



60 Days of Prayer!

As Southern Hills Baptist Church celebrates SIXTY YEARS of sharing Christ in Oklahoma City and around the world, Pastor Doug Melton has urged us to begin the next chapter with...

SIXTY DAYS OF PRAYER!

- Guided prayer
- Fervent prayer
- Deliberate prayer
- Expectant prayer

Your Intercessory Prayer Council has prepared this Prayer Guide to assist you in participating and staying faithful and on track in this great movement of prayer.

A Message from your Intercessory Prayer Council

As you begin 60 DAYS OF PRAYER, we encourage you to make a commitment to stick with it. We realize that we live in a very “noncommittal” day and time. People don’t like to make commitments... especially in the spiritual realm.

Let’s go against the flow. Make a commitment to invest time and attention to prayer. And then do your best to keep the commitment.

For most people, a special prayer time like this works better early in the day. Some days there will be an encouraging prayer testimony. In others there may be instruction or challenge. Some days you’ll find a glimpse of an example of great men and women of prayer to inspire you. Each daily guide has been prayerfully prepared.

“My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto You, and will look up.” Psalm 5:3

The “Prayer Notes” area can be used however you choose: short sentence prayers, reminders about prayers, a promise you received from the Lord, etc.

Day 1 (Monday, Feb 26, 2024)

I thank the Lord you are taking this special time out of your day to pray. The amount of time that you spend in prayer is up to you and the Lord. But please do your best to be consistent. And if you do miss a day, don’t be discouraged, pick it up the next day.

Today pray for Pastor Doug who led us to have **60 Days of Prayer**. Thank the Lord for giving us a man of prayer as Pastor. In Hebrews 13:7 we read *“Remember them who have leadership over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God; whose faith follow, considering the end of their manner of life.”*

My Prayer Notes:

Day 2 (Tuesday, Feb 27, 2024)

Today we are encouraged to pray for missionaries in dangerous places. It's no secret that people we love, people from our fellowship, are serving the Lord as missionaries in difficult places. Today we lift up those and others who, like Paul the apostle, counted the cost and risked all for the sake of the gospel.

Paul said to the Thessalonians (1 Th 5:25), *"Brethren, pray for us."*

My Prayer Notes:

(You might list some missionaries.)

Day 3 (Wednesday, Feb 28, 2024)

Are there worrisome matters that bother you when you are at home, at work, or when you try to relax? Today please confront those issues in prayer, and claim God's promise found in Philippians 4:6-7.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving make your requests known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

One Bible teacher said it like this: "Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything."

My Prayer Notes:

Day 4 (Thursday, Feb 29, 2024)

A testimony to encourage prayer in seemingly impossible situations...

"I am here because of answered prayer. I was the product of a difficult delivery and it was not certain that I would live or be severely handicapped. My parents were told not to bother to even name me. There was little that doctors could do as I struggled to breathe. My parents, my family, and their church family all prayed for me and I survived. God delivered me from this and He can save you too."

SHBC Member Dr. Brian Lepley

(Jeremiah 33:3) "Call upon Me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things that you had not known."

My Prayer Notes:

Day 5 (Friday, March 1, 2024)

Dr. E. F. "Preacher" Hallock was a pastor, teacher, and mentor to great men of God who had an impact on succeeding generations. He's known for his teachings on Bible promises. He would say to younger pastors: "Boys, if you would live by God's promises, you must read the Bible..."

- Voluminously - more than a little bit
- Systematically - lest you be repetitious and miss a lot
- Obediently - applying what you read
- Spiritually - hearing the author, God
- Faithfully - at least every day."

(Psalm 119:11) "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."

My Prayer Notes:

Day 6 (Saturday, March 2, 2024)

Words of great men and women of prayer help us become a praying people. George Mueller was a 19th century man of great faith who provided for over 10,000 orphans during his life, asking no one but the Lord for support. Think about his words...

“We must hear! Listen! Hearken! I must ask myself, ‘Whom am I listening to? To God & His Word? Or to what people say?’ Careful reading of the Word of God, combined with meditation on it: in that way we become acquainted with God; His nature, His ways, His will, His sure promises...Confidence grows, faith is given, and answers are assured!”

“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God!” (Romans 10:17)

My Prayer Notes:

Day 7 (Sunday, March 3, 2024)

It's the Lord's Day! Today we get to worship the Lord as we gather with His people! If you are here in the USA you can gather with practically no fear of attempts by anyone trying to stop your worship.

As you pray and join together to worship today, take time to thank the Lord for the right to gather and worship, and for the privileges guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Thank God for the founders, for veterans, for first responders, and for all those He has used to provide and protect this sacred freedom of religion. Jot down some of these people to pray for.

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” (Pro. 14:34)

My Prayer Notes:

Day 8 (Monday, March 4, 2024)

(Prayer insights from a Christian pediatric doctor)

“Not all families get along.

Sometimes they harbor grudges, anger, childhood grievances and may not even speak to one another. Pray today that you can become a voice of peace and reconciliation in your family, and that God’s love will speak through you. Pray for those who may not know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.”

“Live in harmony with one another.

Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.”

