

# FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER Oct - Nov 2016

## Overcoming Racism - Many Members But One Body

When God does something He does it well. After six months of being on staff with Focused Living Ministries God is binding our hearts together to create a beautiful tapestry for those around us to see. The threads of our lives are being pressed together and forced to intersect to reveal a picture of the oneness of the Body of Christ. Together we are learning about racial differences and praying for clarity and understanding. It has been a wonderful 6 months in this new chapter of the story of my (German's) journey.

Years ago, though living a sincere life, I had not even tried to see life through another man's eyes. I thought that men of other ethnic groups could not be trusted and anyone who had not come from the background I came from had a secret plan to use me for their benefit. I did not know that I was prejudiced. Prejudice is a preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience. It's an opinion formed through someone else's experience and then adopted as fact in your own life.

God has a way of setting you up so that you are forced to see life through His eyes. **"Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it"** (1Cor 12:27). No matter what our preconceived opinions are, God sees us as one body. We must see our differences not as good or bad but as needed for the body to function. When we work together as one we are stronger and able to accomplish more. **"If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired"** (1Cor 12:17-18). Our job is not to project our way of seeing the world so others will become like us, but to learn from and esteem each other so we can function as one body, the Body of Christ.

The root of racism is an unwillingness to see the value God has given to each person regardless of color, nationality, gender, race or life situation (Gen 1:26-27). And when we consider ourselves as more valuable than others, there grows a deep division. Division is defined as disagreement between two or more groups, typically producing tension or hostility. Division produces disagreement, dissension, alienation and isolation. Jesus said in Matthew 24:7 **"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:..."** The Greek word for nation in this passage is *ethnos* the same word from which we get the word "ethnic". So Jesus was saying that ethnic groups shall rise against ethnic groups. Therefore the root of racism is disagreement, dissension, alienation and isolation between ethnic groups. To overcome racism we must be willing to end prejudice and division among ethnic groups. This will require unity. Unity is not making everyone the same, but learning how to function as one with our differences, many members yet one body.

This six month journey with Focused Living has made me more determined to pray for the many different members of the Body of Christ to learn to function as one body for His glory. In the next few weeks Perry and I will be teaching a lesson from Acts chapter 10 on racism addressing the areas of prejudice and division. Pray for us to show the power of unity and to demonstrate that we are many members but one body. Pray that the character of almighty God might be seen through us. I believe when God finishes what He has started we will all agree "when God does something He does it well."



## Ministry Prayer & Praise

**FORUMS** We are tackling some practical themes this fall as we continue through the book of Acts. Sharing our testimony (Acts 7), making ourselves available to God (Acts 8), dealing with prejudice in our lives (Acts 10-11), and learning to pray expectantly (Acts 12). Join us in praying that each man would personally own and apply these in their own lives.

**DISCIPLESHIP** Rejoice with us for the many stories bubbling out of our GRIP discipleship season. These 35 men are listening to God and starting to implement action points that He has put on their hearts.

**DAYBREAK** As many of you know, Focused Living has partnered with Daybreak to provide male mentoring to the boyfriends who come into the office in crisis pregnancy situations. This has been a rich avenue for discipling our FLM men in caring and evangelism by getting out of their comfort zones. Pray that the upcoming office relocation and the new director coming on board Oct 17 will only multiply this ministry!

**FINANCES** As a ministry, we hold the conviction that the local church is God's primary vehicle for ministry and advancement of His Kingdom. Because of this, we encourage those who feel led to financially donate to the ministry to first give 10% to the local church before making a love offering to Focused Living. In response to several who have asked, we share our financial status each month on our website at <http://focusedliving.com/donations/>. Through Aug, our revenue to expense shortfall is 14%. We praise Him for His provision – past, present, and future!

## CALENDAR

**Every Sunday** German Wright preaches at Daily Living Ministries.

**Oct 13-14** – Several FLM men are taking seeking friends to the Advance II Retreat in Clinton, SC.

**Oct 23** – FLM Core meeting

**Nov 3-4** – Many of the GRIP men will have a shared experience at the Advance III retreat – focus = “Walking in the Spirit”.

**Nov 4** - German sits on a “diversity panel” in Charleston, SC

**Nov 14** – GRIP discipleship gathering

**Nov 15** – Perry and David partner with Advisory brother, Nathan Trevett, to lead an F3 gathering focus= “Stress”

**Dec 5** – Finale GRIP discipleship gathering

## Wright Family Prayer

### German and Sandra

- That all things go well with son's Senior Thesis Film – clarity and ease in all preparations, provision, favor of God, wisdom, revelation and excellence in execution!
- Body Stewardship, Health Consciousness, Balance, Discipline, Harmony & Unity, and Opportunities for growth.
- New Building for ministry, additional support, greater press and direction from and to all levels of leadership.

### Caleb

- Makes a great impact in his senior year at Liberty University – academically, socially and spiritually.
- Peace and favor with roommates and quad-mates.
- Wisdom, guidance and favor to secure the just the right team for his senior thesis film project.
- Health, healing, physical strength, stamina, focus and stewardship of physical body.
- That a desire for a car during senior year be met.

## Bowers' Family Prayer

### Perry

- Pace myself this fall by wisely saying "no!" to the good and "Yes!" to the best.
- Serving each day full of the Holy Spirit and not in the flesh.
- Praying each day for the grand kids as Janet and I work through the book "The Power of Praying Grandparents."
- God would protect my heart (Prov 4:23) from becoming cynical with the increasing lawlessness and corruption in our culture and that He would help me to see that from His point of view things are not falling apart...they are falling into place in preparation for the return of His Son!!!
- I would take every opportunity to love and share the Gospel with my mountain biking buddies.

**Janet** - Continued diligence to exercise for bone strength. That I would fight the good fight of faith remembering (again & again) that the battle belongs to the Lord. That my praise & thanksgiving would equal my interceding in prayer.

**Joy & Eddie** – Continued patience, wisdom and consistency in parenting all four kids. In particular, for Zeq's social and emotional maturity as he enters kindergarten this year. That we would have humble repentant hearts as parents and that God would develop repentant hearts in each child as we point them to Christ.

### Megan & Marc

- Continued wisdom, patience, and creativity for raising two wonderfully precocious children
- Maintaining good family routines in midst of busy schedules.
- Discipline / clarity for Marc as he finishes up his doctoral classes and begins writing his dissertation proposal this Fall.
- For humble repentant hearts as parents and that God would develop repentant hearts in our children as we point them Christ.

# Andes' Family Prayer

**David** – Realizing the situations in which I work, work, worry, worry, talk, talk without EVER praying. May I become a “prayer first” man. I need it and God delights in it! *“In the prayer of the upright He delights”*(Prov 15:8). Join me in praying for my parents, that they both may find favor as mom moves into a memory care facility and dad deals with a cancer diagnosis. Pray that God would reveal any “blind spots” I have as Katherine and I journey through a course called, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*.

**Katherine** – Thankful for the smooth start to the new school year. Pray that I would make and keep it a priority to be still and filled with Him, so He will overflow to others. Pray for grace as we set a new family rhythm with me working full-time.

**Austin**(18) – Thanks for your continued prayers for Austin full restoration of his brain so he can have full attention.

**Cameron**(13) – Cameron will see GROWTH this year! **G**od First, **R**esponsible, **O**ther oriented, **W**orth ethic, **T**ruth telling, **H**ealthy lifestyle