

Table of Contents

Team Members	1
Praying A.C.T.S.	2
Team Prayers	
Morning	4
Evening	5
Daily Devotionals*	
Beginning 30 days before Departure	6
Day of Departure	36
Prayers for Mission and Servanthood	96
Songs	101
Bible Verses for Daily Life	110
Promises from the Bible	112

**Daily Devotions taken from "Our Daily Bread",
©RBC Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI, Reprinted
by permission.*

Praying A.C.T.S.

- ◆ **A.** Adoration
- ◆ **C.** Confession
- ◆ **T.** Thanksgiving
- ◆ **S.** Supplication

Praying with A.C.T.S.

Use scripture to assist you if words don't come easily. This can be the springboard for your own conversation/contemplation. Scripture may trigger new ways to pray this format, i.e. new words to praise God.

Journaling using this format can bring clarity and can be used for review on "dry" days. It also helps structure journal entries if writing is difficult. It is the best way to keep track of answers to prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing forth "fruit" in your life.

When praying aloud for someone, this format keeps everyone on track and relieves the burden of finding the "right" words. It keeps the prayer focus on God and His interface in the person's life. In a group setting it allow for multiple expressions of praise, thanksgiving, and supplications, and is a comfortable format for most people.

Praying the Psalms through A.C.T.S.:

Adoration—

- Ps. 8 "O Lord our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth."
- Ps. 18 "I love you, O Lord, my strength."
- Ps. 19 "The heavens are telling the glory of God..."
- Ps. 29 "Ascribe to the Lord..."
- Ps. 45 "My heart overflows with a goodly theme..."
- Ps. 47 "Clap your hands all you peoples..."
- Ps. 48 "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised..."
- Ps. 84 "How lovely is your dwelling place..."

See also Psalms: 113, 117, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150

Confession—

- Ps. 51 "Have mercy on me O God according to your steadfast love..."
- Ps. 38 "O Lord do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath..."
- Ps. 139 "O Lord you have searched me and you know me..."

Thanksgiving—

- Ps. 40 "I waited patiently for the Lord, he inclined to me and heard my cry..."
- Ps. 65 "Praise is due to you O God..."
- Ps. 75 "We give thanks to you O God..."
- Ps. 92 "It is good to give thanks to the Lord..."
- Ps. 96 "O sing to the Lord a new song..."
- Ps. 103 "Bless the lord O my soul..."
- See also Psalms: 66, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 111, 118, 136.

Supplication—

- Ps. 16 "Protect me O God, for in you I take refuge..."
- Ps. 25 "To you O Lord I lift up my soul..."
- Ps. 42 "As a deer longs for water."
- Ps. 55 "Give ear to my prayer..."
- Ps. 56 "Be gracious to me O God..."
- Ps. 59 "Deliver me O God..."
- Ps. 61 "Hear my cry O God, listen to my prayer..."
- Ps. 86 "Incline your ear O Lord, and answer me for I am poor and needy..."
- Ps. 88 "O Lord, God of my salvation, when at night, I cry out in your presence, let my prayer come before you..."
- See also Psalms: 130, 142, 143.

Team Prayers

In the Morning

From Psalm 51

Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

A Reading

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

--1 Peter 1:3

A period of silence may follow.

Sharing from the morning devotion is encourage at this time.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect or other prayer printed in this guide

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

At the Close of Day

Psalm 134

Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, *
you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.
Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; *
the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of
Zion.

A Reading

Lord, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your
Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. --*Jeremiah 14:9,22*

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.

*Team sharing, followed by prayers for others and ourselves may
follow. It is appropriate that prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings
of the day, and penitence for our sins, be included.*

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect or some other prayer printed in this guide

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the
enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in
peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

30 Days Before Departure

The Never-Ending Task

Read: Matthew 9:35-10:15

Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers.

--Matthew 9:38

A missionary writes about her field of service: "We have been forced to close some of our stations because of lack of funds and lack of missionaries. This is the cry everywhere today. The largest denominations--faced with a growing deficit in their missionary effort--will have to call home a great number of workers from the different fields next year. With all the luxury that we have, must the cause of Christ thus suffer loss?"

Although this sounds like it could have been written yesterday, this plea for help was penned in 1926 by Johanna Veenstra, a missionary to the Sudan. The statement appeared in a book she wrote describing her pioneer mission work in Africa.

Nearly 70 years later, the task of proclaiming the gospel is still as formidable and the need for helpers still as imposing. In fact, it has not changed since Jesus declared, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Matt. 9:37-38). He Himself started the work 2,000 years ago by sending out 12 men with the message of good news.

Going into all the world with the gospel is a never-ending task. Whether we go to the Sudan, travel to some other far-off place, or stay home, it is our task too. --JDB

Far, far away, in heathen darkness dwelling,
Millions of souls forever may be lost;
Who, who will go, salvation's story telling,
Looking to Jesus, minding not the cost? --McGranahan

One thing we can't do about missions--we can't escape our responsibility.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

29 Days Before Departure

In His Name

Read: Matthew 25:31-46

Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me. -*Matthew 25:40*

According to a legend, Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) was riding his horse one day when he saw a leper by the roadside, begging for money. He dismounted, gave him a coin, and kissed him on the cheek. As Francis rode away, he looked back and thought for a moment that he saw Christ Himself standing where the beggar had stood.

This story illustrates a wonderful biblical truth: We serve the Lord when we serve a needy person. Jesus made this clear when He said that any kindness shown to the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, the sick, the destitute, and the imprisoned will be judged as having been done directly to Him (Mt. 25:40,45). He identifies so closely with the oppressed that serving them in His name is the same as serving Him.

We tend to limit our own service to Christ by thinking that ministers and missionaries are the best able to do it. But whenever we extend help in the name of Jesus through acts of caring, Jesus Himself is there even though we cannot see Him. And someday when we stand before Him, He will recall our deeds of love performed in His name and say, "Well done!"

Let's keep on serving Him by serving others. -DJD

God's service is more than mere preaching;
Whatever we do, here's the key:
Of that which is done for His glory,
Christ says, "You have done it for Me!" -HGB

We serve Christ when we serve people in need.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

28 Days Before Departure

Building to Code

Read: Matthew 7:21-29

No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. --1 Corinthians 3:11

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew destroyed thousands of homes in South Florida. Yet in an area where the wreckage looked like a war zone, one house remained standing, still firmly anchored to its foundation.

