

# FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER Aug - Sept 2020



My (David's) mother passed away on Friday, July 17th. The life Care community in Philadelphia called the night before encouraging family members to make our way to Pennsylvania to say our 'good byes'. I missed her actual passing by 40 minutes, but my sister and brother were near to carry her across the finish line. I cling to her confession of faith that she made in 1987 while she and I stood in our kitchen.

Mom was a vibrant and dynamic woman. Her last years were clouded with Alzheimer's so our family's grief has been a slow burn. As I have reflected over these last days, it's very clear to me that God blessed my socks off with the parents he gave me. He used them to provide a solid foundation of love and to set the trajectory that I am on to this day.

When I arrived back home from my whirlwind trip to Philadelphia, one of my sons, Austin, expressed his sadness for me and asked, "So, Dad, you are an orphan now, right?" I smiled and explained, "Adult men are not usually referred to as 'orphans'. But it's true that I don't have a mom or dad anymore in this world. God the Father is my dad...and He is good!"

God is my Father because He adopted me as His son, like I've adopted my sons. J.I. Packer, whom God took to heaven on the same day as my mom, expresses God's goodness to us in adoption this way:

***"Adoption is the highest privilege of the Gospel. The traitor is forgiven, brought in for supper, and given the family name. In adoption, God takes us into His family and fellowship—He establishes us as His children and heirs. Closeness, affection and generosity are at the heart of the relationship. To be right with God the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater."***



At its core, Focused Living is a spiritual adoption agency. We point as many men as possible to the Father so they might find their place for eternity with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. Pray for us as we seek for searching hearts every day in the marketplace.

## Ministry Praises and Prayer Requests

**Grip** - Praise God that we will have an "in person" GRIP season this fall. Pray that many man will catch the vision for investing in one other man each year for the rest of their lives.

**Forums** – We Praise God that men have found our summer "Fueled series" on Zoom to be meaningful. Pray with us as we relaunch "in-person" forums on the **week of August 24th**. Pray that the different feel (smaller "in person" numbers; social distancing, Zoom guests) will not stymie the Spirit's work in fellowship and conviction.

**Writing** – Please pray for quick minds led by the Spirit as we work to complete forum teachings for this fall, the GRIP Guide for this fall, and a rewrite of our Each One Reach One book. May God use these tools in men's lives for his glory.

**Staff** – That we would remain focused on the relationships God brings to us: unbelievers, seekers, followers, disciplers, leaders, and Kingdom builders.

**Outreach** – that we would continue to take advantage of every opportunity to share the Gospel of God's grace and love in our divided, confused, up-side-down culture.

## Perry Bowers Family Prayer

**Perry:** Praise as we celebrate 45 years of marriage. God is so faithful. Pray that Janet would accept a 'signing bonus' and re-up for another few decades!

**Janet:** Going deeper with Jesus...in Scripture...in prayer. Talking less and listening more. Review & function out of the priorities God is giving.

**Joy & Eddie:** Lulu starts high school virtually! Just weird! The oldest two have suffered most from lack of community during this COVID season. Pray for good fellowship and confidence in her identity in Christ.

Ezra starts middle school. Yikes! Pray for him to choose good friends that build him up and spur him on to love and good deeds.

Ezequiel (Zēq) and Elenor (Nel) have had a decent summer with neighbor kids that they can play outside with (we've just been doing outdoor get togethers since COVID hit. I pray for protection and flexibility with all the new rules and gear they have to wear (Zēq has some sensory issues). Pray for hope and self-control.

I (Joy) am going back full-time into the classroom (8th grade ancillary aide in exceptional education) Pray for protection of my health and stewardship of my time so that I won't be a lazy disciplinarian and meal prepper.

Eddie continues to work with local ministries who are having to cut budgets and change strategies because of COVID. Pray that he will continue to encourage them in their personal faith and mission. Praising God that he has the flexibility to work from home should the kids go virtual at some point and I remain at school.

**Megan & Marc:** Megan starts a new teaching job as Art teach and Marc approaches his first complete year as Dean of Students and Professional Development at Berry College in Rome, GA. Hannah and Logan are already back in school (face to face with distance) and loving it.

## David Andes Family Prayer

**David:** Pray that I would be fully present in ALL of my Key Relationships (Relat. with God, wife, sons, disciples, and seekers). In light of my mom's recent death (and my dad's passing 2 years ago), I praise God for the good relationship have with my siblings. Pray that they would see Christ in me.

**Katherine:** Praise for a good season of learning and growing in discipleship this Spring and Summer. Please pray that I would wisely navigate the uncertainty of the next school year as a teacher and parent. Continued prayers for wisdom about how to slide alongside again parents.

**Austin:** Praise that God provided a wonderful godly Respite Care worker for Austin named Michael Kennedy. Praise too that Austin's day programs are slowly opening up. Pray that he will smoothly adjust to his fall rhythm.

**Cameron:** Praise that Cameron got a job and is performing well. Pray for his internal motivation regarding his senior year in high school and the college application process in these strange times. Continued prayer that God would grip his heart and draw him to Himself.

## German Wright Family Prayer

**German:** Prayer of Thanksgiving for protection of Caleb and our family from COVID virus and prayer for continued protection.

**Sandra:** Grateful for Caleb's new position and his protection. Prayers for faith, wisdom, and strength to meet the challenges of the current climate and season.

**Caleb:** In addition to new position, still finding opportunities for filmmaking and keeping the vision alive.

**Family and Ministry:** Church members sustained with additional increase and viewers of our live streaming services.

## Karl Reed Family Prayer

**Karl and Jessica:** Continued prayer for wisdom and grace in parenting our 5 precious kiddos. Pray that we can keep up rhythms of date nights and times of connecting outside of the everyday parenting/family concerns. Pray for us as we learn to balance hybrid school and the family schedule.

**Evelyn and Anthony:** Both will be going to Irmo middle this year. Anthony in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Evelyn in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Pray for them as they adapt to the hybrid schedule (because of COVID). And for protection of their hearts and minds as they daily engage with the culture we live in.

**Lillian:** Lillian will be starting Kindergarten this year! (also a hybrid schedule) She is so excited and ready for this new stage in life. Pray for her teacher as Lillian is a very strong willed child. 😊

**Charlotte and Jackson:** Will be mom's little helpers as the big kids are at school. Pray for special times alone with mom.