(Romans 12:16 ESV)

My Prayer Notes:

Day 9 (Tuesday, March 5, 2024)

Agreeing in Prayer... Once after church service, I proceeded to go to the children’s hall to pick up my grandchildren. I was walking very slowly as my back was hurting very much. This lady, Myrna Stephens, stopped me and asked if I was ok. I told her that my back was hurting, she then asked if she could pray for me, I told her yes. She then stopped two other people walking in the hallway and asked them to pray with her for the healing of my back. The next day, my back had no pain whatsoever. I thanked God for Myrna’s prayers and for the others who joined her in prayer. (Matthew 18:19; 1 John 5:14-15)

SHBC member & banker Belinda Robinson

My Prayer Notes:

Day 10

(Wed, March 6, 2024)

Praying for God's Wisdom (James 1:5-8)

In the devotional book by Alistair Begg that many SHBC folks read in 2023, he describes true wisdom as:

- (1) A high view of God: awareness of our total dependence upon Him.
- (2) A sober view of our selves: awareness of our shortcomings, humility.
- (3) A generous view of others: building people up, not cutting them down.

(Alistair Begg, Truth for Life, Volume 2, page 355)

What kind of change might that make? And what areas of your life can you see that require a fresh measure of "true wisdom?" Jot down the needs and pray.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 11

(Thursday, March 7, 2024)

A great motivation to be a person of prayer is reading the testimony of another pray-er.

(The following is the testimony of Jack Hoskins, Jr, grandson of SHBC founding pastor, Rev D. B. Hoskins. Jack Jr. is 72 years old)

In answer to prayers of God's people at Southern Hills, "God healed me of cancer 3 times now. When I went in last time, I had a 17-hour surgery. This was during Covid. No visitors allowed. Before I went in I didn't know if I would live thru it. I am now cancer free, only through the grace of God in answer to prayer. My Scripture is the entire book of Psalms."

Psalm 3:3 "But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter of my head."

My Prayer Notes:

Day 12 (Friday, March 8, 2024)

Please think about those people who you know to be lost and about whom you are concerned. Consider this testimony...

“In the late 1960s and early 1970s I prayed for my husband to be saved. In 1973 he was a sponsor at Falls Creek, and there he gave his heart to Jesus! He was a good man before, but the Lord changed his focus and used him to point others to Jesus.”

(Ed. Note: This is the testimony of Pat Bruce about her husband Carlis, who today is an active deacon in SHBC, and who is an exemplary Christian whom God uses mightily.)

Please take a moment to thank God for people for whom you prayed to be saved, who later gave their hearts to Christ. Jot down the names of lost friends and loved ones you're praying for now.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 13 (Saturday, March 9, 2024)

Luke 6:12 says that Jesus prayed all night long. Sometimes we hear about great Christians spending long periods of time in prayer and it just makes us feel guilty. And that's it. "Those people had more time than we do." And the world WAS different. But look at it differently: Let God stretch you a bit...

The 16th century reformer Martin Luther would daily spend 2 hours in prayer. If it looked like a demanding day coming up he would go for 3 hours. (Documented) More recently, John Piper instructs students to spend at least two hours in prayer with Bible open.

This writer heard Yonggi Cho, pastor of the world's largest evangelical church, in person a few years back. He always prayed 4-5 hours a day. E M Bounds prayed 3 hours a day. And the list could go on. The point is this: most of us are not in danger of spending too much time praying. Let's be stretched a bit.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 14 (Sunday, March 10, 2024)

It's the Lord's Day! Yea!

In Hebrews 10:25 we read, "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but encouraging one another, and so much the more, as you see the day approaching."

Thank the Lord for the protected privilege of church attendance. Christians don't need church less as time goes by. We need it MORE! As Paul David Tripp points out in *Sunday Matters*, all week long we live in a world that is increasingly the antithesis of the biblical world view. In corporate worship we can get recalibrated to a Christ-honoring perspective.

Pray that you'll celebrate Jesus today in church, that you can learn Bible truth, and that you can encourage others.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 15 (Monday, March 11, 2024)

Testimony of answered prayer from SHBC member Larissa Tracy...

I was in a constant storm for 6 years. God was faithful & kept His promises. (Real life gets sticky, but God answered prayers in the following ways.)

1. He kept my daughter and her child safe from an abusive boyfriend.
2. God brought a young man into her life who was a Christian and took her child as his own.
3. I went through a divorce, my parents had to move from their home to live with me for me to support myself.
4. God gave them and me a church (SHBC) to go to & serve in and gave us Christian friends to fellowship with!

God's timing, grace, & mercy!

Philippians 4:19,13; Jer 29:11

My Prayer Notes:

Day 16 (Tues, March 12, 2024)

Prayer testimony of an SHBC minister...

We were a starry-eyed couple who had moved to Fort Worth with no doubt that God wanted us at seminary. But we moved at mid-term so it looked like my little well-recommended and experienced wife would not be able to secure a teaching position. We had hoped that the Lord would call us to a church ministry position, but it had not happened. Our small savings account was dwindling and we prayed over every dollar.

We got down to less than \$8 to our name, continued our practice of praying together each morning, and tried to claim God's promises. I had decided to take a factory job although I might have to drop out of school for a bit. On the day before I was to take that job, the US Mail brought a check for \$100. I had left our 1953 GMC pickup in Pine Bluff for a friend to sell. He was pleased to get \$100 and so was I. Thank you Lord! That bought us some time and a few days later I was contacted to become pastor of a small church. What a mighty prayer-answering God we serve!