When a reporter asked the homeowner why his house had not been blown away, he replied, "I built this house myself. I also built it according to the Florida state building code. When the code called for 2" x 6" roof trusses, I used 2" x 6" roof trusses. I was told that a house built according to code could withstand a hurricane-- and it did."

Jesus talked about the importance of building our lives on a solid foundation. He said that the person who obeys His Word is like "a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matt. 7:24). If we build according to His code of obedience, we will not be swept away when crises hit with hurricane-like force. The tempests of temptation and the storms of suffering will not be able to sweep us off a solid foundation of faith and obedience. Adversity may come, yet because we have built according to the code of the unshakable Rock, Jesus Christ, we can emerge with our character strengthened.

Are we building our lives according to Jesus' code? --VCG

Living for the Lord, serving Him each day,
Best prepares the soul for the stormy way;
Then as trials come, tempting to despair,
We can rest secure, safe within His care. --DJD

The storms of our life prove the strength of our anchor.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

27 Days Before Departure

Dedicated Donkey Work

Read: Matthew 21:1-11

Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey. --*Matthew 21:5*

People often speak of donkeys in belittling terms. You may have heard the expression, "I'm just someone who has to do all the donkey work." Or "So-and-so is as stubborn as a mule" (a mule is half donkey).

These sayings overlook the contributions of a truly valuable animal. Donkeys have served the human race for thousands of years. They were once prized as symbols of humility, gentleness, and peace.

In Bible days, donkeys that had never been ridden were regarded as especially suitable for religious purposes. So it was most fitting that Jesus sent for a colt to perform the royal task of carrying Him into Jerusalem. How enviable was that donkey's mission! How like our mission as Jesus' followers!

A missionary in China calls herself "the Lord's donkey." She's a humble believer, "carrying" her Lord faithfully into town after town and training others to do likewise. The Lord has need of many such "donkeys" in today's world, humble people who will carry Him into their Jerusalem and make Him known.

Just as the donkey was untied for use by Jesus (Mk. 11:4-5), we too must be released from worldly attachments so we can serve Christ. Are we willing to do donkey work? --JEY

Teach me to do the humble task
The very best I can,
And not to look for greater calls
Which may oppose Thy plan. --Bernheisel

Humble work becomes holy work
when it's done for God.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

26 Days Before Departure

The Servant Of Servants

Read: Philippians 2:1-8

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.

--*Philippians 2:5*

As we think about what the Son of God gave up when He came to this earth, we should remember this: One who suffers little should not complain in the presence of one who suffers much.

For instance, would it be appropriate to complain bitterly about chapped hands while talking to a person who has no hands? What kind of man would whine about sore feet to a person who has no feet at all? Or what sensitive citizen would cry about having to pay taxes while standing at the graveside of one who has given his life for his country?

In an infinitely greater way we should think seriously about the birth of Christ, for it represents the beginning of an ultimate sacrifice that makes all our petty inconveniences fade into insignificance. The eternal God humbled Himself and became a man who lived and died for us (Phil. 2:5-8). When our Lord set aside heaven's glory, He became the Servant of servants. What right do we have, then, to complain when He commands us to serve one another? Giving and serving are at the very heart of why Jesus came to earth.

If we understand why Jesus came, we'll realize why we must become a servant of the Servant of servants! --MRDII

He whose right was heaven's glory
Chose to serve on earth below,
Leaving us a clear example
Of the love He'd have us show. --DJD

Give your all to Christ, who gave His all for you.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

25 Days Before Departure

Worthy Of Reward

Read: 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. --1 Corinthians 3:14

A co-worker told me about taking a walk near his home and noticing this imprint on a number of sidewalk slabs: "A. Anderson, 1903." That name and the date were indelibly inscribed in the concrete, indicating the year it had been poured and identifying the man who did the work.

If that contractor were still living, he could certainly be proud of his work. The concrete had not cracked in all those years. It had stood the test of time and had brought no shame to A. Anderson, the man whose reputation was attached to the workmanship.

As Christians, everything we do bears our name. Someday, depending on whether our works pass or fail the test, we will either receive praise and reward (1 Cor. 3:14) or experience regret and loss (v.15). How can we make certain that our service for Christ is the kind that endures? The way to be sure we are building for eternity is to build on the foundation of Christ (v.11) and to "do all things through Christ who strengthens [us]" (Phil. 4:13).

As you serve the Lord today, remember this important fact: The work that is worthy of reward is the work that endures. --RWD

Press on in your service for Jesus,
Spurred on by your love for the Lord;
He promised that if you are faithful,
One day you'll receive your reward. --Fasick

Salvation depends on what Christ did for us;
rewards depend on what we do for Him.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

24 Days Before Departure

Designed For Companionship

Read: Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

A threefold cord is not quickly broken. —*Ecclesiastes 4:12*

We do not function well as loners. I have seen an old high school friend become an unhappy recluse. I know of a man who became angry with his church board, stopped attending services, and rejected all who tried to reach out to him. He said he needed no one except God. Yet he was a miserable old man who cried and cried when he became terminally ill.

In Ecclesiastes 4:8 we read about a lonely person who devoted all his energy to the pursuit of wealth. He didn't have time for friends or family. He worked very hard, yet his wealth didn't satisfy the void in his life.

After depicting the lonely man, the author of Ecclesiastes illustrated the advantages of fellowship and partnership (vv.9-12). He did so by referring to the value and productivity of two laboring together (v.9), of one helping the other when one falls (v.10), of two keeping each other warm on cold nights (v.11), and of two protecting each other when attacked (v.12). The closing example, "A threefold cord is not quickly broken," was a proverbial way of saying "there is strength in numbers."

God has designed us with a need for one another. So be sure to have friends, and be a friend. That's the only way to fulfill God's design for companionship. —HVL

I went out to find a friend
But could not find one there;
I went out to be a friend,
And friends were everywhere! —Anon.

The time to make friends is before you need them.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

23 Days Before Departure

God Will Make A Way

Read: Acts 16:16-26

I know that You can do everything. --*Job 42:2*

Missionary Bill Moore serves in South Africa, but one day he visited neighboring Zambia to help his mission organization buy some property. The first problem he ran into was that the mission was not recognized by the government, which meant they could not buy any land. Registration could take months. Bill and his co-workers prayed, and God provided a contact who helped them secure the needed papers in 15 minutes.

