

MAX LUCADO

MEOGA



*before*  
amen

THE EVANGEL

APRIL 2015



THE POWER OF A  
SIMPLE PRAYER



# Prayer *focus*

## **CURRENT (3 WEEKS):**

Ivan Cooper– bronchitis, broken leg  
John Tomlinson– knee recovery  
Kate Barger– stroke, brain bleed  
Angie Conn– Recovery from C-section  
Pam Hatton– white blood cells  
Doug Baker  
Richard Russell– 4/3 hip replacement  
Doris Goodson– lungs  
Betty Latch– blood clots

## **ONGOING CONCERNS:**

CIY trips: Move (HS) June 8-12  
VBS June 22-26  
Mission Neoga (Middles School-Adult)  
July 14-16

## **IN CARE FACILITIES:**

Ivan Cooper– Heartland  
Elsie Phillips– Heartland  
Carolyn Gast– Cumberland Co  
Allene Young– Harmony Center

## **FIGHTING CANCER:**

Chuck Bartlett  
Donna Lake  
Michelle Simpson  
Shawn Whetsell  
Mel Hood  
Ben Madison  
Edith Winberg  
Betty Zumbahlen  
Kirk Zuhone  
Clint Mausehund  
Bob Trefzger

## **IN THE MILITARY:**

Shane Gephardt  
Tyler Briggerman– Navy  
Wes Letizia– Air Force  
Alicia & Steve Tordoff–  
Army Reserve

## **FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH:**

### Ministries:

Elders & Deacons  
Children's  
Youth  
College/ Young Adult  
Senior  
Praise/ Tech Team  
Community Clothesline  
Small Groups  
Sunday School  
Benevolence  
Outreach

### Missions Team & Missions:

Neoga Community Food Pantry,  
Heartland Christian Village,  
Oblong Christian Children's Home,  
Christian Campus House,  
Oil Belt Christian Service Camp  
Ryan & Melinda Hicks  
International Missions—  
March: Rapha House  
April: Buckner

# Before Amen!

In John 15, Jesus is spending his last evening with the disciples, he is sharing the final meal, he has washed the disciples feet and set an example, preparing them with final instructions and encouragement before his arrest. In verse 4 and 5 he repeats the promise, if you remain in me, I will remain in you and you will produce much fruit. What does it mean to remain in Christ? It doesn't mean faith and it doesn't mean service, it means prayer. To remain in Christ means to obtain, maintain and grow your personal prayer life. Without it, Jesus says, "apart from me you can do nothing."

This truth is the reason we are emphasizing, teaching, talking, and pursuing a series on prayer. We are using Max Lucado's book "Before Amen" because he offers

encouragement and direction without condemnation. Most Christians, do not have the discipline of daily prayer. The reasons are numerous, too busy, don't know how, don't know why, don't see results, only the preachers are supposed too... The reasons or excuses are not going to hold up under the scrutiny of Christ when you meet him face to face. So, let's not allow our excuses, the discouragement from the world or Satan keep us from pursuing this vital discipline!

We will begin a sermon series based on the topics from Max's book beginning on 4/12. The small groups will be reading the book and discussing during our meetings. There will be extra copies available to those who want one but are not in a small group.

## Easter Breakfast

*Sunday, April 5 9:00am-9:45am*

*Breakfast food donations (egg casseroles, baked goods, fruit, etc) are requested. Please signup at Welcome Desk.*



BIG HERO....3rd, 4th, & 5th graders the **Big Overnighter** at Oil Belt Camp is coming on April 10-11. Register now for this event. Deadline is next Sunday, April 5.

I have been thinking and praying a lot about Mission Indy this summer. During this time of prayer and contemplation I believe that God has a different plan for us this summer. There is so much going on in our own community right now that I think we need to spend some time here, getting things in order. Having said that, I am changing Mission Indy to **Mission Neoga**. I envision a time of working around the community; cleaning trash, working at Heartland, praying for our schools and praying for the churches around us.

**Mission Neoga will take place July 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.** Please pray about God's leading you to help out in this time of ministry to those around us.