My Prayer Notes:

Day 17 (Wed, March 13, 2024)

(As of this writing, Israel & Hamas are engaged in a horrific war)

Psalm 122:6 instructs: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee." Do you love to pray for persecuted Christians. Our friends at "Voice of the Martyrs" remind us that "Christian converts from Islam in Gaza face violence at the hands of family and local governments, run by Palestinian authorities. Christians in Israel proper often experience family rejection, low social standing, and limited hope of job advancement. Jewish anti-missionary groups (Yad L'Achim) often protest outside churches, cursing Christians and vandalizing buildings."

Please pray today for persecuted believers around the world.

(Quote [2023 Prayer Guide](#), "Voice of the Martyrs," page 42)

My Prayer Notes:

Day 18 (Thurs, March 14, 2024)

“This is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to his will, He hears us, and whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

Today and tomorrow we’ll share in abbreviated form Dr. Tom Elliff’s “Steps to Praying with Success.”

1. God’s step. A God-acknowledged need enters my life. No surprises to God. An indication that God wills to do something that we haven’t asked for yet.
2. My step. I decide to turn to God for the answer...preferably first. I yield to the will of my Heavenly Father.
3. God’s step. God reveals His will. This is generally in the context of consistent daily time in the Word.

Can you see examples of this in your life?

My Prayer Notes:

Day 19 (Friday, March 15, 2024)

(Continued from yesterday. Please review March 14.)

1 John 5:14-15 makes it clear that a key is asking God **according to His will**.

4. My step. I discern and receive God’s Word as true. “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask what you will, and it shall be done for you.” (John 15:7) Necessities: abiding in Christ, no rebellion; making Christ at home in your life; and His words (Bible) abiding in you.
5. My step. I make a faith request. Now I can do this, because faith is acting upon the revealed will of God. And I’ve taken time to know His will.
- 6, God’s step. God hears and grants.

This kind of praying takes time, but also results in growth as well as answers.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 20 (Sat, March 16, 2024)

The terms that come to mind at the mention of pioneer missionary **Adoniram Judson** are **Prayer** and **Sacrifice**. The “go to” biography of Judson is To the Golden Shore, by Courtney Anderson. This 560-page work makes it clear that Judson and his wife, Ann Haseltine Judson were people with a delicious prayer life. It’s a good thing because praying was what Adoniram would do for 1 1/2 years in a Burmese prison, much of the time without food and suspended by the wrists with his toes barely touching the filthy floor.

Perseverance in prayer! Six years passed before he saw his first convert. But when he died at 61 in 1850, there were over 7000 believers in Burma and 63 churches that he had planted.

Please pray for missionaries today.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 21 (Sun, March 17, 2024)

It’s the Lord’s Day! Hebrews 10:25 tells us that we should not forsake or belittle or turn away from the “assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is but exhorting (encouraging) one another, and much the more as you see the day approaching.” What day? Jesus’ return in the air. Whew! It’s closer now than it was the day I was born again! That means I need to attend church more today, NOT LESS, than years ago when I was a new believer. Some folks are fooled into thinking they’ve “outgrown” church.

As you pray today, pray for your preacher as he feeds the sheep. Pray for yourself that you will have a humble and hungry heart, so you may be filled. WE need it!

My Prayer Notes:

Day 22 (Mon, March 18, 2024)

“Pray for us!” Here at SHBC we do have a faithful team of prayer warriors in the War Room, RD2PRAY, and Sunday School classes. In 1 Samuel 7:8, as the powerful Philistines were about to defeat them, the Israelites besought Samuel, “Don’t stop crying out to the Lord our God for us, that He will save us from the...Philistines.” Their time was running out! They didn’t have a chance of survival... but they did have a man of prayer. And Samuel prayed! God answered with a fierce thunderstorm and the Philistines were defeated. Samuel placed a stone historical monument and called it “Ebenezer” meaning “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us!” You don’t want to forget God’s answers. And Satan wants to steal those memories from you. Jot down some memories of answered prayer.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 23 (Tues, March 19, 2024)

Our IMB (International Mission Board, of which our Pastor Doug is a vital board member) has handles for groups of nations. One is NAME: Northern Africa & Middle East. It’s not hard for many SHBC members to name missionaries in Israel, Jordan, etc. We’re connected. But did you know that the IMB tells us that 65% of the violent conflicts in the world are taking place in this relatively small area? It’s true. Tragic as this is, it creates an opportunity for missionaries to share the gospel with fearful people and refugees who would not otherwise be as open to the good news of Jesus. Please pray for missionaries you know and know about. Pray for the energizing joy of people coming to Christ.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 24 (Wed, March 20, 2024)

Have you heard of imprecatory prayers? We see them in the Bible. Example: “Lord, pour out your indignation upon them!” (Ps 69:24) It’s praying against the forces of evil, and it’s not to be done flippantly. In earlier days of the tragic LGBTQ movement, this writer, by some fluke, became the point person for the biblical sexual purity side in our city. Our family received death threats, filthy mail, and scorn in some news media. A local luxury hotel was going to sponsor an event promoting “drag queens” and homosexual behavior. My associate and I visited the hotel manager about cancelling the event for the good of the city and state. He and his friends ridiculed us and stated that this was a chance for more “intelligent” folks to make lots of money.

