

# 40 DAYS OF *prayer*

DAY  
**36**

## WEEK 6

### PRAYER AS AN EXPRESSION OF HOPE

*For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever.*

When we look around this fallen world, we see and hear so many incidents that seem so unjust and evil. If we let those things sink deep into our minds, we can easily fall into frustration and even have our faith come down with doubts and questions about the future. As children of God, this is where we are called to deepen our roots in His Word and grow in our faith. As the Word says in John 15:5, abiding in the relationship of Jesus is the key for us to have hope in this world as Jesus has promised that He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." We need to believe that our Lord is in control of everything in our life. Hence, prayer becomes an expression of hope. So, how do we use our personal and corporate prayer time as an expression of hope? In what ways could prayer effectively build believers to become His witnesses in this fallen world?

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## WE TRUST IN YOUR GOODNESS

TITUS 2:13

I ensure my future by remembering the past.

We've all gone through difficult moments in life. Sometimes we walk through circumstances that are adverse to us. But when we focus too heavily on our problems, we often lose sight of the blessing that God is more powerful than any situation we are experiencing. We cannot deny that the problem is there, that it troubles us, that it robs us of our joy and our hope. In our worst moments, we feel that heaven is closed to us. How can we escape these paralyzing thoughts?

The psalmist reminds us whom we serve: the Creator of the heaven and earth, the omnipotent Maker of wonders. He is always good. His love is everlasting. We must proclaim these truths with boldness and gratitude. We must take Scripture at face value and remember that there is no one like Him! If He is omnipotent, is anything too difficult for Him?

Regardless of your circumstance, declare the greatness of our God! Remember that He will work for His name to continue to be glorified in all things. His Word reassures us that He is always in control of every situation—even those we are not aware of. And in each of them, *His purposes will be fulfilled!*

How long should I wait for Him to answer? Knowing that His plans are always for His own glory and my own good, we must not lose hope or be discouraged—or least of all, tire of praying. Continue proclaiming that He is a doer of wonders and that His works are perfect.



## REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

I believe that You are the almighty Creator and Sustainer of everything that exists. As I am Your child, You'll take care of my life and family. I know that You will care for the things that worry me because You seek to help Your children. I am experiencing situations that I cannot understand, but I look at the past, and the Scriptures remind me that You are good, that Your love is everlasting, that You are the omnipotent Doer of wonders, and *nothing is impossible for You!* Amen.

## **WE TRUST IN YOUR REDEMPTIVE PLAN** **GENESIS 1-3; ROMANS 3:23**

God is good and can be trusted. He made a beautiful garden for mankind to live in and rule and then blessed us to be fruitful and increase in number. Sin entered the world through Eve and Adam's choice to break the boundary God established when He told them they must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or they would die. We see this sinful nature even in two-year-olds who walk directly toward the very thing their parents told them not to touch. I, too, have moments when I willfully disobey what God asks of me. God wanted Adam and Eve to freely choose obedience out of love for Him, but their choice to do their own thing led to separation from Him (see Gen. 1-3 and Rom. 3:23).

But the story doesn't end here. God would not allow sinful separation to be the final word. He had a redemptive plan for us in the same way good parents have a redemptive plan for their two-year-olds. God's heart is revealed in 2 Peter 3:9, which reads, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." God's plan is freely offered and available to all people, and though He knows not all people will choose Him, He will never stop His loving pursuit. Will you trust His redemptive plan for your life today?



### **REFLECTION PRAYER**

Father,

Thank you for free will. I repent of my momentary lapses of defiant willfulness to go my own way and do my own thing. I surrender to Your Lordship. I acknowledge that I do not know better than You, and I will continue to come into Your presence and wait for Your direction before I act. I will trust Your ways, especially when I cannot see around the corner, because Your redemptive plan for my life is good. Thank You for always desiring deeper intimacy with me. I say "yes" to Your tender invitation to choose You. Amen.

## WE PARTICIPATE IN YOUR KINGDOM AS AN END-TIMES MOVEMENT MATTHEW 24:14; ROMANS 10:13-15

It happened again—someone added something new to Scripture. I’ve read it many, many times before, but clearly that phrase is new since last I read through the Word. The first part of the verse I’ve heard and even preached on: “Therefore [Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through him” (Heb. 7:25a). These are powerful words on their own, but someone snuck in an added phrase: “. . . because [Jesus] always lives to intercede for them” (Heb. 7:25b). I had never seen that before; at least it had never registered until the Spirit pointed it out this time.

Yes, Jesus modeled a powerful prayer life while on earth. Jesus taught us how to pray. But here and now, I find that He, sitting beside Abba in heaven, is always interceding for me. It stands to reason that He prays more wisely than I do, with more power than I have, with greater insight than I ever could have, and with knowledge of the future that I could only wish for. My grocery list of prayer pleas and Christmas lists of requests seem somehow less needed when I discover Jesus is already always praying for me and with me. Yes, I should still share my heart in prayer, but I find I can more easily abide in Him with hope and rest when I realize that He is already, always, powerfully, wisely praying for and with us.



### REFLECTION PRAYER

Jesus,

You have granted grace and salvation; I am eternally grateful. Further, You’ve gifted me with the companionship of the Spirit. I couldn’t imagine life otherwise. Beyond that, You continue to labor in love on my behalf by *always* interceding for and with me. Seeing the powerful impact of Your prayer life while You walked in this world makes me take a deep breath of hope as I abide in the reality that You are praying for my life and journey in the same all-powerful way. And here I exhale in rest, peace, and hope. Amen.

## **WE KNOW YOUR KINGDOM IS ETERNAL AND HAS NO END** **EXODUS 15:18; PSALM 145:13; DANIEL 4:3**

My friends and the youth I serve often tease me because one of my favorite places to go for quiet reflection is the cemetery. When I first started visiting the cemetery, I didn't know anyone who was buried there, but sadly I do now. Nevertheless, it's a place I go to talk to Jesus, to slow down, and to remember that the time I have here is limited. Though I find comfort in knowing that this life is temporary, I confess that the thought of eternity sometimes scares me. I can't wrap my head around "forever."

It's overwhelming to think that those who have passed before us are already experiencing "forever," either with Jesus or eternally separated from Him. While dwelling too long on "forever" can be frightening, I find comfort in knowing that in the "forever" that I will experience, the Lord—our good, good King—reigns. While whatever peace and goodness we experience here is often overthrown by heartache and evil, the goodness, faithfulness, and kindness of God rules over the whole universe forever. There will be no end to His wonderful and mighty dominion. In moments when life is hard, dark, and heartbreaking, let us remember that our God is on His throne, that His goodness reigns supreme, and that one day we will see it with our own eyes and enjoy it forever.



### **REFLECTION PRAYER**

Our Father,

You have put eternity in our hearts to remind us that we have been made for more than what our eyes can see, what our hands can touch, and what our minds can conceive. I praise You because You are the God whose wonders are mighty and whose Kingdom is everlasting. Jesus, by Your Resurrection, You have provided the foundation of our hope—that the day we are absent from the body, we will be present with You. Holy Spirit, please help us today to set our minds on things above and live faithfully for You. Amen.

# 40 DAYS OF *prayer*

## **BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS**

### **ELIAT APONTE**

Eliat Aponte was raised in a Christian home in Puerto Rico. He has been married to Debra for 32 years, and they have two daughters, Keila and Keizah, and a son-in-law, Kenny Tran. Eliat loves reading and construction and serves the Lord with gratitude in the Alliance Spanish Eastern District.

### **SYLVIA BENNETT**

Sylvia Bennett is a loving wife, daughter, sister, and friend. She is also a United States Army chaplain and a devoted child of the Most High God!

### **MEICA CAMPBELL**

A Pacific Northwest native, Meica Campbell has lived and served in Kentucky for her adult life. She currently serves the Ohio Valley District as the ordination/consecration and leadership development/Greenhouse coordinator. She is a consecrated minister with The Alliance and along with her husband, ministers to a small congregation in Georgetown, Kentucky.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

## **CHARLES CHAPMAN**

Charles Chapman serves as the candidate development specialist for Alliance Missions where he connects with and helps prepare prospective international worker candidates for long-term service opportunities. Charles, along with his wife, Liz, and children, Julia (12) and Marcus (9), live on the west side of Columbus, Ohio.

## **CAESAR (CHAVO) CHAVEZ**

Caesar (Chavo) Chavez was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. He served in the U.S. Army Infantry in Iraq. He holds a BA in philosophy from Kansas State University and an MA in intercultural studies from Asbury Theological Seminary. He currently serves as the associate pastor at Hope (C&MA) Church in Aurora, Colorado.

## **GRACE CHEON**

Grace Cheon grew up in New York as a second-generation Korean-American, graduated from Alliance Theological Seminary with an MDiv in missions, and now works as the church multiplication coordinator at the U.S. Alliance National Office. She is married to Jonathan.

## **KATERINA COOK**

Katerina Cook is an insurance agent who is deeply involved within her church. She directs Sunday school ministries and also leads the women's ministry and outreach programs within her church.

## **BEN DOUGLAS**

Ben Douglas is the lead pastor of Faith Community Church on the west side of Columbus, Ohio.

## **JUSTIN DUBOSE**

Justin Dubose is the lead pastor at Alliance Bible Church in Baytown, Texas. He is also a CH (MAJ) in the USAR serving as chaplain for the 7th Psychological Operations Group (POG). A husband to Alanna since 2005, they have five beautiful children. Justin has his PhD in organizational leadership and is passionate about equipping God's people to mobilize and train present and future Kingdom leaders.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

## PAUL GARCIA

Paul Garcia is a Navy chaplain serving Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia. He has been with The Alliance for 13 years. He and his wife, Heather, have been married 20 years; they have four boys, Isaac, Rylan, Jude, and Liam.

## DARIA HASTIE

Darea Hastie is the director of family ministries at Long Hill Chapel in Chatham, New Jersey, where she has served for the last 10 years. She has a heart for connecting people, our next generation, and her community. Darea loves to spend time with her husband and their two teenage children.

## JERRY HENDERSON

Ch., Capt. Jerry Henderson currently serves as an Active Duty United States Air Force chaplain serving at Holloman Air Base, New Mexico. Jerry and his wife, Joanna, have been serving in Christian ministry for more than 15 years and together have been blessed with six children.

## EDEN KRAHN

Eden Krahn is a second-generation Hmong American Christian and Michigan native. She owns a small business, creating apparel that advocates the joy of prayer and the importance of inner work and spiritual development. Eden currently resides in Georgia with her husband and three daughters.

## KRISTA LAIN

Chaplain 1st Lieutenant Krista Lain recently joined the U.S. Air Force Reserve and will serve 30+ days each year at Moron ARB in Spain. Previously, she served alongside her family overseas in Spain and Mongolia for 10 years with Envision/CAMA. Currently, she ministers at Arise Christian Fellowship in Lafayette, Indiana.



# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

## **GABE LAWSON**

Gabe Lawson is an Active Duty Air Force chaplain (Capt.) currently stationed at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. Prior to his active duty service, Gabe served as an Alliance pastor in Kentucky for eight years. He is joined in ministry with his wife, Mary, and their four children.

## **RUFUS MCDOWELL**

Rufus McDowell is a native of Griffin, Georgia. He served in the United States Army for twenty years and received his MDiv in pastoral ministries at Liberty University Baptist Theological Seminary (Lynchburg, Virginia) and his DMin at Luther Rice Seminary (Atlanta, Georgia).

## **LES MCMAHAN**

Les McMahan has been serving as cohort director for the LEAD program for the past six years after having graduated from the program. He was also co-director of Men's Ministries for the Central District and served as a bi-vocational pastor and youth pastor.

## **JEFF MILLER**

Jeff Miller and his wife, Pam, graduated from Alliance University in New York, New York, and have journeyed together in ministry for 37 years. He is currently the Ohio Valley District superintendent. Jeff and Pam reside in Lexington, Kentucky, and have two daughters.

## **BETTY MOREJON**

Betty Morejon serves as the youth director at Iglesia Alianza Cristiana y Misionera de Kissimmee in the Spanish Eastern District.

