

FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER Jan - Feb 2016



“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.”

Jeremiah 17:7-8

If you were asked to name the largest single living organism on earth you might name the mighty blue whale, the giant sequoia or even a multi-acre underground fungus. But the largest single living organism on the planet is an Aspen grove covering 106 acres and weighing over 13 million pounds. The secret of the Aspen's super size, hardy stamina and prolific growth is its root system. The 47,000 trees of the largest known Aspen grove are all connected underground at the roots making it a single flourishing plant. The strong, older trees fortify the weaker ones. Only when the roots surface and feel direct sunlight do they send up chutes creating new trees. In this way, the entire grove multiplies over the mountainous landscape with resplendent brilliance.

When the Lord first commissioned us to start Focused Living 24 years ago, our vision was not to create a mighty organization but to grow a multiplying organism. We purposed in the power of the Holy Spirit to teach men to **FOCUS** on Christ and train men to **LIVE** for Christ. And these men, in turn, would reach out to their families, friends and associates with the power and grace of the Gospel.

Last month we commissioned artist, Susan Buck, daughter of Core brother Rob Buck, to create a picture capturing the essence of Focused Living. We think her Aspen Grove water color painting hits the mark! A ministry helping men become more deeply rooted in Christ (Col 2:6-7) and in the Father's love (Eph 3:14-21). A ministry where men have the opportunity to feel the direct rays of the Son, compelling them to proclaim the Gospel in their circle of relationships so that the Lord can continue to grow His Aspen Grove for His glory (Col 1:28-29).

From God's perspective the largest single living organism is not an Aspen Grove in Colorado, but the Body of Christ rooted together in prayer! We have seen the powerful result of your prayers this past year as God multiplied the growth of His kingdom. Thank you! May we join together again this year as a mighty underground root network of prayer so men may come to Christ and grow in Christ.

Ministry Prayer & Praise

FORUMS – Praise for a great response to our new annual theme, **ALL IN**. Pray that **ALL IN** would become the heartbeat of each man's life with God. Pray that the new year would bring new faces.

OUTREACH – Join us in praying for the men who will attend the **Advance 1** on **Feb 11-12**. Pray that many churchgoing men would be converted to genuine followers of the Lord Jesus. Pray for follow-up with flood victims. Pray that God would have His way in the formation of the mission teams for this summer: Belize (5/28 – 6/4) and Guatemala (7/9 – 7/16).

DISCIPLESHIP – We ask for continued wisdom and clarity as we consider what the GRIP discipleship season will look like in 2016. That more and more men would live lives worth imitating and that each man would be discipling at least one other man.

DAYBREAK There are 5 days out of the ~22 business days per month without any male mentor coverage at Daybreak Pregnancy Center in downtown Columbia. Join us in praying that God would raise up men to close the gap.

FINANCES We continue to praise God for his faithful provision since 1993. ALL 2015 expenses have been met and we start 2016 on a solid financial foundation! We recommit ourselves to joyfully live under God's provision in this and every season.

CALENDAR

Jan 22-24 – FLM Core Retreat

Jan 31 – David preaching at Columbia Crossroads Church from Gospel of John.

Feb 9 – Franklin Graham @ SC State House 12noon – 1:00pm

Bowers' Family Prayer

Perry – My focus word for 2016 is "Praise". Pacing myself so I can listen obediently to God (Deut 11:13). That God would lead Perry to just the right mountain biking men to whom he can share Christ and disciple.

Janet - grateful for deeper understanding of grace and my need for the gospel EVERY day. Thankful for prayer times with sisters in Christ.

Joy & Eddie - energy, wisdom and prayerful hearts as we parent the ever changing needs of a three year old girl, five and seven year old boys, and a nine year old girl. Praise for good friendships in our neighborhood.

Megan & Marc - thankful for Megan's part time teaching job which allows her more time & energy to focus on parenting our two year old son and five year old kindergarten daughter. Praise for a new church home.

Andes' Family Prayer

David – "Whose your man, what's your plan?" Pray that God would lead me to just the right F.A.T. guys to invest in this year and direct me how to spend time with them. Pray for Katherine and I as we navigate the question of legal guardianship for Austin, who turns 18 this June.

Katherine – Pray for that perfect balance of grace and truth, love and logic in my parenting. Pray now that the boys would "graduate" with flying colors from the Andes GROWTH Academy: **G**(God First) **R**(Responsible) **O**(Other Oriented) **W**(Work Ethic) **T**(Truth telling) **H**(Healthy Lifestyle).

Austin(17) – Austin loves people. As a teenager, he has a strong desire to hang out with friends. Pray that he wouldn't "wear out" the friends that he currently relies on!

Cameron(13) – Cameron really felt part of a team (for the first time?) in this most recent musical, *Shrek the Musical*. As he and Austin start practicing for the next musical (*Pirates of Penzance*), pray that he would continue to pursue that camaraderie with the cast.