

August 2010 Prayer Guide
First Baptist Church of Griffin, GA
"Following Christ...Radiating His love"

Sun. _____ 1 *In our society, we all live too fast. There are too many demands, too many opportunities to seize, too many people to care for, too much work left undone, and too many places to go. Such pressures to be always somewhat breathless is a dis-ease to the soul. It kills any kind of interiority which is necessary to know and experience God. Today, pause. Breathe deeply. Look at the world. Reflect upon your life. Think about God's help to this moment. Resolve to create still places in your life daily that re-center your soul. Ask God for help in creating still places for you and your family. Pray for deacons Jamie Arrington, Carol Baldwin and John Bankston bringing them before God and asking Him to strengthen their focus on Him.

Mon. _____ 2 **Pray for teachers and students as a new school year begins.** Pray that positive "first impressions" will set the tone for a productive year of learning. ***Pray for the faculty/staffs, parents and students of Anne Street, Atkinson and Beaverbrook Elementary Schools.

Tues. _____ 3 **WOM** meets today. Ask God to lead in this important mission endeavor, and ask Him to lead new ladies to become a part of this outreach for Christ. Thank God for those in this group who have been faithful through the years and continue in faithfulness.
***Pray for students, parents and school personnel of Crescent and Cowan Road Elementary Schools and Cowan Road Middle School.

Wed. _____ 4 Today pray the following verses for our Church Staff and their family members. ***"Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken"*** (Psalm 62: 5-6 NIV). Ask God to protect and guide them as you pray those verses for each of them.

Thurs. _____ 5 A Teacher Workshop entitled "The Key is Me" will be held today at FBC in conjunction with the Georgia Preschool Association for District 6. Pray that this workshop will be used to give new insight and skills to the teachers who participate. Ask God to guide and strengthen Diane Lamb and her staff to successfully conduct their first workshop of this kind to God's glory and honor. Pray for the FBC Weekday program registration to increase and that God will put the children that need to be at First Baptist in our program.

Fri. _____ 6 Pray for the many people in this community and surrounding communities who are connected to Southern Crescent Technical College (formerly Griffin Tech). Pray especially for students who are currently unemployed and seeking training in a new field, hoping to be able to find a job after they complete their studies. ***Also lift up to the Lord these three schools: A.Z Kelsey Academy, Carver Road Middle School and Griffin High.

Sat. _____ 7 Thank God for the Five Loaves and Two Fish Food Pantry and its ministry to the hungry and hurting in our community. As volunteers from First Baptist work there today, pray that they will be able not only to meet physical needs, but also spiritual and emotional needs. Pray that resources will be available to meet the needs of the hungry. ***Intercede for the staff, students and parents of Jackson Road and Jordan Hill Elementary Schools and Kennedy Road Middle School.

Sun. _____ 8 *We can read the Bible to find facts or we can read the Bible to gain wisdom and understanding. We can know all the facts of the Bible and still be unwelcoming of the God of the Bible. The Bible always points beyond itself to the possibility of an on-going conversation with God. It illustrates how that conversation has occurred in previous generations. It tells us of the emotional highs and lows of other people of faith. It inspires us to trust that God will meet us in our own lives. Pray that the Spirit who inspired the Scripture will be present to guide you into the personal wisdom and truth of Scripture. Pray that same prayer for deacons Robin Bohn, Nancy Blake and Otis Blake Jr.

Mon. _____ 9 Ask God to give wisdom and guidance to the Finance Committee as they meet this afternoon. Pray also for the deacons as they meet this evening. Ask God to give them discernment and direction as they make decisions that glorify our Holy Father. May His plans become the plans of FBC. Thank God for the tireless efforts of the members of both groups.

Tues. _____ 10 Pray for our **Miskito Christian partners in Nicaragua**, the pastors, leaders and other followers of Christ. Ask God to nurture these believers, new and more mature, through the Spirit and His word. Ask God to even now touch the hearts of those who have not yet committed themselves to Christ as Savior and Lord and to those who have not yet heard the Good News.

**But Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me. Don't stop them!
For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."**

Matthew 19: 14 NLT

Wed. _____ 11 **First Kids Club is starting back this month!** Thank God for the leaders of the preschoolers and children as they guide our young ones in missions education, Bible learning, and music/worship. Ask God to guide each leader to prepare wisely and well for the important task of teaching our children. Pray that our children will grow and learn of God's great love for each of them and every person. Pray that the adults of First Baptist will seek to support and undergird the spiritual development of our young people. ***Also pray for the students, educators and families of Moore, Moreland Road and Orrs Elementary Schools.