-Matt D

## Spotlight on International Missions...Buckner

Since 1879, Buckner International has been transforming lives through hands-on ministry, serving the most vulnerable from the beginning to the ending of life. Buckner in Latin America works closely with government officials, local community leaders and supporters in the United States to provide much-needed aid and relief to orphans, vulnerable children and families. Buckner has been working in Latin America since 2003 through the support of registered NGOs in Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru and the Dominican Republic. Buckner in Africa provides much-needed humanitarian aid, foster care and kinship care, residential care and other programs designed to help children and families live healthy, productive lives. Buckner has been working in Africa since 2001 when it began operations in Kenya at the Baptist Children's Home in Nairobi. Today, Buckner works in Ethiopia and Kenya. Buckner in Eastern Europe has grown and evolved over the years since Buckner first began working in Russia in 1995 in response to the government's invitation to help them overcome mounting problems in the orphanage system. Former programs in Latvia and Romania have found new local and international support and today continue operations in a self-sufficient manner. Buckner continues to work in Russia to provide orphanage support and programs through a Family Hope Center in St. Petersburg.

Shoes for Orphan Souls is the largest humanitarian aid project of Buckner International. During the summer of 2013, I had the privilege of going on one of these distribution trips in Peru. I was able to experience first-hand the joy of giving an orphan a brand new pair of socks and shoes while telling them about the love of Jesus. In addition to sending Buckner a \$100 donation in April, we will also be collecting new socks throughout the month that will be given to children on future trips. Please look for the donation basket in the Welcome Center. If you would like to contribute financially to this wonderful mission, you may donate electronically at [www.buckner.org](http://www.buckner.org) or mail a donation to: Buckner International, 700 N. Pearl Street, Suite 1200 (12<sup>th</sup> floor), Dallas, TX 75201.

### Men's Ministry:

Iron Sharpens Iron is coming to Champaign on April 18.



*Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.*

*James 1:27*

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, afghan. I felt the warmth and power from your prayers and love. I am so thankful for my church family.

Doris Goodson

Dear FCC Neoga,

First of all Melinda and I would like to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We are deeply appreciative of your willingness to partner with us financially and through prayer. It is this type of sacrificial giving that allows people all over the world to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Now allow us to introduce ourselves to those who may not have met us when we visited.

Our names are Ryan and Melinda Hicks. We have been married for six and a half years. We have a six month old baby boy named Isaiah Matthew Hicks. Melinda and I were both born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. We work for an organization named One Mission Society (OMS). OMS has missionaries and work in over 70 countries. Melinda and I serve in two roles within the world of OMS. I, Ryan, keep track of all the statistics from all over the world. OMS currently tracks 14 different statistics that we use for making ministry decisions, coaching, training, budgeting, and many other things. The biggest thing we use the statistics for is to report to our donors the wonderful work God is doing through the various ministries. Our second role is that we are church planters to Africa. We travel once per quarter to Africa to help the natives plant and multiply healthy churches. While on the field, we focus on five specific areas that we help the natives with: training, coaching, pastoral care, accountability, and prayer. These two roles are our ministry in a nutshell. We are passionate about them, and truly burdened to see the people of Africa redeemed and won back to Jesus.

As I stated in the opening of this article, Melinda and I are deeply appreciative of your partnership. We cannot say enough how thankful we are. We look forward to ministering to you all, as we truly view our donors as "our flock." Please feel free to contact us if you want to know more about our ministry.

Ryan, Melinda, and Isaiah  
317-523-9486  
rhicks@onemissionsociety.org

The Missions Committee is excited to introduce Ryan and Melinda Hicks. They will be serving with One Mission Society in Africa. We will be contributing \$100 monthly to their ministry.



Thank you for blessing Choices Ministry. \$464.54 was given through the **baby bottle blessings** campaign.

## Neoga Food Pantry

28 families, 73 people; 3 deliveries

12 volunteers, 21.25 hrs

## Community Clothesline

March 5: 9 families, 21 individuals

March 19: 8 families, 26 individuals

# Seniors' Ministry

Thursday, April 16, 2015, we will travel to Central Christian Church at Mt Vernon, IL for the Southern Illinois Seniors' Luncheon, devotions, praise, and fellowship. We will leave from FCC at 9:30 a.m. The cost for the luncheon is \$6.00 make your check payable to First Christian Church of Neoga and give your check to Jane Baker or Carolyn Bartlett by April 12. We must make reservations by April 13.