Next, Bill's group needed permission from the land commissioner to buy the property. This was another months-long process--usually. However, they walked out of the office with approval in minutes. What could have taken a year—getting these two documents--took less than an hour! They discovered that God can make a way when it seems there is no way.

Paul and Silas found this out too. While they were praying in prison, God sent an earthquake to free them (Acts 16:26).

Does this mean that we can always expect God to arrange things exactly how we want them? No. But in His sovereignty, He makes a provision for things to get done the way He wants them done. Our job is to pray, to follow His leading, and to trust Him with the results. If He wants it done, God will make a way. --JDB

God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way,
He works in ways we cannot see,
He will make a way for me. --Moen

God is greater than our greatest problem.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

22 Days Before Departure

You Don't Need a Pulpit

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:4-25

There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. .

--1 Corinthians 12:5

Champion figure skater Paul Wylie is a cum laude Harvard graduate and a born-again Christian. His mother always wanted him to be a minister, but he has decided to study law. He believes he does not possess the gifts required for pastoral ministry. But he insists--and rightly so--that whether he's performing on the ice or reading in the library of Harvard Law School, he can serve his Savior Jesus Christ.

"I think that every Christian is called to be a minister in his place of work," he says. "So I try to be a minister wherever I am. When people come up to me and ask questions, I tell them the truth."

Whether we are figure skaters, law students, homemakers, mechanics, nurses, bankers, or have some other job, we can serve Jesus Christ. The New Testament doesn't assign the task of ministry only to those who are officially recognized as pastors. First Corinthians 12 indicates that every believer is spiritually equipped for some kind of service (v.7).

We don't have to stand behind a pulpit to function as ministers for our Savior. The task of ministering and the privilege of serving have been assigned to everyone who has been born again. --VCG

I want, in this short life of mine,
As much as can be pressed
Of service true for God and man--
Help me to be my best! --Simpson

No matter how small it may seem,
your work for Christ has great value.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

21 Days Before Departure

Bricklayers And Violinists

Read: Romans 12:1-8

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given us, let us use them. -- *Romans 12:6*

A concert violinist had a brother who was a bricklayer. One day a woman began talking to the bricklayer about how wonderful it was for him to be in the same family as the noted musician. But then, not wanting to insult the bricklayer, she added, "Of course, we don't all have the same talents, and even in the same family some just seem to have more ability than others."

The bricklayer replied, "You're telling me! That violinist brother of mine doesn't know a thing about laying bricks. And if he wasn't able to make some money playing that fiddle of his, he couldn't hire a guy with know-how like mine to build his house. If he had to build a house himself, he'd be ruined."

If you want to build a house, don't look up "violinist" in the yellow pages. And if you need someone to play the violin in an orchestra, don't hire a bricklayer. No two of us are exactly alike, and no one possesses every gift. In that way, houses get built and music gets played.

In the church, God has gifted us in different ways too. Our responsibility is to exercise the spiritual gifts that He has given us. When we do, we build each other up in the faith, and there is harmony in the body of Christ. --HWR

It matters not what others do,
It is my task to see
My life is patterned in the mold
The Lord has planned for me. --Beers

There are no unimportant members in the body of Christ.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

20 Days Before Departure

A Personal Gospel

Read: John 3:1-18

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

--Mark 16:15

In John 3:16 we read, "For God so loved the world." But what about His love for individuals? The rest of the verse reveals the central purpose behind God's sacrifice of His Son: "That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Therefore, without exception, every person may interpret John 3:16 like this: "For God so loved me!"

A. B. Simpson, a great missionary of the past, often hugged a globe to his chest and wept over the world's lostness. Yet his global vision was marked by compassion for individuals. You and I also must feel the responsibility to take the gospel to our world--by sharing the good news with one person at a time.

Unfortunately, we often think of the Great Commission in terms of "foreign missions" only. "World missions" is perhaps a better term, for that includes our nearest neighbors, who are part of the world to which God has called us. And we are already there!

Like A. B. Simpson, embrace your smaller world through earnest prayer as you consider lost individuals in your family, neighborhood, and workplace. Then, as you seek to live and give the good news, expect God to open doors of opportunity.

--JEY

Jesus died to bring salvation
For the rich and for the poor;
Those of every tribe and nation--
He includes the ones next door. --Anon.

The light that shines farthest, shines brightest at home.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

19 Days Before Departure

Wasted Time?

Read: Matthew 20:29-34

Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes.

--Matthew 20:34

You have a full day of activity lined up--washing, shopping, errands--when your neighbor calls and invites you over for coffee. You don't think she's a believer in Christ, and you've been praying for a chance to talk with her. You know she's been having a rough time. Do you go?

Or a friend asks if you will consider being a big brother to a teenager who desperately needs a father figure. It will take some precious hours out of your day. Do you do it? Is it worth your time?

Jesus often interrupted His schedule to minister to people He met along the way. In Matthew 20:29-34, we read that He stopped and healed two blind men who called for His help, ignoring the crowd that tried to keep the two quiet. On another occasion, Jesus rebuked His disciples for keeping little children away from Him (Lk. 18:15-17).

Author Henri Nouwen mirrored this sense of service. For the last 10 years of his life he ministered at a home for the seriously disabled, taking 2 hours every morning to bathe, shave, dress, and feed a profoundly retarded man.

Serving a man incapable of responding may seem inefficient to us. But when we look at the example Jesus set, we learn that love and service are never a waste of time! --DCE

Putting It Into Practice

When someone needs your help,
do you see it as an interruption or an opportunity?

Ask God to help you today
to love others with the gift of your time.

Serve God by serving others.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

18 Days Before Departure

China's Wall

Read: Psalm 33:8-22

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. --*Proverbs 14:34*

The words of Proverbs 14:34 could be chiseled on the tombstone of many civilizations: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." We think we can build a nation on the gross national product or defend it with armaments, but God says that countries are built on the character of their people.

The people of ancient China sought security from the barbaric hordes that swept down from the north, so they erected the Great Wall of China. The massive wall stretched for 1,500 miles. It was 12 to 40 feet wide and 20 to 50 feet high. The wall was too high for the enemy to scale, too thick to tear down, and too long to go around.

Yet during the first 100 years of the wall's existence, China was invaded three times. How was the security breached? The enemies simply bribed a gatekeeper and then marched easily through a gate. The fatal flaw in China's defense lay in spending its wealth to build a wall but paying much less to build the character of the gatekeepers.