"And so we keep on praying for you, that our God will make you worthy of the life to which He called you. And we pray that God, by His power, will fulfill all your good intentions and faithful deeds. Then everyone will give honor to the name of our Lord Jesus because of you ... This is all made possible because of the undeserved favor of our God and Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 NLT

Thurs. _____ 12 Meditate on the above scripture as you pray for those new believers who have been baptized in recent months. Ask God to show you how you can be an encouragement to at least one of them.

Fri. _____ 13 Some time after her husband Jim and four other missionaries' deaths in 1956 in the jungles of Ecuador, Elisabeth Elliot went to live among the very people who had killed her husband. Her young daughter and the sister of one of the other slain missionaries went also. As a result many of the people in this village became followers of Christ. She writes in Keep a Quiet Heart, **"When we pray, we are in touch with God, expectant, trusting: He is at work; He does what we cannot do. We are to be at work also, doing what we can do."** Ask God to give us the will to obey and wisdom to know how to do the work that needs to be done and how to pray and actively wait for Him to do what we cannot do.

Sat. _____ 14 Ask God to work in the hearts and lives of Christians in the churches of this area. Pray that we will be shown individually and collectively those things that please and honor God and mirror the life of Christ. Pray that we will be intentional in pursuing that lifestyle.

Sun. _____ 15 *Anxiety is rust to the soul. The opposite of faith is not unbelief but fear. We live in a world that feeds on fear: fear of terrorism, joblessness, being unloved, not having enough to live on, poor health, family woes, and the like. We must dwell on Paul's counsel to Timothy. "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind." Ask God to send His Spirit in renewing ways throughout our church. For the Spirit gives not only strength, love and clarity of mind; His fruit is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self-control . . ." Pray for God to send His Spirit in renewing ways into the lives of deacons Viki Bozeman, Ron Cook and Don Crider.

Mon. _____ 16 Pray for those in the military. Ask God to protect them and draw them close to Himself. Ask God to strengthen their families and comfort them in their times of loneliness and fear. Pray for their commanding officers and others in charge. Ask God to give them the discernment to make wise decisions.

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4: 19 NIV

Tues. _____ 17 **Spalding Samaritans** intake process is today in the FLB. Pray that the volunteers will show kindness and compassion to those who come seeking utility assistance. Pray that churches will be generous with donations so that the needs of those who come for help may be met. Pray that those coming will see Christ in the volunteers as they counsel with them, pray with them and attempt to show Christ's love.

Wed. _____ 18 ***"So I warn you to keep away from evil desires because they fight against your very souls. Be careful how you live among your unbelieving neighbors. Even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will believe and give honor to God when He comes to judge the world"*** (1 Peter 2: 11-12 NLT). Pray that God will make us acutely aware of those beliefs and actions that do not bear the mark of God's "Well done, thy good and faithful servant." Seek God's help in dealing decisively with sins of commission and omission.

Thurs. _____ 19 Today and Friday are Open House times for students and parents of the **FBC Weekday Program**. Pray for the classes for 2s, 3s, PreK and Kindergarten beginning on Monday August 23rd and Tuesday, August 24th. Pray for parents who will be leaving their most prized possessions in the care of someone new. Pray that God will make the hearts of the children and families sensitive to the love of Christ as demonstrated in the lives of teachers and staff.

Fri. _____ 20 Sam and Latha Bandela are Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel working to evangelize Asian Indians in the Atlanta area as well as working on church starting, education and evangelism in the country of India. Pray today for Sam and Latha and others that are serving God in these important ministries.

Sat. _____ 21 Ask God to give our staff wisdom to prioritize the tasks of each day. Ask Him to guard them against the urgent and help them discern what is most important. Pray that nothing will hinder our ministers' time with God.

Sun. ____ 22* What do you want to be when you grow up? The question is not about vocation; it is about the person you are, the temple you are building, the gift of a life well-lived that you offer back to God. Most Christians stop growing in their experience of God. Bible studies are the same lessons repeated throughout life. Some find it difficult to grasp that the Christian Faith is always more that they are experiencing. The Kingdom of God is always more that we can grasp at any moment in time. The more we grow, the more we grasp what we don't know; the larger our capacity to be filled with God's Spirit; the larger our vision of life; the more we see our community and world through the eyes of God. Pray that God will help all in our church to see holes in our faith, in our worship, in our practice of the Christ life: and in seeing, repent and change the way we think, live and love. Pray for deacons Hoby Davenport, Angie Dillon and Jim Dunaway Sr.