I respectfully stated that if money was the issue overruling morality, our church would pray **against** their financial success, which we did. In a few months the local paper carried a headline: “Luxury Hotel Files for Bankruptcy.” Soon the huge building was an empty shell that caught fire and was leveled. Repentance would have been a better outcome, but prayer against evil was answered.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 25 (Thurs, March 21, 2024)

Testimony of John (and Joyce) Rhodes

A number of circumstances surrounding Joyce’s stroke in 2018 prompted us to pray and begin a difficult search for a new church. We asked our great and awesome God for wisdom and guidance as we began the search.

He led us to Southern Hills Baptist Church (and had we known how great a church it is, we would have been here **many** years ago). And to God be all honor, glory, and praise for bringing us here to Southern Hills Baptist Church!

Proverbs 3:5-6 states, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.” Recall turning points in your life when God answered your prayer for guidance.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 26 (Friday, March 22, 2024)

Prayer is not always asking God for something. It's often commitment. When I was a boy in the 1950s, I was an RA (Royal Ambassador). Think Boy Scout with a Bible. Every meeting and every day on a campout, we repeated our pledge. Mr. Luper, our leader, made a point that it was really a **prayer** of commitment to God...

"I pledge myself to try to live worthy of the name of our order, to guard my lips against profanity and untruth, to keep my body clean and useful, to study the lives of noble ambassadors set forth in God's Word and world history, to give what I can to support missions, and by every possible deed of service to help bring in Christ's Kingdom. I will live pure, speak truth, right wrong, follow Christ the King, else wherefore born?" Are there prayer pledges you'd like to make to Jesus? "Ambassadors for Christ." 2 Cor 5:20

My Prayer Notes:

Day 27 (Sat, March 23, 2024)

Charles Haddon Spurgeon was a great British preacher who died in 1892 at the young age of 57. In an antique devotion booklet with no copyright he had this to say about prayer...

"If anyone should ask me for an epitome of the Christian religion, I should say, it is in that one word: **prayer**. If I should be asked 'What will take in the whole of Christian experience?' I should answer, **prayer**. A man must have been convinced of sin before he could **pray**; he must have had some hope that there was mercy for him before he could **pray**. All Christian virtues are locked up in the word, **prayer**. In troubled times our best communion with God will be carried on by supplication. Tell Him thy case; search out His promise, and then plead it with holy boldness. This is the best, the surest, the speediest way of relief."

What burden(s) would you take to the Lord in prayer today?

My Prayer Notes:

Day 28 (Sunday, March 24, 2024)

Our part of the South was enduring a D4, an exceptional drought...the worst! People's wells were giving out, lakes were at historically low levels. One morning at our 6:00am Prayer Meeting, a 15-year-old boy quoted 2 Chron. 7:13-14 "If I shut up heaven that there be no rain... if My people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray..." That hit us all!

One thing led to another. We had small "Pray for Rain!" bumper stickers made. We announced a prayer meeting for humility and rain. Thankfully more than 200 people used their lunch times to come and pray in the open air around our little Prayer Chapel. Somehow a TV news team from a nearby city showed up. And pray we did! It didn't rain that day but three days later it did. A toad strangler! The drought ended. The top local newspaper story was titled "Why So Much Rain?" That local TV prayer meeting story made the national Weather Channel and was their most watched video for 2 weeks!

Let's make known God's answers to prayer.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 29 (Monday, March 25, 2024)

One of the most neglected types of prayer is thanksgiving, expressing heartfelt appreciation to God for His blessings, mercy, and favor. How do we become more grateful?

When teaching children to be thankful, we know that gratitude grows with expression. The more we say "Thank you," the more we are sensitive or aware of the blessings around us. What may have begun as good manners grows into an attitude of gratitude.

Counting our blessings helps us build gratitude also. Pondering our joys and privileges makes us more grateful. Take the time and purpose to pray thankfully today.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 30 (Tues, March 26, 2024)

“I’m just not one to bother God with my troubles when I get in a jam!” a carnal Christian stated with apparent self-satisfaction. Oh really? What do you think about that attitude? It doesn’t exactly square with the words of the prophet Jonah: “I cried by reason of my affliction to the Lord, and He heard me.” (Jonah 2:2) Or in David’s desperate words, “Hurry, O God to deliver me; make haste to help me O Lord!” (Psalm 70:1)

Persons who take pride in not bothering God, may not have much of a prayer life. Actually our gracious Lord uses our times of desperation to restore and sweeten fellowship with His children.

When have you cried out to God in the throws of hardship or desperation?

My Prayer Notes:

Day 31 (Wed, March 27, 2024)

Prayers of adoration are perhaps the most scarce of all types of prayer. In today’s world the word “adore” has been cheapened somewhat by romantic songs. But in the Bible, adoration is the expression of love, awestruck appreciation, and humble honor to the Lord. Psalm 29 is considered a song or prayer of David expressing his adoration and love to God.

