

# FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER February 2015

On September 22, 2014, just 2 hours after the President's family left for vacation, a knife wielding Omar Gonzalez jumped the White House fence, sprinted across the yard, kicked in the door to the East wing, barreled past the guard immediately inside the door, overpowered a Secret Service officer, passed by an alarm box which had been muted for convenience, dashed untouched down an 80 foot hallway and finally penetrated the personal living quarters of the president before being tackled by an agent at the far end of the East Room. Law enforcement officials were deeply concerned at *"how quickly, easily and far the intruder made it into the inner recesses of the executive mansion."* They were further horrified to learn that Gonzalez' nearby car stored a machete and 800 rounds of ammunition.



Men, everyday satan jumps the fence of our **senses**, sprints across the yard of our **mind**, kicks in the door to our **emotions**, barrels past unguarded **thoughts**, overpowers our **will**, passes by disabled **alarms** and dashes down the hallways of our **life**. As God's men we are horrified at how quickly, easily and far we allow satan to penetrate into the inner recesses of our marriage, family, and walk with God. As God's servant leader, let's renew our vigilance to...

**EXPECT** that our enemy will continue to tempt, accuse and lie to us until we cry out in prayer for His protection.

**1Peter 5:8** Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

**REFLECT** with joy on the fact that our God and the resources of His character, truth and promises are greater than the lies of our enemy. "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." **1John 4:4** greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

**CONNECT** your weak, sinful heart to the Lord's grace and power shown at the cross that you might have the mind, motivation and power to stand firm in Christ and protect your family. **Rom 5:6** For while we were still helpless... Christ died for the ungodly. **James 4:8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. **2Tim 2:1** be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

**INSPECT** every area of life (relational, emotional, spiritual, financial, vocational) and confess and repent of any place where you have allowed satan even the slightest foothold, stronghold, entrance or advantage. **Eph 4:27** do not give the devil an opportunity. **Mark 14:38** Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

**REJECT** and flee every temptation that comes your way each day. **2Tim 2:22** flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.; **1Peter 3:9** resist him, firm in your faith. **James 4:7** Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

**PROTECT** your mind by bringing every thought captive to His Lordship. **2Cor 10:5** we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. **Proverbs 4:23** Watch over your heart with all diligence,

## Ministry Prayer Items

**STRATEGIC PLANNING** We had an awesome shared experience as a Core developing a strategic plan for 2015 and beyond. Pray that these set of tracks will help us hear and follow God's Spirit in reaching and growing men in Christ.

**DISCIPLESHIP** Both Perry and David will be facilitating a GRIP Discipleship season in 2015. David's crew of 8 men started meeting in January and meets every other week. Perry's crew will launch in March. Pray that God would capture our hearts and that the end result would be fruit for His kingdom.

**CORE RETREAT** One of the highlights on the calendar each year is our Core couples retreat. Nine families will be converging on Georgetown, SC on **Feb 27 – Mar 1**. Pray for deepening relationships and clarity as we prayer for and discuss tactics for our strategic plan.

**OUTREACH** Join us in praying for 50 men to come to Christ through the ministry of Focused Living in the next year. Pray for wisdom as we disciple men in outreach, initiate wired outreach events, do evangelism training, and partner with other outreach minded ministries/churches. One tool we are tapping into is an 18 hour get-a-way called Advance, where men are challenged with authentic Christianity. Several Focused Living men will attend **Advance 1 on February 26-27** as well as **Advance 3 on March 12,13**

**MISSION TRIPS** We are currently recruiting towards two trips. Belize (June 6-13) and Guatemala (July 11-18). Pray that God would raise up just the right people for each trip. Team meetings will begin in March.

**WRITING PROJECTS** The new believer follow-up tool we hoped to write in December was shelved while we do further research to see if there are actually similar tools already published that could meet our need.

**FINANCES** We rejoice in God's financial provision for FLM in 2014. He enabled us to meet ALL expenses and finish the year in the black through raising up 175 faithful donors! The Lord has faithfully upheld this ministry since 1993.

## Bowers' Family Prayer

**Perry** – Feb 11 marks Perry's 44<sup>th</sup> spiritual birthday! Perry's word for 2015 is "Abide". Pray that he would stay connected to God throughout the day (John 15:10)

**Janet** - I'm grateful for times with women sharing our lives, praying for one another and studying God's word. Still need accountability for exercising to develop and maintain health as I age. I want to "be there" for my grandchildren.

**Joy & Eddie** – (Tennessee) Pray for wisdom and persistent consistency in parenting four wonderful active children including, a "challenging 2 1/2 year old". Pray also for insight and guidance for Eddie as he represents a foundation seeking to fund ministries and churches collaborating throughout Chattanooga to reach widows, orphans and aliens.

**Megan & Marc** – (Michigan) Please pray for them as they settle on a recently purchased home much closer to East Lansing where Marc is now on staff at Michigan State Univ. They will move the end of this semester. Prayers for part-time art teaching job for Megan for next fall.

## Andes' Family Prayer

**David** – Pray that I could embrace this season of parenting and not be overwhelmed with it. What an opportunity to deepen my prayer life.

**Katherine** – Pray that I would be disciplined with and soak up times in the Word.

**Austin (16)** – Please pray that he would have a clearer understanding of time management and responsibilities as he expands his independence.

**Cameron (12)** – Pray that his heart would be better soil for the life lessons associated with middle school.