A bigger defense system won't ultimately protect our nation. But we can contribute to her security by being "blameless and harmless, . . . without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation" (Phil. 2:15). --HWR

Protection of a nation's land
Does not come from its mighty hand;
Security is just a fraud
Unless the people trust in God. --Sper

A nation is only as strong as the character of its citizens.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

17 Days Before Departure

A Unique Offer

Read: Colossians 1:9-20

We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. --*Colossians 1:14*

Several years ago a group of Christian missionaries met in Delhi, India, with representatives of other religions to discuss their beliefs. In the course of their talks, a member of a major non-Christian religion said to a missionary, "Tell me one thing your religion can offer the Indians that mine can't." The missionary thought for a moment and replied, "Forgiveness! Forgiveness!"

Unlike the followers of all other world religions, those who put their hope in Christ have full assurance that their sins are forgiven.

British Bible teacher and lecturer David Pawson says, "I have talked to the most devout Muslims who pray five times a day, have journeyed to Mecca, have fasted during Ramadan, and are more devout than many Christians. But when I ask, 'Do you know if your sins are forgiven?' they've said, 'We don't. We just have to hope for the best.'"

In Colossians 1, Paul gave us the basis on which forgiveness rests--the redemption Christ secured through His death on the cross. But Christ is not merely the founder of a major religion. He is the "image of the invisible God" by whom all things were created (vv.15-16). The forgiveness He offers, therefore, is an offer from God Himself. --DJD

THINKING IT OVER

Have you accepted the gift of forgiveness? (Rom. 6:23).

What family member, neighbor, or co-worker needs to hear from you about God's offer of forgiveness?

The search for forgiveness ends
when you find Christ.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

16 Days Before Departure

"Isn't There Anything Else?"

Read: Romans 16:1-16

Through love serve one another. --Galatians 5:13

A prominent Christian leader was known for his willingness to help needy individuals with their social and financial problems. When asked why he took time out of his busy schedule to do this, he replied, "When I was a boy, I worked in our family grocery store. I was taught that I should never ask a customer, 'Is that all?' Instead, I was told to say, 'Isn't there anything else?'

I have carried this philosophy over into my Christian work." That man of God was filled with so much love for others that he wanted to see them develop in all areas of their lives.

In Romans 16, the apostle Paul commended many in the church who were like this man. He singled out Priscilla, Aquila, Mary, Persis, and several others who had labored for the Lord with willing hands and loving hearts. They were not content to give minimal service but were always busy ministering to the needs of fellow believers.

When we have experienced the matchless grace of God, our hearts should be filled with compassion for our brothers and sisters in Christ. By extending to them a helping hand and assisting them in whatever way possible, we're actually saying, "God has given me so much. Isn't there anything else I can do for you?" --HGB

Beautiful lives have they who bear
The burdens of those heavy laden with care;
Earnest are they who daily show
Compassionate service wherever they go. --Anon.

You may serve God without loving Him,
but you cannot love God without serving Him.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

15 Days Before Departure

Just A Job?

Read: Ephesians 6:5-9

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might.

--Ecclesiastes 9:10

Three men were hard at work on a large building project. Someone asked them, "What are you doing?" "I'm mixing mortar," one said. The second man said, "I'm helping put up this great stone wall." But the third man replied, "I'm building a cathedral to the glory of God."

Those three men could just as well have been working on a car, in a factory, behind a counter, or on any legitimate product or service a man or woman might provide.

Most people work to earn a living, attain success, or amass wealth. Such reasons, however, must not be the Christian's primary motive for working. Like the third man in our story, we need to see that what gives work eternal value is not the product or service of our labor but the process of laboring itself--doing the job faithfully to the glory of the Lord.

God commands us to work because it is good. But work also gives believers the opportunity to represent Jesus Christ to unbelievers. By performing our God-given tasks to the best of our abilities, we bring honor and glory to His name. And we demonstrate to fellow employees the difference Christ can make in a life. Is our work just a job? Or are we doing it to the glory of God? --DJD

Man's work can make of him a slave
And lead him to an early grave,
But if it's done as to the Lord
His labors bring him great reward. --DJD

We are given time to build for eternity.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

14 Days Before Departure

Get Practical

Read: 1 John 3:16-24

Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
—1 John 3:18

Bible In One Year: Exodus 39-40; Matthew 23:23-39

The missionary noticed that the woman who was helping the family with household chores and with the local language was upset. So she asked some questions and learned that the helper was pregnant, and that she and her husband had decided to abort the baby because they felt they couldn't afford a second child.

The missionary immediately contacted her friends in the United States for financial assistance. She then sat down with her helper and told her that for the next 2 years at least, there would be enough money to take care of the child.

The husband and wife were not Christians, and they didn't have convictions against abortion. But when they heard the news, they were ecstatic. The economic aid gave them confidence that they could care for their child, so they chose not to abort. The missionaries felt they had done something to show Christ's love to this family (1 Jn. 3:18).

Isn't that the way it's supposed to be? We are surrounded by needy people. They're not likely to hear us if we only preach to them, but they may listen if we do something to help them. That, in turn, may open their hearts to hear the really good news about salvation through faith in Jesus.

To reach people for Christ, get practical. —JDB

So let our lips and lives express
The holy gospel we profess;
So let our works and virtues shine,
To prove the doctrine all divine. —Watts
People don't care how much you know
unless they know how much you care.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

13 Days Before Departure

He Accepts It

Read: Romans 12:9-18

. . . not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. -
-Romans 12:11

When we have done our best to serve the Lord, a thoughtless or critical remark can take away our joy. When that happens, we must focus instead on what God thinks about us.

Jan, a church music director, had led her combined choirs and orchestra in a stirring but difficult cantata. Rehearsals had not gone well, especially for the string section. Following the performance, one of the violinists snapped at Jan angrily, "We should have practiced more for this program so we could have done it right!"

Jan was devastated. This was, after all, a volunteer effort for a church audience. No admission was charged. Many of the musicians were not trained, but they were willing to give their talent to the Lord. They had done well, and people were uplifted.

As Jan drove home, she prayed with tears streaming down her face. Then the Lord spoke to her heart, reminding her that He accepted her efforts. This gave her peace.

