

# FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER Aug-Sep 2014

Suppose a husband asks his wife if he **must** kiss her good night. Her answer is, "You must, but not that kind of a must." What she means is this: "Unless a spontaneous affection for my person motivates you, your overtures are stripped of all moral value." In other words, **if there is no pleasure in the kiss, the duty of kissing has not been done.** Delight in her person, expressed in the kiss, is part of the duty... (The Dangerous Duty of Delight, John Piper)



Obedying God from a heart void of affection for Him is not the obedience our Lord seeks. Duty without delight does not please His heart. From God's perspective, "Should", "Must" and "Ought" are not worthy motivations for a man who desires to walk as a disciple of the Savior, let alone a motivation for intimacy in marriage. Duty for God without delight in His character is not His design. In our performance oriented culture this "love motivated obedience to God" is elusive. Only after understanding God's sacrifice at the Cross will a man be able to serve in response to God's grace rather than to earn His love. Our motivation for service changes from "Whoa, I **got to**" to "Wow, I **get to!**"

Hey, when was the last time you really enjoyed God? Not doing things for God, but savoring His presence. When was the last time you were humbled to realize how much God enjoys you? How He longs to be alone with you in unhurried and uninterrupted fellowship. Would you join Perry and David in prayer for this fall, that their affection for Jesus would deepen, moving them toward a closer, fuller obedience to Him, causing other men to thirst after the Christ we treasure.



**"For the love of Christ controls (compels) us...that He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."** 2 Cor 5:14,15



**"How blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments."** (Psalm 112:1)



**"I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."** (Psalm 40:8)

## Ministry Prayer Requests

**MEN'S FORUMS** Pray as we kick off the fall season on **August 25**. Our theme will be "G:Love" (God's love), where we will continue to help men learn how to respond to God's grace in their lives just as a glove responds to every movement and desire of the hand that fills it. Pray for new men to join us, to come to Christ and grow in Christ. Praise for the good participation this summer as we applied the truths learned from the Gospels and by Max Lucado's book, *Fearless*.

**DISCIPLESHIP** Our discipleship continues as we teach men how to let their hearts be gripped by God's hand so that their hands can do what is on God's heart. Pray that these men would respond by diligently surrendering more areas of their lives to the Lordship of Christ, sacrificially serving their wives, joyously discipling their children, consistently mentoring another man from their church, and winsomely reaching out to an unchurched man that he might come to salvation.

**OUTREACH** Continue to pray for Perry (cycling/neighbors/Daybreak Crisis Pregnancy Center) and David's (tennis/neighbors) "fishing holes". Perry will be hosting an outreach Father's Forum on **September 7**. Pray especially that Matt, Jack, Gene, Vince and Rich would come to Christ.

**DAYBREAK CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER** We thank God for the new male mentors that were recently added to the team and continue to ask God for a full-time director for the men's ministry of Daybreak.

**FLM MISSION TRIPS** We praise God for an outstanding trip to Belize this past June as we helped to launch a men's ministry in Belize City at both Unity and Trinity churches. Pray as we plan another short trip this fall (Thursday through Sunday). We also give praise for the Guatemala team in July as God bore fruit in the medical clinic, school, and church building project.

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

### **BOWERS FAMILY**

**Perry** – that I would be super responsive to the Spirit as He directs my pace by His grace for my race in the marketplace. (my first attempt as a rapper!)

**Janet:** Thankful for good family times over this summer. Grateful for the Holy Spirit recently convicting me of certain sins of the heart . God is faithful to keep changing me. Desiring to be prepared for the fall and how God wants to grow me and use me as I follow Him.

**Joy & Eddie :** Pray for wisdom as they seek to sell their home and find another with a bit more space for their family as the kids grow bigger -- new neighbors means new opportunities to extend God's love. Continued prayers for parenting that models the love and grace of Christ. Pray for health & safety as Ezra begins kindergarten and Lulu moves into 3rd grade. Zeq and Elenor continuing learning & growing at home.

**Megan & Marc :** Marc gears up for another semester including comprehensive exams and continues to follow up on medical thyroid issues. Megan enjoys last few weeks of summer with the kids and then begins a new school year with lesson preparation and planning. Hannah enjoys learning through dance, gymnastics and school. Prayers as she continues speech therapy. Logan is MOBILE now so prayers for safety, health, sleep and lots of learning. M & M also desire God's grace, strength and humility to parent with His love and wisdom.

### **ANDES FAMILY**

**David & Katherine** – How was our summer? Full. We kicked it off with an outdoor Scotty McCreary concert near Raleigh (surprise 16<sup>th</sup> b-day present for Austin) and a special one-on-one meeting with one of Austin's hero's, NFL running back, Marcus Lattimore. Katherine worked on two graduate courses while David was on a missions trip to Belize. Each boy experienced a week at Victory Junction Camp near Greensboro! We enjoyed two long weekends with family and friends (NC, FL). We topped it off with some canopy ziplining and family rafting in the NC mountains. After a summer sprinkled with wonderful visits and experiences, we enter the fall feeling very blessed.

We ask prayer for fruit from an "Art of Marriage" video series we are experiencing with a small group, including our next door neighbors. We're thankful that this study has propelled us into a rhythm of regular "couple time" this summer! Also pray for us as we continue to learn how to parent two boys with unique approaches to life which are both very different from our own!

**Austin (16)** – Austin enters 10<sup>th</sup> grade and is looking forward to returning to a familiar situation. He's asked that we pray that he will be a blessing to his fellow students and will make it a joy for those who teach him.

**Cameron (11)** – Cameron enters the transition year of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, with new school and potential new friends. He also enters the youth ministry at church. Pray that he will embrace these new opportunities with Christ's confidence.