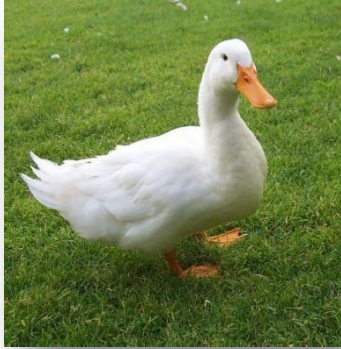


FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER Apr-May 2015



Consider the following story as we prepare our hearts to respond to God's grace and forgiveness demonstrated in Christ at the cross at Easter.

A young boy was visiting his grandparents on their farm. He brought along his slingshot and practiced in the woods for hours but could never hit his intended targets. Frustrated, he headed back for dinner. On the way he saw Grandma's pet duck. With childish impulse he aimed his slingshot hoping to scare it off and have some fun. Instead, he killed it instantly. Shocked and in a panic, he hid the dead duck in the wood pile but realized to his horror that his older sister, Sally, had seen the whole thing. She said nothing.

After lunch Grandma said, "Sally, it's your turn to wash the dishes."

Sally replied, "Grandma, Johnny told me he really wanted to do the dishes." She then leaned over with a grin to whisper to young brother, **"Remember the duck!"** So Johnny did the dishes. Later, Grandpa asked Sally to bring in some firewood. "Grandpa, Johnny said he would love to haul in the wood each day of our visit," she replied. Then she leaned over to Johnny, **"Remember the duck!"** The next day, Grandpa invited all the children to go fishing but Grandma reminded him that Sally, as the oldest, needed to stay back to help cook. Again Sally smiled and said, "Oh Grandma, Johnny told me that he would rather stay back to help with the cooking than go fishing." She looked over to Johnny and silently mouthed the words, **"Remember the duck!"**

After several days of laboring to do both his chores and all of Sally's, Johnny could stand it no longer. With guilt, shame and a repentant heart he confessed to Grandma that he had killed the duck. She knelt down, gave him a hug, and said, "Sweetheart, I know. I was standing at the window and saw the whole thing. Because I love you, I forgave you. I was wondering just how long you would let your unconfessed sin make you a slave." (Adapted from *"The Duck and The Devil"* from Dr. Russ Cadle)

"For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace." Rom 6:14

Whatever your sin, God has been standing at the window watching. As your Father, He longs to grow you through the consequences and walk with you to restore the broken relationships. He invites you once again to the Cross to understand how much it cost Him to forgive your sin so that you will be motivated to **graciously forgive others** who have hurt you and to **humbly ask forgiveness** from those you have scarred. Every time the enemy leans over to whisper ***"Remember the duck!"*** to remind you of your past sin in order to enslave, destroy his lies with God's truth!

"Christ has truly set us free. Make sure that you stay free. Don't get tied up again in slavery to the law." Gal 5:1

"Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living." Rom 6:16-18

Ministry Prayer Items

DISCIPLESHIP There are 20 men formally involved in our GRIP discipleship season in 2015. Continue to pray that God would make us into men whose hearts are gripped by God so that we love Him, serve our wives, nurture our kids, disciple at least one other brother, and reach out to the unbelieving men in our lives.

OUTREACH Praying for 50 men to come to Christ through the ministry of Focused Living in the next year. One of the many tools we are using is a local men's retreat called Advance. Pray that the men Perry has invited to **Advance II on April 23rd – 24th** would leave having heard from God.

MISSION TRIPS The Belize trip for June has been reconfigured as an envisioning/training trip for the PCA pastors/elders in Belize. Perry Bowers and Fred Altman will spend **June 11-15** meeting with groups

of leaders to stimulate a launch of a coordinated ministry to men in the country. Pray for the preparation of materials and for national ownership of this ministry.

WRITING PROJECTS Praise! We found a follow-up tool that may preclude us from developing a full-blown booklet ourselves! We plan to pilot this with several new believers this summer.

DAYBREAK Praise! God has raised up two more men, Earl Senn and Jim Hill, as male mentors for Daybreak Crisis Pregnancy Center. We are trusting that God will build exactly the team He wants.

FINANCES We continue to rejoice in God's faithful upholding of this ministry since 1993. We praise God for the 175+ donors who faithfully support FLM. YTD through February, we are experiencing a shortfall (income vs expenses) of -\$11,917 (-38%), though the initial numbers for March appear to lessen that deficit.

CALENDAR

April 26 – Austin Andes' benefit concert

April 27 – Daybreak Men's ministry training meeting

May 3 – FLM Core (board) Meeting

May 17 – Andes preaching communion service at Crossroads

Bowers' Family Prayer

Perry – Perry's Focus Word for 2015 is "Abide." As he applies what he is learning, pray that he would experience God's overflow of truth, grace, peace, tenacity, compassion, endurance and wisdom in every area of his life. Pray that he would stay connected to God throughout the day (John 15:10)

Janet - perseverance in drawing close to JESUS through prayer & the word and discipline to continue exercise by walking.

Joy & Eddie Centurion - wisdom in parenting each of four unique children. Safety & health as Eddie travels to Boston & Houston in April.

Megan & Marc Hunsaker - moving into home in East Landing area May 8. Part-time art job for Megan for the coming year.

Andes' Family Prayer

David & Katherine – Our small group from church is going through a parenting curriculum and it's getting us to think and act differently related to our kids. Pray that we would grow in our balance of compassion and firm expectations. Also that we would be diligent in learning (sometimes by trial and error) to apply the principles we know cognitively. Pray that our communication as a couple would be free flowing on all the decisions and concerns facing us, especially how to help Austin transition into the workforce. We also need wisdom concerning some new therapies (laser, ultrasound, MRT) related to Austin. We are so glad for each other and for being in Christ.

Austin (16) – Austin is once again putting on a benefit concert for a student in need. A second grader in the district, Caitlin, whom Katherine teaches, is dealing with a brain tumor. A benefit concert is planned for Sunday, April 26th 2:00pm at Chapin Town Hall. Please pray that God would be glorified in Austin's singing and that this little girl and her family would be greatly encouraged. Praise that Austin also desires to publically identify with Christ in baptism on Easter Sunday.

Cameron (12) – Continue to pray that Cameron would finish his 6th grade year well by taking to heart the life lessons associated with middle school (i.e. relating to peers, being organized and responsible). Praise that he desires to publically identify with Christ in baptism on Easter Sunday.