You may express adoration as part of your prayer along with thankfulness, confession, petition, etc. Or you may spend an entire prayer time in adoration. If you’re a married man or woman, you might remember how you rehearsed reason after reason for your love, “adoration,” for your spouse. That remembrance might jog your expressions of adoration to the Lord.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 32 (Thurs, March 28, 2024)

(Testimony of answered prayer from SHBC member Darrell Aebischer)

It was February 2006. My brother (49 years old) was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. It had spread and he was told that he only had a short time to live. To make it worse, he had wanted nothing to do with church. I asked Doug to go see if he could talk to him at the hospital.

This was on a Wednesday night. Doug asked everyone at the prayer service to pray for my brother while he went to see him. The entire congregation prayed hard. A short time later, Doug called me and said, "We got him!" My brother was saved, died a few weeks later and is in Heaven today. An answer to prayer. His wife was also saved a while later!!

Ed. Note: Who are you praying for to be saved?

My Prayer Notes:

Day 33 (Friday, March 29, 2024)

Would you like to be more of a person of prayer? Would you like to see more positive answers to your prayers? One thing that helps is the inspiration of reading biographies and writings of great men and women of prayer. But sometimes we shy away from that because we don't want to fall under conviction; don't want to be challenged or stretched. If that's the way you feel, well, as your Dad may have said to you, "Now you just need to get over that!" Say "No" to your fear of failure, and "Yes" to the encouragement or exhortation of fellow-believers (Hebrews 10:25).

Consider reading about John "Praying" Hyde, Amy Carmichael, George Müller, Bertha Smith, E. F. "Preacher" Hallock; be challenged and stretched.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 34 (Sat, March 30, 2024)

John Nelson Hyde, who became known as “Praying Hyde,” was born in 1865 in Illinois. He died at the age of 46, but his life had a huge impact for Christ. Hyde sought the Lord as to what his ministry was to be and in prayer found that God was leading him to missions in the Punjab of India. There, as he struggled with the language, he began to spend long hours in prayer. He felt led to pray for one soul to come to Christ each day. After a year of such praying he realized that he had led over 400 individuals to the Lord in 365 days. Then he prayed for two true conversions per day and God answered with more than two per day.

He never saw himself as a great preacher, but he would often spend 36 hours on his knees in prayer. While in Wales for a short time, Evangelist J. Wilbur Chapman was preaching an evangelistic meeting and asked John Hyde to pray for him and God did a mighty work. People had confidence in Hyde’s prayers, for Hyde had confidence in God. Even when John did not get the answer he sought, he knew his time was well spent in prayer.

Do you have a faith-stretching request?

My Prayer Notes:

Day 35 (Sunday, March 31, 2024)

It’s the Lord’s Day! Yea! Hope you’re able to be among God’s people in worship today or if unable, that you’ll watch/participate online. And listen to what God says.

What would you think of a friend who loved to converse with you, BUT he or she never gave you a chance to talk? Ros Rinker was a missionary in China early in the 20th century. Her book, “Prayer: Conversing with God” was in the strength program when we began RD2PRAY at SHBC. She talks about prayer as not only talking TO God, but also LISTENING to His part of the conversation. Some would say, “praying with your Bible open.”

50 years ago, my wife was real sick in the hospital. She couldn’t sleep either. We were praying with Bibles open and came to “I will both lay me down in peace and sleep, for thou only, O Lord, makest me to dwell in safety.” (Psalm 4:8) I looked up and she was asleep.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 36 (Monday, April 1, 2024)

(Prayer testimony of SHBC member Michele Digby)

My prayers, crying out to God, lamenting over my sister's diagnosis of ALS and my husband's diagnosis of MCI, seeking comfort & understanding, were answered through ordinary folks being the hands and feet of Christ, providing extraordinary peace and comfort that only God can provide.

In passing, a member of our church family mentioned that her uncle was a long-term ALS survivor & put me in touch with him. Such encouragement!

A stranger sitting on a bench with my husband and I overlooking Lake Michigan on a vacation to Chicago, a retired registered nurse, and an Alzheimer's researcher shared the love of Christ. Powerful, extraordinary love and comfort from a stranger. Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God."

My Prayer Notes:

Day 37 (Tuesday, April 2, 2024)

I loved going to seminary. It was delicious to me! One day we had a then famous evangelist preach in chapel and afterwards he spoke in one of my classes. He had been on a number of secular talk shows & he was delightfully entertaining and funny.

Our prof opened the floor for questions and one student asked the guest about his prayer life. The famous preacher with confidence dogmatically responded, "See, that's the problem with you men! You spend all your time in your ivory tower praying instead of getting out where real people are! No I don't spend a lot of time praying! I sorta pray on the run! I get out amongst them! And that's what you should do!"

Of course it's not either or, and I take no joy in telling this. But none of us will forget that, and it is worthy of note that just a short time later this man was no longer in ministry due to immorality. Prayer time is vital. "My voice You will hear in the morning, O Lord. In the morning I will direct my prayer unto You, and will look up." Psalm 5:3

My Prayer Notes:

Day 38

(Wed, April 3, 2024)

(Prayer Testimony of SHBC member...name withheld)

After several years of infertility, we prayed every morning that the Lord would give us the baby He wanted us to have, when He wanted us to have it. Days, weeks, and months passed and I finally prayed the hardest prayer that I have ever prayed - "Lord, if you do not want me to be a mother, please remove this desire from my heart."

