

# FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER Jul-Aug 2018

On July 18, 2016 I (Perry) was driving home from center city Columbia on I-26 when I started to have severe pains radiating across my chest and down my back. The pain grew so intense and my breathing became so shallow that I drove straight to the emergency room at Park Ridge hospital to head off a certain heart attack. I was immediately given a battery of tests that revealed that my heart was fine... but, I had shingles! A Shingles is a reactivation of the chickenpox virus in one of the nerve trunks of the body causing a blistering rash and extreme pain often lasting for months. Janet, of course, was relieved that I did not have a heart attack. When I proudly mentioned that shingles was probably the most pain a body could ever experience, she rolled her eyes and muttered something about childbirth and me not having a clue. Needless to say, I am now the world's most animated advocate for Shingrix, the newest shingle shot. I warn everyone I meet, challenge anyone who will listen, beg every person I can to "GET THE NEW SHINGLES SHOT!" I proclaim its success in my life, admonish others to act immediately and teach everything I know about this vaccine because I know the 'hell' one faces without it. In fact, everyone I know who has had shingles says the same thing.... "GET THE NEW SHINGLES SHOT!" Last week my pastor, Keith Kneeshaw, challenged me with this thought, "Perry, what if you were as committed to proclaiming the love of God through Jesus at the cross as you are in telling folks about the new shingles shot?" Would you continue to pray for us here in Focused Living that the Lord would give us boldness in telling any man who will listen about the grace of God in Christ and warning them about the hell of eternity apart from the Father's love? We are planning a variety of 'Wired' outreaches to help men get 'connected' to God through the Cross. By the way...have I mentioned...did you get the new shingles shot?



*"Christ in you, the hope of glory. We **proclaim** Him, **admonishing** every man and **teaching** every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me." Col 1:27-29*

## Ministry Prayer & Praise

**FORUMS** We are currently in our summer Fueled series and men are responding with much enthusiasm as they dig into the Scriptures and learn more of Christ through the book, "Gospel" by JD Greear. Pray for the Focused Living staff as they prepare for the series this fall entitled "Built2Bless" through the book of Colossians. We will be looking at all the ways the Lord is building His men to be a blessing to others (marriage, children, church, work, friends). Pray especially that men would come to Christ, be built up in discipleship and grow to become their family's and community's greatest blessing. Please pray for God to raise up many younger men for each of the men's forums.

**DISCIPLESHIP** We are putting the final touches on this fall's Grip discipleship season. Pray for men to help one another grow deep in Christ and especially for the older men to help younger men become the husbands, fathers, friends, leaders and business associates God desires and designed them to be. Pray also that many churches would take advantage of this set of tracks to disciple their men.

**DAYBREAK** Pray that the Lord would raise up more laborers for the harvest at Daybreak and that these boyfriends would come to Christ and be disciplined by worthy 'fathers'. These young men don't need more friends....they need fathers!

**FINANCES** Our monthly donations YTD through May have trailed our expenses by 13%. Pray with us for our wise stewardship of what God has and is providing.

**CORE** Pray for wisdom, joy and endurance as we continue to shepherd hundreds of men in our city for Christ.

### CALENDAR

**Sundays** German Wright preaches at Daily Living Ministries (DLM).

**July 7-14** Bill Manley and Derek Gowdy (from Focused Living) lead a team of 13 to Guatemala

**July 29 FLM** Core meeting.

**Aug 6** Grip Leadership prayer and prep for fall discipleship.

**Aug 21-31** Staggered start on the forums fall season

**Aug 27** Grip discipleship kick off.

**Aug 27** Men's Forum Kickoff

## Bowers' Family Prayer

**Perry** – Good time to study in order to prepare for the Forums kicking off in August. Pacing himself and humble dependence on the Father.

**Janet** – Commitment to exercise and quiet time this summer amidst various ladies to encourage. Great Cousins Camp for all the grands to love one another. For parents to be refreshed. Perry's Dad to be honored as we celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> with the grands and great grands.

**Joy & Eddie** – Consistency in parenting in shepherding 7<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> graders!

**Megan & Marc** – Safety and good family time in summer travels. Marc as he finishes his doctorate at Mich State by August. In new parenting stage with kids. Thankful for Megan's new job transition this fall.

## Andes' Family Prayer

**David and Katherine** – Day in, day out joy in the Gospel. Wisdom for the many family decisions we face. Favor with our four new neighbors!

**Austin(20)** – Austin attends a transitions services group training 3X per week. Pray that he grows in job skills / life skills and social skills.

**Cameron(15)** – Pray that Cameron would have courage to step out of his comfort zone socially. And that he would increasingly see himself as God sees him.

## Wright Family Prayer

- Wisdom, direction and patience in finding a new building for church family.
- Family to spend quality time together.
- Full time job for Caleb as he launches out on his own.

## Karl Reed and Family

- Praise in seeing that my meeting with God regularly is impacting the lives of men.
- Wisdom and grace in parenting 4 young children.
- God's continual leading and direction in life for future ministry position.

## Sinclair Salters

- Developing new inner city ministry called 4Runners4Christ
- Protection and guidance for daughters Jada, Jazz and Adri.
- Hunger for God's Word.
- God to use me as I speak at AMI Teen program and CIU Bible Basketball Camp.
- Total rehab on knee replacement.