Don't let unjust criticism about your ministry get you down. Keep serving Christ fervently (Rom. 12:11). The Lord is pleased by service done from a willing heart and a desire to honor Him. What's most important is that He accepts it. --DCE

If we keep doing what is right
And serving Christ each day,
We need not fear what others think
Nor what the critics say. --DJD

What God knows about us is more important
than what people think about us.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

12 Days Before Departure

It All Makes Sense

Read: Ephesians 2:19-3:12

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways. --*Isaiah 55:9*

On the campus of Ohio State University stands an intriguing building known as the Wexler Arts Center. Ravi Zacharias, a Christian lecturer, described it as a notable example "of asymmetrical random design, with staircases that go nowhere, and pillars that do not join two levels but stop in midair."

Why would anyone build something that embodies such absurdities? Zacharias explained that the building is symbolic of reality as godless people see it--irrational and disjointed.

Without faith in God and the knowledge of His design as revealed in Scripture, life can indeed seem meaningless. It is, as Shakespeare expressed it in *MacBeth*, "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

But when we view history and our own experiences from a biblical perspective, life begins to make sense. A divine blueprint becomes evident as the Grand Architect unfolds His purpose, both in the world of nature and in the construction of His church (Eph. 1:3-3:19).

As we follow Christ and read God's Word, we get a glimpse of His redemptive design of wisdom, love, and power. We may not understand everything, but we can be sure it all makes perfect sense in His eternal plan. --VCG

We comprehend Him not,
Yet earth and heaven tell
God sits as sovereign on the throne
And ruleth all things well. --Gerhardt

God can use earth's worst
to achieve heaven's best.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

11 Days Before Departure

It's Up To God

Read: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

--1 Corinthians 3:6

Tom Vreman of the Dorcas Society Mission was speaking to our church about the patience required to work on a mission field. He told about a friend and his family who had traveled to the Inner Mongolia region of China to proclaim the gospel.

For the first few years, all they did was get settled and learn the customs of the people. After almost 4 years, his friend reported with great excitement that he was discipling his first three converts. That's slow progress.

But after another 4 years, the missionary gave this amazing report: The entire village had turned in faith to Christ. The new Christians began praying for the people in a neighboring town. They sent witnesses, and soon that whole village received Christ. Now the entire region is hearing the gospel--all because one man and his family were willing to plant the seed and trust God for the results.

The apostle Paul gave his life to do God's work. But he knew who was responsible for the success of that work. "Neither he who plants is anything," he wrote, "nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase" (1 Cor. 3:7).

Evangelism calls for patience. We may plant the seed, as Paul did, or we may water, as did Apollos (v.6). The key is to do our part and leave the results to God. --DCE

You've fished for men's souls for years,
Yet little success you can claim;
Keep casting the net where God leads you--
Your faithfulness honors His Name. --DCE

Faithfulness is God's requirement; fruitfulness is His reward.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

10 Days Before Departure

What's My Ministry?

Read: Colossians 3:22-25

Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.
-Colossians 3:23

How is my life helping to spread the gospel? Does that question ever haunt you? Does it seem that day after day you slave away at a humdrum job, performing repetitious tasks?

If so, you may also feel you're in a chronic state of spiritual frustration. What you do might seem far removed from the grand design and purpose of God's kingdom.

But if God's purposes are to be fulfilled, we must not neglect the ordinary tasks in pursuit of the glorious ones. Meals must be cooked, trash must be collected, assembly lines must be manned, and children attended to.

We can profit by listening to Puritan preacher John Dod, who wrote, "Whatsoever our callings be, we serve the Lord Christ in them They are the most worthy servants, whatsoever their employment be, that . . . serve the Lord, where He hath placed them."

Does your work seem like a waste of time? Imagine what life would be like if nobody bothered to do the job you do. Consider your office to be a sanctuary, your home a place of ministry. Then, perform your duty as if you are doing it for Jesus Himself. After all, He's the One you're really serving (Col. 3:23). -VCG

Are you busy in the corner?
God entrusted to your care?
One small portion of God's vineyard
Is appointed as your share. -Harrington

No service for Christ is insignificant.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

9 Days Before Departure

A Home For God

Read: John 1:1-14

God was manifested in the flesh. -1 Timothy 3:16

When King Solomon wanted to construct a temple for the Lord, he was overwhelmed by the knowledge that he could never make one that would be fully adequate. In awe he exclaimed, "Who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him?" (2 Chr. 2:6).

The answer to the king's question is found in God Himself. Centuries after Solomon built a temple for the Lord, God prepared an earthly home for Himself through the miracle of Jesus' birth (Heb. 10:5).

I thought of this miracle when my family and I visited a museum. On display was an unforgettable exhibit tracing the development of a human being through its various stages. The final part of the display, showing several full-term babies, captured the interest of most of the spectators.

It was the earliest stage, however, that left the most profound impression on me. I marveled that the God of heaven would condescend to dwell among us and begin His earthly existence as a tiny cell in the womb of a virgin. My heart overflowed with praise as I realized how much He loves us, and how He humbled Himself to save us.

Praise God that He came to us in Jesus, His Son! -HGB

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth
And in greatest humility. –Elliott

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

8 Days Before Departure

You Never Know . . .

Read: Acts 3:11-4:4

Many of those who heard the Word believed. --Acts 4:4

The Lord uses the most unexpected situations and unlikely ways to bring people to Himself. Our responsibility as Christians is simple and clear: Share the gospel where a lost world can hear it.

Francisco Ramos, a missionary to Spain, is an example of one who was brought to Christ through unusual circumstances. A native of Portugal, he traveled to England to look for work. Because a dangerous aneurysm had been discovered in his father's brain, Francisco had begun asking hard questions about life.

Ramos took a shortcut through Hyde Park one day, his heart aching and his mind filled with questions. A young man was preaching about Jesus, and Ramos stopped to listen. In straightforward, unmistakable terms, he heard the plan of salvation. Later that day he encountered another believer selling Christian books. He bought a copy of Billy Graham's *Peace With God*, not knowing what it was. He read the book that night and trusted in Christ as his Savior. Now he and his wife Stephanie are serving the Lord as missionaries.

Let's find ways to tell others about Jesus and His love and power to save all who call on Him. We never know what God is doing in someone's heart. --DCE

Just as the gardener cultivates
Before he plants the seed,
So God prepares a person's heart
To sense his desperate need. --Sper

The next person you meet may need to meet Christ.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

7 Days Before Departure

Candidates For Humility

Read: Mark 9:30-37

He who is least among you all will be great. --Luke 9:48

"What do you think of the candidates?" That's what a reporter for a news magazine asked a young woman at Dartmouth University after a debate among presidential hopefuls. She didn't say a word about their positions on the issues or their skill at debate. She simply remarked, "None of them seems to have any humility."

