude all week! No one wanted to be **that** person.

You see, when we complain, we reject God’s character. When we complain about a meal, we are in effect saying to God, *“I’m not thankful for Your faithful provision.”* When we gripe about waiting in a line, we’re saying to God, *“I’m not thankful for Your sovereign timing.”* When we grumble about adversity we’re saying, *“God, I’m not thankful for Your eternal wisdom or Your chosen process of maturing me.”* All complaining is directly linked to our lack of trust in and thankfulness for God’s character. Further, it causes us to lose perspective and forget all that our Lord Jesus did for us on the Cross! Sincere thankfulness and complete trust evaporates all complaining.

That’s what this team of 15 experienced one week in July. But why limit it to one week? As you head into the fall, will you join us in living under the “no complaining” principle. Your heart will press in closer to God and the people around you will be blessed!

*I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.* Psalm 42:1

## Ministry Prayer Requests:

### MEN’S FORUMS

Our forums officially launch the week after Labor day. Our theme this fall will be **“G:love”** as we learn from Moses’ life about responding to God’s move in our lives. Pray that many men will catch the vision of inviting their seeking friends. Pray also for our **August 26<sup>th</sup>** forum leaders gathering as we cry out to God for the salvation of men in the city.

### DISCIPLESHIP

Praise God that the GRIP discipleship tool has been completed! We will launch a monthly gathering of multiple GRIP groups starting **September 9**. Pray that God will lead Perry and David and Rob Buck and Creig Dupuis to just the right FAT-R men. (Faithful, Available, Teachable, Reproducing)

### DAYBREAK CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER

Praise God that the Henry Flowers outreach video is produced and distributed to more than 1300 crisis pregnancy centers nationwide! Henry is one of our Male Mentors who gives his powerful testimony as an abortion survivor who later paid for an abortion for his girlfriend. Pray that many young men and women nationwide who are considering abortions would see this video and respond to God’s gift of grace, forgiveness and healing by choosing life! Pray also that all the funds would come in. A special thanks to Peter Salter for his excellence in editing the dvd.

### CALENDAR ITEMS FOR PRAYER

**August 8-9** – Perry and David attend a Global Leadership Summit

**August 11** – Next Core gathering. Pray for wisdom as we discuss many topics related to the launch of our fall ministry.

**August 20** – Perry speaks at First Baptist’s men’s discipleship ministry (REAL) kickoff.

**August 22** – Luncheon to introduce Henry Flowers video to men who desire to support this Daybreak ministry

**August 25** – David preaches at Columbia Crossroads on the topic of serving.

**August 26** – Forum Leaders Kickoff gathering

**August 26-30** – Week of prayer in all 8 Men’s Forum before we launch into the fall.

**September 9** – First of Ten monthly GRIP gatherings

## ***Personal Prayer Requests:***

### **BOWERS FAMILY**

**Perry** – Praise for a great summer of preparation for fall Forums, discipleship and outreach as well as completing key ministry projects that he could not get to during the spring. Saying “no” to some really good things in order to say “yes” to God’s best has brought even more focus and refreshment to his life. Praise as he and Janet celebrate their 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September and that Janet would cave and re-up for another decade! His love for the 6 grands - Lulu, Ezra, Zeque, Hannah Caroline, Elenor and Logan (due in Nov) - grows deeper by the day through prayer, reading the same book 37 times, tickle fights and ice cream cones. Pray as he helps to prepare them to lead the next generation for Christ. Pray that God would provide “breakthroughs” in the hearts of some of my cycling buddies.

**Janet** - pray for better discipline in my nemesis = EXERCISE !!!! This is no longer optional but mandatory as I "increase in years" (age). I'm asking God to raise up a partner for accountability. This is more and more important for good health and stamina so I need to stop talking about it and "just do it!" Thankful to pray for my children and grandchildren who live 5 to 14 hours away where God continues to develop the "story" of their lives.

**Joy and Eddie Centurion** – Pray for the transition into the school routine this fall. Pray for wisdom for Eddie as he develops and advances the community outreach for the church.

**Megan and Marc Hunsaker:** Megan and Marc -- transitioning into a new home in Northville, MI. Pray for adjustments to new job teaching art for Megan, new surroundings and new preschool for Hannah Caroline, beginning classes for PHD program for Marc. Pray for God to lead them to a church home and for continued good health for Megan's pregnancy heading into the final trimester.

### **ANDES FAMILY**

**David & Katherine** – Praise for David’s parents smooth transition into a life care community in Philadelphia three miles away from David’s brother. We have two new neighbors who have just moved in (July) that we’d like to reach out to. Pray for our transition into the fall schedule (car pools, bus schedules, new community group with church, practices for children’s theater, etc).

**Austin (15)** – Austin continues to have a mixture of anxiousness / anticipation / and excitement about entering high school in a few weeks. Pray for his transition to a new set of friends and teachers and environment. We are pleased with Austin’s new ABA therapists and look forward to the relationships they will build with him.

**Cameron’s (10)** – Praise God for a good time of bonding between David and Cameron during a two day getaway in June. Pray that David would be able to build on that time. Continue to pray that God would bring some good “guy” friends into Cameron’s life that he connects with.