Mon. ____ 23 Continue to pray for the **October Medical Mission trip to Nicaragua**. Ask God to give wisdom and guidance to Robin Bohn and Jim Palmer. Pray for the villagers in whose villages they will minister. Pray for God to call and equip those who are needed to have a part in this ministry. Give them boldness and clarity in articulating their salvation experience and their unfolding relationship with God. Pray that they and we will be intentional and passionate in our proclamation of the Good News.

Tues. ____ 24 ***The secular thinkers of this country would like us to think our country was founded on humanistic values and ideals. . . However, the original words from the colony charters, the Declaration of Independence and early political speeches all point directly to our country's foundation upon the Christian faith and biblical Truth. Our Founding Fathers believed that this is a nation with its roots in the Bible. The Mayflower Compact specifies that the colonies were established "for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith." The Virginia Charter instructs the colonist to help "in the propagation of the Christian religion to such people as yet live in ignorance of the true knowledge and worship of God."... The charter of Rhode Island commits to "the true Christian faith and worship of God." . . .*

*How horrendous that we have let these evangelical roots rot underneath us! The people of the prophet Jeremiah's day had also departed from their godly roots. The prophet understood that only God could change their hearts and said, "**Restore us to Yourself, O LORD, that we may return; renew our days as of old**" (Lamentations 5:21). Let us seek the truth and not be influenced by "no truths" and "half truths." Ask the Holy Spirit to lead us as we diligently pray for our country.*

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will." Romans 8: 26-27 NLT

Wed. ____ 25 Dr. Michael Youssef encourages believers "to pray that God will restore us to Himself, just as Jeremiah did... Our Creator God cares deeply for us as individuals and as a nation. He wants to bless our country in His sovereignty and mercy, but we need to repent of our pride and willful independence. We need to start a revival of prayer and thanksgiving and confession to God." Read the verses above. Again ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in praying for America.

Thurs. ____ 26 Ask God to protect all those involved in our schools. Pray that those who are Christians, adults and students, will "rise and shine the light of Christ" through their interaction with others and diligence in their responsibilities. Ask God to strengthen them so that they are able to return kindness for rudeness and tough, gentle love for hostility. Continue praying for our schools by interceding for these: Futral Road Elementary, Rehoboth Road Middle School and Spalding High.

Fri. ____ 27 Members of the **Caregivers Furniture** team work diligently to provide for the needs of those requesting furniture. Pray that God will provide enough inventory to meet the needs of our furniture ministry. Pray God's blessings on all who are in need and for the volunteers who help meet their requests. ***Pray for Griffin Christian Academy and High School, Stepping Stones Educational Center and Mainstay Academy

"As for me, I will certainly not sin against the LORD by ending my prayers for you. And I will continue to teach you what is good and right. But be sure to fear the LORD and sincerely worship Him. Think of all the wonderful things He has done for you."

1 Samuel 12: 23-24 NLT

Sat. ____ 28 **Edgewood Church start in Atlanta** will hold their first service tomorrow. Edgewood is a mission partner that FBC has been supporting through the Church Mission Offering, one day mission trips and other projects. Pray for Nathan and Carrie Dean (pastors) and Carlton Johnson (worship leader) as they prepare spiritually for the first service this Sunday, August 29th. Pray that the diverse people of the Edgewood community will be drawn to this service and accept Christ's love for them. Ask God to guide in the preparation for and every part of this important first service.

Sun. ____ 29 Paul encouraged the church at Thessalonica to **"stand firm and keep a strong grip on the teaching"** that had been passed on to them (2 Thessalonians 2:15). Spend some time today talking to the Father about how well you are doing this. Pray for deacons Jimmy Estes, Tom Gardner and Ralph Gatlin.

Mon. ____ 30 In May of this year a number of women completed the **LifeSong** course of employment preparation. Ask God to give encouragement and direction to those who are still looking for jobs. Pray for the next session which will begin September 13th. Please pray for the women God is talking to right now about participating in this life-changing process. Ask God to be with their families and friends so that they will assist and not deter these ladies in this new venture in their lives

Tues. ____ 31 Thank God for Rev. Grady Caldwell and New Mercy Baptist Church who have opened their doors to **LifeSong Ministry's Jobs for Life and Bible study**. Ask God to continue to be with this pastor and congregation. . Pray for the leaders who will be leading the next "weeks of classes

***Prayer thoughts for the first four Sundays of August are encore thoughts from the pastor.
August 24 and 25 contain items compiled from Dr. Michael Youssef's website section God Save America.