

FAMILY PRAYER NOTEBOOK

Helpful Hints

We often talk about prayer. We often think about prayer. And yet we so often don't know how to improve in a practical way. Here is a notebook that will help you immediately in a practical way. I hope you will praise God for that. The prayer notebook idea developed because when I was a missionary in Arctic Alaska near the North Pole, I had very little contact with the outside world and my prayer life began to dry up. Eventually I ended up praying about I, me, and myself, those three things, because I could not think of anything else. This brought great discomfort and a seeking for a more intimate relationship with God. This notebook does not tell you what to pray. It does not tell you exactly when to pray. It does not tell you how to pray. It is made to **stimulate** new prayer ideas for you.

I. Praise - page 3

Page 3 testimonies. On the left side you simply fill in the date when something really beautiful happened in your life. So, it becomes a testimony of the wonderful things Jesus is doing for you now, today, in your city / family, in this year. By making a page like that you are beginning to write a storybook of miracles.

II. Special Requests and Emergencies – page 4

This page is to keep a diary of God's **answers** to your prayers. In a short little while this becomes a very powerful source for testimonies and praise about God's daily workings in your life. What we do here is as follows, please look at page 4. Note that there are 4 columns on this page. In column 1 you simply mark down the date you prayed. In column 2 write what you prayed about. Later on in column 3 you write down how God answered this prayer. Then when God gives you the answer you write down that date in column 4. So, column 4 on the far-right hand side of the paper is for the date of God's answer. It becomes a powerful illustration of how God answered prayer. Well hallelujah, praise God! He does answer prayer. Prayer works!

Date of prayer When you prayed	Prayer Write down what you prayed for	Answer God's answer	Date of answer the day that God gave you the answer

This becomes a very beautiful testimony to the **power** of prayer. I know that a number of people have been blessed through that. Whenever you get discouraged in your faith, you will be reviewing those two pages, and it is like reading the book of Psalms or Acts, but it is yours. It is in your life. It is not two thousand years ago. It is not in the land of Palestine. It is in your town right here in your state.

We had a lady in our Bible study doing this for a group, and some of the answers came six months later. Yes, you can do it in a group, but I am suggesting you to do this with your family. I heard many of your family prayers in the morning. People get

up, they kneel down and you might as well play a **recording** because every morning their prayers are nearly the same. The Bible says do not do that. The heathen do that. The Bible says do not use vain **repetitions**. This book was meant for you as an individual or for a family. However, you may want to use it in a group.

III. The Family – page 5

We have divided the family into different parts, and we pray for the different parts on different days of the week.

You notice the 6 categories: Wife's parents, husband's parents, Wife's brothers/sisters, Husband's brothers/sisters, grandparents and children. Each group is prayed for separately once weekly. We prayed for our children on Saturday because it is not a workday and gave us a bit more time to pray for them.

MONDAY	Wife's parents
TUESDAY	Husband's Parents
WEDNESDAY	Wife's brothers/sisters and family
THURSDAY	Husband's brothers/sisters and families
FRIDAY	Grandparents
SATURDAY	Our children

If you have a very large or very small family, you may want to change this format. Perhaps not all parents are living, and you can pray one day for the mother and another day for the father. You may want to pray for all the sisters of both husband and wife together on one day and on another day pray for all the brothers of both spouses. If there are no grandparents but there are many brothers and sisters, you can use Friday to pray for them as well. These are just some different possibilities. So, think about a Large Family, Small Family, Single Person, etc. I am sharing this with you to show that there is lots of **flexibility**. These are some ideas so you can learn how to do it best for your situation.

IV. Church Work – pages 6-7

Pages five and six are the prayer pages for your home church, not for your denomination.

You can see it has been divided into categories, that is, the days of the week except Sunday. We do not include **Sunday**. We do not use the prayer book on Sunday because Sunday is a day of rest and a break from routine. So, on Sunday we are not going to get into a tradition of, "Well, I must do this because my book says so." Sunday is a day to Worship. It simply means you do not use this book on Sundays.

Please note in your sample that every Monday of the month we pray for the pastor and church team. Every Tuesday we pray for the church leaders. Every Wednesday we pray for various church teachers. Each Thursday we pray for different church programs. Each Friday we pray for the needs of various church members. Saturday, we pray for the needs written or announced by the church leaders. So, each week, you pray for a **different aspect** of these church leaders' lives and new, fresh needs within your own church.

Example:

On MONDAYS we pray for the pastor and his team.

The first Monday of the month we pray for the pastor and *his work*.

The second Monday we pray for the pastor and **his family**.

The third Monday we pray for the pastor and **his health**.

The fourth Monday of the month we pray for the pastor and **his special needs and emergencies**.

On TUESDAYS we pray for the church leaders.

The first Tuesday we pray for **wisdom, insight and foresight**.

The second Tuesday we pray for **unity, cooperation and loyalty**.

The third Tuesday we pray for **hard work and individual tasks** of these church leaders.

The fourth Tuesday we pray for the leader's **testimony and witness to those outside the church**.

On WEDNESDAY we pray for the teachers.

One Wednesday we pray this, another Wednesday we pray that, so every Wednesday we pray something different.

You may think this is confusing; I want a simple system! As soon as you do that, your prayer life will die, it will just become a tradition.....amen." I do not believe in that. I do not believe in creating another tradition with this prayer book. Your prayer life has to be alive, and this booklet will hopefully help you to make your prayer life livelier, more active.