As I was reading my Bible a few days later, the Lord gave me this verse: "Make a large signboard and write on it the birth announcement of the son I am going to give you." (Isaiah 8:1, TLB) On Feb 14, 1974, we received final approval to adopt a baby, but were told it would probably be up to a 2-year wait. On Feb 17, 1974, our son was born. That was 50 years ago and we still thank God everyday for that answered prayer!

My Prayer Notes:

Day 39

(Thurs, April 4, 2024)

(SHBC Sunday School teacher Alana Stephens)

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man (or woman) availeth much."
(James 5:16b)

My son experienced a traumatic brain injury. (Friends and loved ones prayed fervently for him.) The initial prognosis was that he would not recover. He couldn't walk or take care of his daily needs.

He now walks with a cane, is totally self-sufficient, and driving. And most importantly he is actively seeking the Lord.

"Jesus beheld them and said unto them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

My Prayer Notes:

Day 40 (Friday, April 5, 2024)

(Testimony of SHBC member and Chaplain David Dumbleton. His life has been one answered prayer after another. His Scriptures are John 17 & Rev 2:4-5)

I became a Christian as a child at Western Hills Baptist Church with Bro. Warren Terry. I grew up in Sunday School and church and excelled in elementary and secondary education: Mathematics, Science and History.

I went to OSU and graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering. I also learned to play the guitar, but began to play worldly music in the wrong places to the wrong people.

By my Heavenly Father's amazing grace, the Holy Spirit woke me up on February 11, 1972, and led me to hear Sister Wanda Jackson and her husband Wendell Goodman in the Chapel.

God convicted me of my **loss of my first love for my Lord Jesus**. I repented of my pride and lust and was restored in fellowship and membership at SHBC where Bro. Warren Terry was my Pastor again. Through Sister Darla Morgan I met my wife of 44 years (now in Heaven), Becky Ruth.

God showed me His purpose and true success! Praise the Lord for answered prayer!

My Prayer Notes

Day 41 (Saturday, April 6, 2024)

(Prayer testimony of SHBC member Michele Digby)

Philippians 4:6, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God."

At a time in my life of significant change, I prayed to God for direction and assistance in moving mountains. My mountain came in the form of my house and belongings that I had collected for 40+ years.

I could not see a way out of my situation. It's a beautiful story, but keeping it short, in answer to prayer, God moved my mountain and provided clarity and direction. Praise be to God!

Job 9:5 (TLB) says "He moves mountains without their knowing it."

My Prayer Notes:

Day 42 (Sunday, April 7, 2024)

It's the Lord's Day! Yea! “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful unto Him and bless His name.” Psalm 100:4

As you go to church today, go beyond just getting your body in the building. Put your heart into it. Ruth (Mrs. Billy) Graham pointed out that some of the same things that hinder worship are also hindrances to prayer. For example...

1. A selfish attitude. Praying selfishly and going to church selfishly;
2. A critical spirit. Judging the music, the preaching, even the prayers;
3. An air of self-promotion or self-aggrandizement.

In the temple (Lk 18), Jesus commended the humble prayer of the tax collector but not the prideful “prayer” of the Pharisee.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 43 (Monday, April 8, 2024)

“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:12-13

“Perhaps the greatest obstacle to our spiritual strength is the hectic pace of our society. Believers have sadly slipped into the notion that 3 or 4 minutes a day of hurried prayer will result in a powerful prayer life. Remember that your prayers to God must be viewed as a relationship, not a duty. When we pray we commune with the God of all mankind and He deserves our undivided attention.”

“A man may be consecrated, dedicated and devoted, but of little value if undisciplined. The real secret of an unsatisfied life lies too often in an unsundered will.” ...Hudson Taylor

My Prayer Notes:

Day 44 (Tuesday, April 9, 2024)

(Prayer Testimony of SHBC member Joan Baird)

My oldest son walked away from his family in 2002. He cut all communication and ties with any family member. As a mother, my heart was broken. He had issues and he needed to get them worked out. **All I could do was pray** for peace in his life and friends to help him along.

This went on 21 years. I prayed and asked God to keep him safe. Little did I know he was in Afghanistan in harm's way part of this time. He befriended a chaplain who helped him. On Oct 16, 2023, he knocked on my door and he was welcomed with open arms. **God heard my prayer** and it took this long for healing in all our lives. Proverb 3:5-6. **A miracle indeed!**

My Prayer Notes:

Day 45 (Wed, April 10, 2024)

“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which spitefully use you, and persecute you.” Matthew 5:44

Many young Christian girls read the biography of Amy Carmichael, energetic missionary for 55 years in India. She would tell young ladies living for Christ, “We have all eternity to enjoy our rewards, but only one lifetime in which to win them.”