May 14, 2015 seniors will meet from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. During our worship time we will continue our travel with Dr. Jack Hayford and journey to the Holy Land via DVD. Some of the places we will visit include Megiddo, Cana, Nazareth, Caesarea, Qumran (location of Dead Sea Scrolls), Masada, En Gadi and the Western Wall. Mark your calendar and plan to attend and enjoy the worship, fellowship, and lunch with the staff and seniors of all ages. Meat, drinks, and table service will be provided; each person should bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert to share.

June 11, we anticipate traveling to Clinton, IL and visit the C.H.moore Homestead and DeWitt County Museum. More details later.

Video	Audio	Greeters	Children's Ministry	Communion	Servers	
5	Matt	Tom	Wilma Burton	<u>Nursery:</u> Cathy & Mahayla Oakley <u>Wee Worship:</u> Sheri Coen, Andrea Workman <u>K-5th:</u> Jennifer Davis, Michael Baker, Kristen Albin	Reggie Rennels Randy Rennels Barry Conn Art Walk	Chad Walk Harry Starwalt Zack Letizia Alan Baker
12	Zach	Brianna	John & Mary Ann Wilson	<u>Nursery:</u> Joann Miller, Pam Storm <u>Wee Worship:</u> Louella Drum, Katie Hakman <u>K-5th:</u> Paula & Rory Gentry, Julie Altman	Michael Baker Don Coen Dave Coen Doug Baker	Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy Paul Lake Roger Banks
19	Michael	Aubrey	Fontella Waddell	<u>Nursery:</u> John & Reeni Letizia <u>Wee Worship:</u> Cheryll Gilbert, Penny Hess <u>K-5th:</u> Paul & Amber Lake, Austin Robinson, Amia Workman	Austin Robinson Doug Moore Reggie Rennels Randy Rennels	Barry Conn Art Walk Chad Walk Harry Starwalt
26	Jim	Aubrey	Marian Lindley	<u>Nursery:</u> Judy Starwalt, Linda Baker <u>Wee Worship:</u> Jacob & Brianna Dow <u>K-5:</u> Joni McClure, Zach Letizia, Megan Robinson	Alan Baker Michael Baker Don Coen Dave Coen	Doug Baker Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy Paul Lake

# April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9:00am Easter Breakfast 10:00am Easter Worship No Evening Ministries</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Kristen Banks</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>6:30pm Men's Study</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>No Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm 4/14 No Small Group Steve Drum Jim &amp; Martha Wilson</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>1-5,6-8pm Community Clothesline Bill Figgins Emily Frankie Wyatt Gentry</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Heartland Volunteer Banquet Big Overnighter (fri &amp; sat ) Amber Lake</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>180 (5th &amp; 6th) Beth Gentry Zach Letizia</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>4pm Financial Board 5:30pm Prayer 6:30pm Ladies Study Small Group</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>6:30pm Men's Study</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm 4/14 Davis Small Group</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9am-Noon Community Clothesline SILS Seniors' Luncheon in Mt Vernon</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Iron Sharpens Iron</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>4pm Elder/Staff Mtg 5:30pm Prayer 6:30pm Ladies Study Small Group</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>6:30pm Men's Study</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm 4/14 Davis Small Group</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>5:30pm Prayer 6:30pm Ladies Study Small Group Amia Workman Roger &amp; Kristen Banks</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Andrea Workman</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>6:30pm Men's Study</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm 4/14 Davis Small Group</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>		



# Eagle's Wings

Isaiah 40:31



## All Church Praise and Fellowship Time-- Sunday Evening, May 3, 2015

Plan now to attend the Eagles Wings Male Quartet concert at First Christian at 4 p.m. Our own Kirby Davis is a member of this group; other members are Jim Whitaker, Jerry Burrell and Chris Long. You will enjoy listening and receive a blessing from their songs of praise.

Following the concert, a **Spaghetti Supper** will be served by our youth in the Fellowship Area of the Basement. The donations received for the meal will be designated toward the summer youth activities (CIY and Mission Neoga). Registration for the meal will be available April 19 through 28. To assure a plate and a place to set, please register in the fellowship center by April 28, 2015; please provide your name and the number from your family attending the meal.

This is a great opportunity to bring your friends and neighbors.