V. Friends and Relatives – page 8

You will see thirty numbers on your page, each number represents one day on the calendar. Beside each number you write the name of a friend or the name of a relative. So that means you can only have thirty friends. What do you do when you have thirty-one friends? You pray for one of them to die.☺ (Ha, ha, ha — not really of course!) What you do is you combine some of the names. For instance, you have two friends in one city and you group another 4 friends together in another town. That is all. If you have less than 30 friends, relatives and acquaintances, then simply do not use all the days to pray for them.

Don't write down any **information** about the people: you only write in their names, that is all. The name will bring them to the forefront, and through their name you will remember their needs. One month someone dies, another time they are moving to another city, or someone is born. It is wintertime and it is cold, or it is summertime, and they are working in their gardens. The circumstances change all the time, so do not write in the details. You write in the name and God will give you the new information through a telephone call, through a letter or through a visit.

VI. Home Evangelism – page 9

Page eight is "Home Evangelism." There again you have the days of the month. Most of you do not have enough information for all thirty of them. In that situation we suggest that you pray on every other day. There you will write in all the missions and other non-church ministries that you know of in America. Different things that are happening in USA that are not from your home church. The Christian animated films on television for children called "Super Book," prison and orphanage ministries. You will write all those down. Write down all the spiritual things that are happening in the United States and pray for them. Perhaps the denominational headquarters office,

or regional church superintendent and so on. So now your mind goes from your own family to your church, and from the church to the whole of the United States.

VII. Missions Outside North America – page 10

We have organized them by days of the week, not days of the month.

Beside each day of the week we have listed a **continent** therefore whatever you can think of that is happening on that continent, you pray for on that day. You may be reading things in the newspaper. You may be hearing things on the radio. Maybe you have a Christian information brochure on missions or a missionary acquaintance. Thus you pray for anything that is happening outside of the US.

To help you understand the limitless possibilities a bit better here is some additional information:

- **Mondays** with the continent Australia we include New Zealand, the Indonesian & Philippine Archipelago, the myriad of very tiny islands in the Pacific Ocean, Papua New Guinea.
- **Tuesdays** — Africa includes very many countries. The climate and lifestyle are totally different. Think of South Africa, Central Africa, the island of Madagascar, Northwest Africa, the Sahara region, the Northeast consisting of Egypt and Ethiopia. The continent of Africa is continually torn by strife and warfare.
- **Wednesday** — Focusing on South America includes Central America with its drug cultures and warlords.
- **Thursday** — North America includes Mexico, the USA, Canada, Native Indians, Eskimo groups, and many poor and isolated immigrant groups.
- **Friday** covers Asia. Asia is the biggest continent on earth. Middle Asia includes Israel and all their very ancient enemies consisting of the various Arab countries all the way to Pakistan. East Asia includes countries all the way from India to China and Japan.
- **Saturday.** Europe is a very small continent but the most densely populated. It is full of different **cultures** and ethnic groups like the Gypsies, Laps and many other sub-groups in each country. It includes isolated places like Iceland. Use a map.

Hopefully this gives you a picture of God's demonstration of love in creating such an endless variety of human beings with never dying souls that can only be saved through your prayers.

Nevertheless, all those varied people have many things in common: youth, old age, children, riches and poverty, love and hatred. They have national rulers and governments, regional and local rulers. There are various branches of government like the police force, education, army, and others. In each country there are also political, spiritual and economic happenings. They are also bound by tradition and enslaved

to sin. Their great need is to be set free by the blood -- our blood and that of the Lord Jesus Christ our precious Lord and Savior.

VIII. The Government – page 11

This is another page set up by the days of the week.

- **Monday** we pray for our local government, the leaders of your village or of your city. Who is the **mayor** of your town? I thought that the Bible says we should pray for our government leaders, and I am finding that many of you do not even know who the leaders are. How can you pray for them? The only thing you can pray is, “God bless this mess.” You do not know any names. You do not know if the man has a family. You know nothing about him. So, before you are going to be able to pray effectively you had better do a bit of homework.(what is his wife’s name, etc)
- On **Tuesday** pray for the State leaders or regional leaders. I hope that by next month that you know the names of those leaders and what they are doing. What is his **responsibility**? What is she doing? You should know their names and their jobs. Those are the two minimum things to know in order to pray intelligently. Add family information if possible.
- On **Wednesday** pray for the national leaders, that is, the president , the House, and parliament members, their friends and families. Pray for different government departments: education, religion, natural resources, economy, etc.
- On **Thursday** pray for another country that has a special need. Focus particularly on political happenings.
- On **Friday** you can pray for neighboring countries; Canada & Mexico. Use news media for fresh information. Alternate each Friday.

Let us go back to Tuesday for a good illustration. In every state there are judges. Many of the judges do not give good judgment because they are not believers and they belong to the system of this world, the system of satan. There are also the highway police; they are part of the federal system. Who prays for the highway police? Hardly anybody! Let us pray **locally** then. Locally you have policemen also. I thought the Bible says you should be praying for them? The Bible says the local policeman is the minister of God. Am I mistaken? Here it is, “Pray for your government leaders except when you live in Columbus?” Why do we have troubles? It is your fault! It is not the president’s fault. It is your fault because the Bible says you are supposed to pray for your government! All over the US in different states are army bases. Are you praying for these various army bases?

Conclusion

You see there are many new things to pray for. Brothers & Sisters, let us be honest with each other; we have been sleeping. Many of us have had a little tradition of prayer without much practical fervor. Many things have gone wrong in our country because we did not pray the way the Bible tells us to pray. Brothers, let us believe

the scriptures. The Bible says, *"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* (2 Chronicles 7:14). Let us do it. Let us honor God.

Let us heal The **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**. Amen and amen.

Blessings to you, our dear friends!