In addition, “Let us not be surprised when we have to face difficulties. When the wind blows hard on a tree, the roots stretch and grow the stronger. Let it be so with us. Let us not be weaklings, yielding to every wind that blows, but strong in the spirit to resist.” ...Amy Carmichael

My Prayer Notes:

Day 46 (Thurs, April 11, 2024)

“Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.” 2 Corinthians 7:1

“A Christian should know more about the operation of his spirit than about the activity of his mind.”...Watchman Née, martyr

Everyone has a manner or spirit about them. Our Heavenly Father is very interested in our inward and outward actions. Pride is a clever sin that can be easily overlooked. We may not even realize that spiritual complacency can catch us unaware. We don't really do anything bad, but we also don't do anything good. Pray in faith for God to give you a heart that is sincere and a genuine spirit of humility.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 47 (Friday, April 12, 2024)

Jesus said, “What! Could you not watch with me one hour?” Matthew 26:40

(Prayer testimony of SHBC member and singer Linda Hart)

In December of 2019, I was diagnosed with endometrial cancer. I contacted my Prayer Warriors (brothers and sisters in Christ **who can be depended upon to pray**) right away. The Lord blessed and answered our prayers. I had surgery and just three radiation treatments and have been cancer free for four years.

I have been part of the Southern Hills Baptist Church **Prayer Ministry** and know that it is such a blessing to the prayer warriors as well as those who are receiving the results of their prayers.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 48 (Saturday, April 13, 2004)

“I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it; but I found none.”

Ezekiel 22:30

Our church needs you to be an intercessor. An intercessor is someone who prays for the needs of others. This is the groundwork for our church to grow as we strive to reach our community. For instance, you can pray for our pastor and staff and for Sunday School teachers. Pray for a spirit of zeal in all ministries and programs. Pray for a deep love for one another as we worship together. Pray that the Lord will convict the lost of sin and draw them to Himself. There is no joy like seeing the answered prayers that we pray for others. (Ed note: from IMB missionary)

My Prayer Notes:

Day 49 (Sunday, April 14, 2024)

“Call upon me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things that thou knowest not.” Jeremiah 33:3

(Prayer Testimony of SHBC/choir member Paulette Jones)

Thank you for praying for my brother Rudy. The doctors were saying his heart was weak as well as his liver and kidneys, and they would probably have to amputate his leg. **But the church prayed** for him, and in a couple of weeks he was able to go home!

All praise to Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord our Healer!

My Prayer Notes:

Day 50 (Monday, April 15, 2024)

“Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.” Psalm 119:34-35

Corrie ten Boom was a survivor of the Nazi holocaust. She and her sister Betsy were incarcerated in Ravensbrück concentration camp not because they were Jews, but because they aided Jewish escapes.

Corrie asks, “Is prayer your steering wheel, or your spare tire?” Never forget that the deepest praise and worship is based on a choice, not a feeling. In fact the deepest worship you can experience will be done when your day is filled with grief and pain. This is called the sacrifice of praise. Only then will the true level of your worship be seen. We must teach ourselves to praise God even when things are not going well.”

My Prayer Notes:

Day 51 (Tuesday, April 16, 2024)

“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God which is in you.”

2 Timothy 1:6

God often speaks in a still, small voice. It is impossible to give God our undivided attention if we are doing something else at the same time.

George Whitefield, considered the leader of the Great Awakening and friend of Ben Franklin preached to crowds of 20,000 persons by actual count without sounding board or microphone. He knew the power of prayer. He said, “Believers keep up and maintain their walk with God by secret prayer. The spirit of grace is always accompanied with the spirit of supplication. It is the very breath of the new creature, the fan of the divine life whereby the spark of holy fire, kindled in the soul by God is not only kept in, but raised into a flame.”

My Prayer Notes:

Day 52 (Wed, April 17, 2024)

“Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit.” Ephesians 5:18

The name Dwight L Moody denotes thoughts of a shoe salesman becoming a great preacher, Moody Bible Institute, etc. But a huge factor in his story involves prayer. Moody was having a good measure of preaching success in Chicago, but there were some elderly ladies praying for him to have a fresh touch of God’s Spirit.

On Sunday night, October 8, 1871, the great Chicago fire broke out. Moody released the crowd without an invitation. Farwell Hall, where he preached, burned to the ground, along with the parsonage, etc. In the months that followed he attempted to raise funds to rebuild. And then (in his words), “What a day...I seldom refer to it. It’s almost too sacred to name...I can only say that God was revealed to me... and I had to ask Him to stay His hand.”

He was never the same. There was sweet power from on high. An answer to prayer.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 53 (Thursday, April 18, 2024)

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give us a spirit of unity among ourselves as we follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth we may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:5-6

Is there someone you know who needs prayer? As we pray for members of our family and church, our hearts are knit together by the power of the Lord. Nothing tends to reinforce the hearts of Christians more than praying together. Never do they love one another so well as when they hear the outpouring of each other’s hearts in prayer.

“Prayer is the greatest power God has put into our hands for service - praying is harder than doing; at least I find it so, but the dynamic lies that way to advance the Kingdom.”

...Mary Slessor, Missionary to Nigeria

My Prayer Notes:

Day 54 (Friday, April 19, 2024)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true and proper worship."

Romans 12:1

People often liken the writings of A.W. Tozer, who died in 1963, to *Confessions*, by Augustine of Hippo of the 4th century AD. Tozer states, "Prayer will become effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience... The most crucial way we abide with Christ is daily Bible Study and relational prayer.