## **ANITA MORRISON**

Anita Morrison is a Bible teacher and speaker who attends Hope Alliance Bible Church in Maple Heights, Ohio, where her husband, Ronald, is the founding and senior pastor. Anita leads worship, teaches a women's Bible study, and is the tutoring site coordinator for the church's after school program. She holds an EdM degree.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

## CHINH NGUYEN

Chinh Nguyen is the senior pastor of Washington Metropolitan Church and the secretary of the Vietnamese District. He and his wife, Xuan-Lan, have three children, Caleb, Rebecca, and Priscilla.

## AARON PFAHLER

Aaron Pfahler has served as the Worship Arts pastor at First Alliance Church in Columbus, Ohio, since September 2020. He is passionate about leading people to authentically encounter Jesus and inspiring the Church to become more engaged in advancing the Kingdom.

## BRIAN SCOTT

Brian Scott has been married to Susan for 30 years. They live in Lexington, Kentucky, and have two daughters, Payton (24) and Jordan (22), and one son, Bryson (20). Brian works in the Ohio Valley District Office.

## JOEL SMITH

Joel Smith has been a church planter and lead pastor in The Alliance for 30 years. He now serves the National Office as the dean of EquippingU Max and the Metro District of The Alliance as coaching team lead in the Church Health Department. Joel is also the founder of [dalahcoaching.com](http://dalahcoaching.com).

## TODD SOVINE

Todd Sovine grew up in The Alliance as a pastor and professor's kid. He has served in the local church for 16 years and in the Central District Office as the director of church multiplication for 16 years.

## SPENCER SWEETING

Spencer Sweeting is the lead pastor of North Springs Alliance Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He's married to Beth and is a dad to Lucy, Josie, and Emma. Spencer is also a part-owner of the Green Bay Packers (the only publicly owned franchise in the NFL).

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

## KORA TAUBE

Kora Taube is an Alliance international worker serving in Montevideo, Uruguay. She is married to Mark and is a mom to three kids. Kora loves that her work includes teaching English, working with kids, building relationships, and helping people consider Jesus. She longs to see people walking the way of Jesus together.

## JUSTIN THORNTON

Justin Thornton is a desperate son of Jesus, a husband to Anne, and a father to three children, Selah, Anabelle, and JD. Justin planted churches for 12 years before becoming the director of multiplication for the Great Lakes District. He is also the author of *The Preacher*.

## CHRIS VENA

Christopher Vena is a professor of theology and dean of the School of Christian Ministries at Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa Falls, Georgia. He is also ordained with The Christian and Missionary Alliance. A life-long sports and outdoor enthusiast, he enjoys sharing these activities with his wife and four daughters.

## LISA VOGAN

As a consecrated disciple-making specialist for the Northeastern District of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, Lisa Vogan spends her time coaching, consulting, equipping, speaking, and facilitating leadership growth across the district and the United States. Lisa's greatest passion is encouraging, equipping, and empowering ministry leaders for Kingdom impact.

## WANDA WALBORN

Wanda Walborn is an associate professor of spiritual formation at Alliance Theological Seminary in New York, New York, and the director of Empower, a certificate program for women of the Metropolitan District. Wanda is passionate about training leaders to advance the Kingdom of God.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

## HANG WONG

Hang Wong grew up in New York City and was saved by Jesus in high school. He serves in the Candidate Recruitment & Development Office of the C&MA working with Alliance Theological Seminary students who desire to join the ministry of The Alliance. He is married to Kathy, and they have three young adult children.

## GLORIA YANG

Gloria Yang is a wife, mother, and small business owner whose life is a testament to God's faithfulness and healing power. She is passionate about motherhood, writing, worship, and capturing moments in time. In all that she does, Gloria's desire is to tell the story of God's goodness.

## DANIEL ZEWDU

Daniel Zewdu serves as a pastor in an Ethiopian congregation in Columbus, Ohio. He and his wife, Cherie, are blessed with two sons, Theo (19) and Eyosi (15), and one daughter, Nanette (9). Daniel and his family came to the United States to serve this church in 2008.