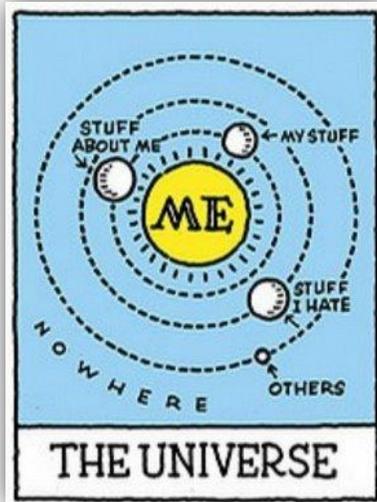


# FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER Aug-Sept 2015



16<sup>th</sup> century polish astronomer Copernicus believed in a heliocentric solar system, in which the sun, rather than the earth, was the center of our solar system. This turned science upside down - and man's ego inside out. His idea was rejected by the scientists because they could not handle the facts. He was also rejected by the church because they could not handle God's truth. Breaking news... world does **NOT** revolve around you! The earth revolves around the **sun** (Ps 19:1-5) and God has called our lives to revolve around The **SON** (Col 1:15-20)!

Apparently not much has changed over the past 500 years. In June of this year, the National Transportation Safety Board confirmed the cause of a Cessna-150 crash 25 miles east of Denver, Colorado. The report states that the pilot was taking a "selfie" and became distracted and disoriented from an "aerodynamic stall and subsequent spin." The 31-year-old pilot and his passenger were killed.

The same tragedy happens in our lives when we focus on ourselves (agenda, opportunities, ambitions, plans, happiness) rather than on the Lord and His desires and design for our life. Both Scripture and history are filled with men whose lives stall, spin and crash when distracted and disoriented while focusing on themselves rather than on the Lord and, consequently, serving others. Men like King David, High Priest Eli, King Solomon, the rich young ruler, Peter, Judas, Perry Bowers and David Andes. Indeed, he who is wrapped up in himself makes a very small package.



***"He must increase and I must decrease."*** John 3:30

***"Thus says the LORD, 'Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,' declares the LORD."*** Jer 9:23-24

***"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."*** Phil 2:3-4

## Ministry Prayer & Praise

**FORUMS** – 7 forums will be kicking off a new season the **week of Aug 24<sup>th</sup>**. Pray for soft hearts as we explore who God is and what He calls His followers to be and do. Pray that many new men will come through our forums this fall.

**OUTREACH** – Pray that several of the men who attend the Advance on **Sept 25** will come to Christ. Pray also for the Father's forum that is planned for **September**, that the Christ following guys will find favor with their seeking friends.

**BELIZE MISSION TRIP** Praise for a foundation building ministry for discipling of men in Belize. Perry and Fred Altman led a day long training to 50+ pastors/elders/leaders. Their outreach movie, Courageous, was also well receive in the Burial Ground community and they made goo connections in the area prison.

**GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP** Praise for a productive ministry trip in July. This team of 11 facilitated a medical clinic, ministered in schools, brought provision for building materials for a church roof and had scores of one-on-one ministry opportunities.

**FINANCES** Year to date short fall, income to expenses, through June is -10%, improved from -18% in April! We praise God for his faithful provision since 1993!

## Bowers' Family Prayer

**Perry** – A number a folks are in the process of coming to Christ! Please pray with me that these men will cross over from death to life. Pray for the shepherding of these new believers. I continue to learn what abiding in Christ looks like in my daily life.

**Janet** - Seeking some possible answers from an allergist concerning respiratory issues so pray for wisdom. Continued attitude of prayer and dependence as I DAILY seek to know the one Who knows & loves me perfectly.

**Joy and Eddie Centurion** - Wisdom in parenting, consistency in pursuing each of the four children in prayer, nurture, and loving discipline. Transition from summer to new school year.

**Megan & Marc Hunsaker** - Praises for new house, new part time job (Megan), and a new (more stable) season of life. Prayers for parenting wisdom, loving our new neighbors, and finding a good church/faith community.

## Andes' Family Prayer

**David** – I am very refreshed by the short trips with family this summer. Thank you Lord! Pray that I would follow through on the lessons learned this summer about “simplifying” life.

**Katherine** – Praise that God provided a new job literally days after Katherine was told that the school district did not have another part-time job, nor another reading intervention job. Her new job is a part-time reading interventionist at an elementary school closer to our home! Pray that she would be an asset in every way to her new team.

**Austin(17) & Cameron(12)** – The boys have had a summer full of variety and fun. Cameron enters a new school as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader. Pray for this transition and that he would develop both the vision for and the ‘know how’ of making friends. For Austin, pray that God provides a young 20’s guy that could assist him with life skills and job skills.