Remember it is impossible to live in true fellowship with the Lord and the power of the Holy Spirit if we are not spending time in His word. Make it a habit, and when the need arises it will be a way of life, not just in case of emergency."

My Prayer Notes:

Day 55 (Saturday, April 20, 2024)

"I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." ...Ezekiel 22:30

"Our Dad was the greatest Christian man I ever knew personally." That's what I said when my brother and I preached Dad's funeral, and I was not exaggerating. It had not always been so. He was a lost man with a praying wife and a praying mother. Dad served in the Pacific in WWII. He came home an alcoholic. We were not church goers and I was just a boy who picked up dirty words. We moved around a lot and while we lived in Wichita, KS, a man who was as big and tough as Dad came to our apartment and talked straight with Dad about Heaven, Hell, and Jesus.

My father didn't get saved that night, but he did start taking us to a small Baptist church and soon afterward publicly gave his life to Christ. Everything changed! He miraculously quit drinking. He would read the Bible to us each night and we learned to pray. Later both my brother and I were saved and called to ministry. Our home became a place of joy! All to the glory of God and a result of two praying women. God is still seeking men!

My Prayer Notes:

Day 56 (Sunday, April 21, 2024)

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

2 Timothy 3:16

Your prayer time may also be decision time.

Billy Graham was 29 and troubled. His preacher friend Chuck Templeton had sunk into theological liberalism and was telling Billy that he should “wise up” and follow suit. It was 1949 and Billy was at Forest Home Conference Center in California. Struggling, he walked into the woods to pray. As he prayed he placed his Bible on a tree stump and promised the Lord he would preach the Bible as true when he understood and when he didn’t. That commitment not only opened his understanding, but was a turning point in his ministry. Six weeks later began his amazing 1949 Los Angeles crusade.

My Prayer Notes:

Day 57 (Monday, April 22, 2024)

“Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings? And not one of them is forgotten before God.” Luke 12:6

Her mother was only twelve when she was born, the result of a violent crime. She grew up on the streets, was a school dropout, BUT she made a sincere public profession of faith in Christ just weeks before her thirteenth birthday. New believers need caring discipleship which was not available to young African American Ethel Waters. However the little girl with the big voice did pray...a lot. Her beautiful voice was discovered and exploited by unscrupulous promoters. Then in 1957 at a Billy Graham Crusade, the by then famous blues singer walked forward in total surrender to Jesus. Her prayers were answered! No wonder her theme became:

“His eye is on the Sparrow,
And I know He watches me.”

My Prayer Notes:

Day 58 (Tuesday, April 23, 2024)

“They forsook all and followed him.” Luke 5:11b

She was young and pretty and totally surrendered to Jesus Christ. As a college student at MBI she prayed about sharing the gospel, where she would invest her life, and whom she would marry. God led Betty to fellow student John Stam, they married, and went to China as missionaries. At age 28 and with a 3-month-old baby, John and Betty Stam were arrested by communist terrorists, their tiny daughter, Helen, miraculously spared, and the couple beheaded. As they were humiliated in the streets on their way to execution a new Christian shopkeeper besought mercy for them. He was taken and brutally killed. In her last letter to her parents, Betty wrote: “I’m not sorry that we came to China. My prayers are for our little Helen, and for the new believers here...” And a poem she wrote about their impending death says in part...

“Afraid? Afraid of what?

Afraid to see the Savior’s face?

To hear His welcome, and to trace

The glory gleam from wounds of grace?

Afraid? —Of that?” Betty Stam, woman of prayer

My Prayer Notes:

Day 59 (Wed, April 24, 2024)

The name Mel Trotter is not as well known today as it was before WWII. He was the kind of drunkard that gives alcohol a well-deserved bad name. His wife wept for him and prayed for him. Their 2-year-old daughter died while Mel was on a 10-day drunk. Standing at the child’s casket with his wife, he vowed to never drink again. Two hours later he was falling-down drunk.

Although the situation seemed hopeless, his wife, Lottie, and his mother, continued to pray for Mel. His god was alcohol. He stole for it, craved it, and broke the hearts of those who loved him. One evening, shoeless and penniless, he staggered into the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago. The preacher and head of the mission was Harry Monroe. Brother Harry stopped the service and asked those present who were saved to pray for “this man”. That night Mel Trotter was born again! The tireless prayers of his mother, his wife, and yes, those people at the mission were answered. Mel Trotter never drank again. He became a sold-out servant of the Lord. Thousands were saved as he preached the Gospel. “Men ought always to pray, and not quit.” Luke 18:1

My Prayer Notes:

Day 60

(Thurs, April 25, 2024)

“When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” Matthew 6:6 ESV

As you can see, this day is the conclusion of our **60 Days of Prayer**. We hope it has been helpful. Obviously you are not Praying Hyde or Betty Stam, but you are you and praying brings us in touch with action. What’s the next step for you? Quite possibly God’s will for you involves a fresh commitment to family prayer, or daily personal prayer, or prayer ministry in the War Room (prayer room), or RD2PRAY.

We, of the Intercessory Prayer Council, urge you to seek the Lord’s plan for your prayer life. You are encouraged to jot down your thoughts about **your next step**.

My Prayer Notes:
