January 11, 2015

**Prayer Connection**

**Prayer is the First Work... for OUR HEARTS**

Connecting our hearts with the "The God of Promise" message series

Lord Jesus, as we study this ancient text with its odd stories, help us to find ourselves in the midst of the characters that come to life before us. Reveal Yourself to us through Your Word, even as we read of You revealing Yourself to our forefathers. May this study give us a fuller understanding of the incredible grace that You’ve given to us, of Your exceeding patience with us, and of the plan that You have, not only for our lives but for the whole world. Just as Abraham taught us an overcoming faith, may we also be bolstered in our faith. May we live as though You are who You reveal Yourself to be, and may that reality drive us with passion into the world around us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**Prayer is the First Work... for YORK ALLIANCE**

Praying for the YAC Community

Acknowledge God’s hand of healing, comfort, and strength for physical needs represented among those in our church body:

- Tim Baker – briefly hospitalized for symptoms of congestive heart failure
- Belinda Jackson – trusting God in the growing need for liver/kidney transplant
- Larry Dettinger – rejoicing in successful procedure to correct heart arrhythmia
- Dave Billett – being treated at Kingston Manor for necrotising fasciitis

Pray for our LIFE Groups and their leaders. Pray for a fresh attentiveness to God’s Word that would foster a renewed love for God, for people, and for the things God loves. Pray by name for these leaders and interns:

**Kevin & Carol Alvarnaz**
**Bill & Sheila Jones**
**Tim & Margaret Shuey**

**Angela Buckler**
**Brian & Amanda Kannel**
**Gary & Nancy Sterner**

**Mike & Sarah Carletti**
**Ned & Nancy Kaufman**
**Kurt & Julie Straughan**

**Kim & Kimberly Cole**
**Todd & Maria Lloyd**
**Gary & Ashley Thrush**

**Wendy Coons**
**Chris Martin**
**Denny & Pam Williams**

**Ken & Cell Foreman**
**Jim & Janet Reever**
**Gibbs / Igenfritz**

**Todd & Belinda Jackson**
**Jacob & Amanda Shuey**
**Ginny Fitz / Bonnie Grau**

Pray for our YAC students—elementary, middle school, high school and college—as some return to school away from home and others have already resumed their school year. Ask God to go before them as they are faced with views that are contrary to the truths of the Gospel. Praise God for the many teachers represented in our church body. Pray that they will have opportunities to reflect the light of Christ in their classrooms.

**Prayer is the First Work... for the WORLD**

Praying for our YAC-sent missionaries

**David & Ty King – Bangkok, Thailand:** Praise God that David and Ty have had a couple of weeks to spend time here in the states with their family. Pray that they would be refreshed before returning to the demands of ministry at the Evangelical Church of Bangkok. Pray that the people of their congregation will resolve to trust Jesus more and more this year and to cast their cares on Him.

**Daniel and Mary Shayesteh – Muslim World:** Daniel writes: “I listened to the following comments of a young Afghan Muslim mother of two who was talking about a Christian woman from Finland. She burst into tears saying, ‘Who is this lady? I have not seen a glimpse of such love and kindness from the god of Islam, in the entire Quran, from my own mother, brothers and sisters, or in Afghanistan. Her love and kindness are bigger than oceans and have brought my knees down in front of Jesus. I proudly confess that Jesus is the God of love and peace. Afghanistan and the entire Islamic world need to bow down to Jesus in order to be able to have peace and comfort.’” Pray that the light of Jesus will continue to break through the darkness of the Islam religion.

**Steve & Amy Nehlsen – Dorcas House in Burkina Faso, Africa:** Pray for 15 new young women scheduled to arrive at Dorcas House in 2015.

**Steve & Alace Straw – Gabon, Africa:** Praise God for the good times and memories made with family during the holiday season. As people come to the Bongolo Hospital to receive medical attention, pray that many would come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Pray for a record-breaking year of spiritual victories for the Kingdom of God.

**Prayer is the First Work... in MINISTRY**

A Local/Global Prayer and Praise Focus

**Bridge of Hope**

Bridge of Hope is a local ministry in York which has as its goal to end homelessness for single mothers and their children. It practically does this by providing rental assistance, professional case management, goal setting, accountability and career development assistance. The program lasts from 18 to 24 months and has no cost to the participants.

Bridge of Hope’s work to end and prevent homelessness is done within the context of the local Christian church. Local congregations play a pivotal part in this ministry by developing support groups that befriend and invest in a relationship with a mother going through the program. It’s in these relationships that the expression of God’s love through Jesus is lived out, bringing love and hope to the poor, the broken-hearted, the oppressed, the homeless and the suffering.

Please keep this ministry in prayer for the following:

- That lives would be changed through this ministry for the glory of God
- That mothers and their children would find hope through Jesus
- That Helen Aderholdt, as Family Resource Coordinator, would have wisdom
- That women in the program would find employment