Benjamin Franklin, the early American statesman, made a list of character qualities that he wanted to develop in his own life. When he mastered one virtue, he went on to the next. He did pretty well, he said, until he got to humility. Every time he thought he was making significant progress, he would be so pleased with himself that he became proud.

Humility is an elusive virtue. Even Jesus' disciples struggled with it. When Jesus learned that they had been arguing about who was the greatest, He responded, "If anyone desires to be first, he should be last of all and servant of all" (Mk. 9:35). Then He took a little child in His arms and indicated that we need to humbly serve others as if we were serving Christ.

If a news reporter were to talk to our friends, neighbors, or fellow church members and ask them to describe us, would they use the word humble? --DCE

True greatness does not lie with those
Who strive for worldly fame;
It lies instead with those who choose
To serve in Jesus' name. --DJD

Humility can be sought but never celebrated.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

6 Days Before Departure

No Job Too Small

Read: Zechariah 4:1-10

Who has despised the day of small things. --*Zechariah 4:10*

In his book *No Little People*, theologian Francis Schaeffer wrote: "In God's sight there are no little people and no little places. . . . Those who think of themselves as little people in little places, if committed to Christ and living under His lordship in the whole of life, may, by God's grace, change the flow of our generation."

The attitude that our work is insignificant is common to homemakers, laborers, students, and countless others who serve quietly. When our efforts go unnoticed, we may feel like little people, filling little places, performing little deeds.

In Zechariah 4:9 we read that Zerubbabel had built the temple's foundation. Building foundations requires hard work and forward-looking faith. Yet some considered Zerubbabel's work insignificant, so God challenged them: "Who has despised the day of small things?" (Zech. 4:10). God wanted them to go on laying brick upon brick, following Zerubbabel's example. They were to fulfill the task through the enablement of God's Spirit, not in their own power (v.6).

Are you doing "small things"? Be encouraged! God's eyes scan "the whole earth" (v.10). He notices the little things done for Him, and He will use them mightily. --JEY

Does the place you're called to labor
Seem so small and little known?
It is great if God is in it,
And He'll not forget His own. --Suffield

The dewdrop does God's work as much as the thunderstorm.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

5 Days Before Departure

You Can Do Something

Read: John 15:1-8

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit.

--John 15:8

John Warr, an 18th-century apprentice shoemaker, was determined to be a faithful witness for Christ. Another apprentice was hired, and John repeatedly talked to him about spiritual things. That new worker, however, didn't want to be bothered. Then one day he was caught exchanging a counterfeit shilling for a good one. In his guilty humiliation he asked John for help and prayer. Through the faithful witness of John Warr, that man put his faith in Christ and developed into a committed disciple.

The young apprentice was William Carey, who later became a remarkably fruitful missionary to India. Carey's life and ministry had a tremendous influence on the cause of worldwide gospel outreach in modern times.

Jesus said in John 15:8, "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit." This could be discouraging to Christians who can't preach, sing, teach, or go to the mission field. They might see themselves as stuck in a situation that makes fruitful service impossible.

If that's how you feel, then take courage from the example of John Warr. His impact on a co-worker brought glory to God and untold blessing to multitudes of people around the world.
--VCG

You do not have to cross the seas,
Nor foreign lands explore,
To share God's Word with needy souls--
You'll find them at your door. --Anon.

Witness for Christ with your life
as well as your lips.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

4 Days Before Departure

It Disappears Like Stardust

Read: Matthew 23:1-12

He who humbles himself will be exalted. --*Matthew 23:12*

It's one thing to pray for humility. It's quite another to live it. Our desire to be humble may lead us to do acts of servanthood--helping in the nursery, babysitting when it's inconvenient, running errands. But this can quickly turn into pride. Author and speaker Joni Eareckson Tada said it well: "We grab for humility and--poof--it disappears like stardust through our fingers."

So how can we know when we are truly humble? We can't! But when serving others becomes second nature to us, we are pursuing the ideal that Jesus set forth in Matthew 23. After pointing out that the scribes and Pharisees were always seeking power and position, He said, "He who humbles himself will be exalted" (v.12).

Senator Mark Hatfield exemplified the spirit of service Jesus advocated. He attended a weekly Bible study at his church in Washington, DC, along with other politicians and professionals. As soon as the meetings ended, most rushed off to their jobs. But Senator Hatfield usually stayed to stack chairs--and he was the highest ranking official there!

When serving others comes from the inside out, as a true deed of compassion, we are growing in humility. But we won't know it. We'll be doing it naturally. That's what true humility is all about. --DCE

If we would know the joy of Christ,
A wellspring in the soul,
Then we must give up sinful pride
And take a servant's role. --DJD

When we think we're humble--we're not.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

3 Days Before Departure

Remembering Heroes

Read: Hebrews 6:10-15

Imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. --*Hebrews 6:12*

Who are your heroes of the faith? Who are the ones you remember with a smile and a desire to follow their example? It's good to recall the people who lift our vision and challenge us to seek God's highest in life.

One of my heroes is Joe Bayly. Although I never met him, his writings have greatly influenced me through their consistent ring of reality. Joe didn't try to be controversial, but he wasn't afraid to speak the truth plainly. When he wrote about death, he spoke from the heartbreak of losing three sons, and from the hope gained by clinging to Christ through it all. I had the impression that he never wrote an inch beyond his experience. Joe was real.

When I find myself faking it and talking better than I live, Joe comes to mind. Unlike the scribes whose hypocrisy or "play-acting" undermined their words and their influence, Joe challenges me to pursue reality, honesty, and power--hallmarks of the Son of God.

The writer of Hebrews said, "Do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Heb. 6:12).

Godly heroes spur us to action. "Be encouraged and challenged!" they tell us. "Get with it today!" --DCM

Heaven's heroes never carve their name
On marbled columns built for earthly fame;
They build instead a legacy that springs
Out of a life lived for the King of kings. --Gustafson

Imitate those who imitate Christ.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

2 Days Before Departure

Safe In His Arms

Read: Psalm 95

He will gather the lambs with His arm. --*Isaiah 40:11*

Aleta Danforth has been a missionary in the Congo (formerly Zaire) since 1979. She was heartbroken when they had to leave the country in 1997. A tribal war that began in Rwanda was sweeping toward them across the country. Soldiers were finally seen in their area, so Aleta, her family, and their fellow missionaries had to say goodbye to their good friends.

They had been forced to evacuate a few years earlier, and now they were leaving once more. Aleta felt that she was on a roller coaster, and the ups and downs were overwhelming her.

While giving a report to her church after arriving in the US, she was tearfully describing the wild up-and-down emotions she had been experiencing. Then she remembered that on most roller coasters, no matter how high or how fast you go, you are kept snugly in place by a safety bar and a harness. "I'm even more secure," Aleta thought, "because God has wrapped His arms around me. He is holding me as a shepherd holds a lamb. I am secure in His love."

Have your emotions been on a wild roller-coaster ride? Let Aleta's experience show you that you are secure in God's loving, everlasting arms (Ps. 95:7; Isa. 40:11). --DCE

O the sweet unfailing refuge
Of the everlasting arms;
In their loving clasp enfolded
Nothing worries or alarms. --Hennessay

No matter how low you feel,
underneath are the everlasting arms.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

1 Day Before Departure

Tale Of A Towel

Read: John 13:1-17

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. --*John 13:14*

As a memento of a retreat I attended, I was given a small towel with a hand-stitched design symbolizing Jesus washing His disciples' feet. That towel served mostly as a decoration for a few years until one of my daughters accidentally used it to clean the car. The commemorative towel has been scrubbed with stain remover and sent through the washer, but it's indelibly marked by grease and grime.

At first I was miffed at having my memento used to wash hubcaps and bumpers. But then I began to see that towel as a picture of myself, and it caused me to ask some questions. When it comes to serving others, do I reserve myself for special occasions instead of doing an ordinary job today? When Jesus washed and wiped His disciples' feet, didn't His towel get dirty? What's a towel for--decoration or demonstration?

Jesus said, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (Jn. 13:14).

My little towel now serves as a reminder that self-preservation will keep me untouched but completely useless in my service for Christ. Real servants get dirty every day. --DCM

When Jesus washed His followers' feet,
He stooped to meet their need;
He showed us how to humbly serve,
To love in word and deed. --Sper

Decorations stay clean; disciples get dirty.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Day of Departure

Something Has Changed

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:12-21

Put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. --*Ephesians 4:24*

When some missionaries took the gospel to Vanino, a town in the far eastern part of Russia, they didn't know what effect their work would have.

A few years later, Gary Anderson, president of Baptist Mid-Missions, visited Vanino. He was met by the vice-mayor, who told him, "We have noticed that when people are associated with your church for a while, it makes a difference. It's as though they are reborn."

Anderson was then asked by the vice-mayor if his church would work with troubled families and directionless young adults in Vanino.

Without knowing it, that city official had correctly described what had happened. People in Vanino had been "reborn"—born again by faith in Jesus, who died for their sins and rose from the grave. Each of them was "a new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17).

The question we need to be asking ourselves is whether people notice that we have been reborn. Can anyone tell that there is a positive difference about our lives?

One of the greatest witnesses we can have as Christians is to leave a positive impression on others. The people of Vanino know that something has changed the churchgoers. Is it obvious to others that Someone has changed you? --JDB

When we're reborn--made new in Christ--
It should be plain for all to see
That God has changed us from within
And placed us in His family. --Sper

A changed life is the result of a changed heart.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Second Day

What's Your Word?

Read: John 13:1-17

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.

--Mark 10:45

I once heard a preacher say, "The opposite of love is not hate--it's self!" That surprising statement reminded me of 2 Timothy 3:1-4, where Paul listed the signs of the end times. One of those signs is people who are "lovers of themselves" (v.2). In sharp contrast to these self-saturated people are those whose lives are saturated with the servant attitude of Christ.

When Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, He gave us an example to follow (Jn. 13:15-17). We too are to serve others selflessly.

That was the heart of what General William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, said just before He died. His little mission to the poor of London had spread across the world. His "soldiers" were gathered together at an international convention. General Booth had intended to be there to deliver the main address, but because he became ill he was unable to come. Those at the convention longed to receive a message from their beloved leader. So from his sickbed Booth dictated a one-word telegram that would be his last sermon. His final message was this: "Others!"

If we had to give our last word today, what would it be--a self-word or a servant-word? The time to decide is now, while we can still change. --JEY

When Jesus washed His followers' feet,
He stooped to meet their need;
He showed us how to humbly serve,
To love in word and deed. --Sper

Joy comes by putting Jesus first,
Others second, and Yourself last.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
12. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Third Day

Withstanding The Storm

Read: Philippians 1:27-2:4

Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel. --*Philippians 1:27*

When we stand together as Christians, we can endure the fierce onslaughts of adversity and the subtle attacks of our spiritual foe. But when we isolate ourselves, or if we're abandoned by those who should be there to uphold us, we are more likely to fall.

This is illustrated by the towering fir trees of Washington state. A few years ago a violent windstorm swept through the area and many trees that were standing by themselves were blown over. But those that grew tightly together in the forest did not fall because they were strengthened by their intertwining roots. They were able to withstand the strong winds. What they couldn't do by themselves, they were able to do together.

As followers of Jesus, we need each other. The apostle Paul told the believers in Philippi to "stand fast in one spirit" and to help one another as they faced adversity (Phil. 1:27; 2:3-4). We too are to join arms and hearts, offering encouragement and hope in our struggles.

We may not know when a fellow Christian is being tossed around by the strong winds of adversity. But we do know this: When we stand together, we're better able to withstand the storm. --DCE

We join our hearts and hands together,
Faithful to the Lord's command;
We hold each other to God's standards--
All that truth and love demand. --DJD

We're stronger when we stand together.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Fourth Day

Patience

Read: Psalm 37:1-9

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him. --*Psalm 37:7*

It may take only a year for a construction crew to put up a tall building, but God takes a century to grow a sturdy oak. So too, the Lord may seem to be working slowly to accomplish His purposes in our lives, but His grand designs take time.

The great New England preacher Phillips Brooks was noted for his poise and quiet manner. At times, however, even he suffered moments of frustration and irritability. One day a friend saw him pacing the floor like a caged lion. "What's the trouble, Dr. Brooks?" asked the friend. "The trouble is that I am in a hurry," said Brooks, "but God isn't." Haven't we often felt the same?

Jonathan Goforth (1859-1936), a missionary to China, was convinced that the city of Changte should be his field of spiritual labor. But his faith was severely tested as he was mobbed and threatened when visiting the city. Finally, after 6 frustrating years, permission to begin his work was granted. Within 3 days of reaching Changte he had received no less than 35 offers of land, among them the very site he had chosen earlier as the most ideal spot for the mission.

Wait patiently for the Lord (Ps. 37:7). If you do, you'll find that He will give you what's best--in His time! --HGB

Wait, and in waiting, listen for God's leading,
Be strong, the strength for every day is stored;
Go forth in faith, and let your heart take courage,
There is no disappointment with the Lord. --Anon.

God is never in a hurry,
but He is always on time.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Fifth Day

The Joy of Harvest

Read: Psalm 126

In due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

--Galatians 6:9

It is one of those rare, beautiful autumn days as I am writing this article. I am sitting on a cement block in my shirt sleeves, admiring the labor of my hands. I have just picked 10 bushels of Red Delicious apples from my two small trees.

I think ahead to the winter evening when I will sit before the fireplace with a tray of these delicious fruits at my elbow. But then my mind recalls all the past hard work it took to produce these apples.

I recall how I hung on my ladder with pruning tools and trimmed those trees in freezing weather. I remember spraying those trees to ward off insects and disease. I murmured to myself, "Is it really worth all this work?" Today I have the answer in 10 bushels of almost perfect fruit. Yes, it was worth it all.

For the Christian, today is the sowing, growing, and pruning time. We find ourselves wondering about the difficulties we must face as we serve the Lord. But the prospect of the future urges us on. It is the promise of harvest that brightens the way and makes the burdens lighter.

Are you bowed down and discouraged? Then look ahead. Keep your eye on the future and the joy of the harvest (Gal. 6:9). --M. R. De Haan, M.D.

The joy to come with harvest grain
That follows days of toil and strain
Renews our will to persevere
In serving Christ when days grow drear. --DJD

A fruitful harvest requires faithful service.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Sixth Day

Sacrifices That Please God

Read: 1 Peter 2:1-10

You . . . are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God. —1 Peter 2:5

A man touring a rural area of the Far East saw a boy pulling a crude plow while an old man held the handles and guided it through the rice paddy. The visitor commented, "I suppose they are poor."

"Yes," said his guide. "When their church was built, they wanted to give something to help but they had no money. So they sold their only ox. This spring they are pulling the plow themselves." The tourist was deeply challenged by their sacrificial gift.

Under Old Testament law, God required animal sacrifices, which pointed to Christ dying for our sins. His death brought them to an end, but the Lord still desires to receive spiritual sacrifices from His people.

God puts no merit in any attempts to earn His favor or call attention to oneself. But He delights in deeds that spring from faith that works through love (Gal. 5:6). They are spiritual sacrifices that come from giving ourselves completely to Him (Rom. 12:1-2). He is pleased when we continually give thanks in Jesus' name, do good, and share with others (Heb. 13:15-16).

Some spiritual sacrifices will be costly. But what is gained—His praise—is always greater than what is given up. -DJD

The gifts that we may give,
The deeds that we may do
Most truly honor Christ
When self is given too. -DJD

When Christ's love fills your heart,
the more you give, the more you gain.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Seventh Day

Why We're Here

Read: Matthew 5:13-16

You are the light of the world. --*Matthew 5:14*

Mark and Alice Westlind are missionaries in Colombia. Here is an excerpt from their prayer letter:

"Driving through Christmas traffic, fighting the drizzling rain, I chanced on a 4-year-old little girl. She was wet and cold and shaking. Her clothes were ragged, her hair was matted, and her nose was running. She walked between the cars at the stoplight, washing headlights because she was too short to wash windshields. A few gave her coins, others honked at her to get away from their vehicles."

I admired the honesty of their next sentence because I have felt the same way. "As I drove away only some 50 cents poorer, I raged at God for the injustice in the world that allowed the situation. 'God, how could You just stand by, helpless?'" The missionary concluded, "Later that evening, God came to me softly with that still small voice and responded not in like kind to my rage, but with tenderness, 'I have done something. I created you.'"

Jesus came as light to our sin-darkened, cruel, unfair world. As we respond with compassion and goodness to suffering people, we proclaim His life-changing power. We can't solve all the world's problems, but we can bear witness to the Light and bring glory to the Father (Mt. 5:16). --DCE

God uses us to show His love
To people who are suffering;
Our deeds of kindness light the path
To God that they are traveling. --Sper

Opportunities to be kind
are never hard to find.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Eighth Day

Serve Joyfully

Read: Psalm 100

Serve the Lord with gladness. --*Psalm 100:2*

When I walked into the gift shop, I was greeted with a cheery "Good afternoon!" The young salesperson chattered brightly as she pointed out the shop's unique products, shared my observations about the weather, helped me choose a gift, and neatly wrapped my purchase.

"You must really enjoy what you're doing," I said. "Actually, I hate it," she replied. "I'm only doing this because I have to. I can't wait till 6 o'clock comes so I can join my friends on the beach!"

As I walked away, I reflected on this young woman's behavior. She had given me the impression that she enjoyed her work. In reality, however, she was merely putting in time.

I began to ask myself if I live like that. Do I greet people with a bright smile and pretend that I am serving God enthusiastically, even though there is no joy in my heart? Some of us are masters at wearing a mask of joy when we are actually serving the Lord grudgingly out of a sense of duty.

The Bible tells us to do everything "heartily, as to the Lord" (Col. 3:23), and to serve Him "with gladness" (Ps. 100:2). If there is no joy in our lives, let's ask Him to search our hearts, to forgive our sin, and to restore our joy (51:12). --DCE

The need of my heart is revival,
More trusting in God's precious Word,
More grace as I show forth His praises,
And serve my adorable Lord. --Richie

Duty can be drudgery,
but duty with love for God is delight.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Ninth Day

Unlikely Heroes

Read: Hebrews 11:17-31

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. -*Hebrews 11:1*

The Lord makes heroes out of very unlikely people. One such person is Angie Garber. She was born with a severe facial deformity. The surgery to correct her appearance left her deaf in one ear.

In her teens, Angie contracted polio. She survived, but after months of agonizing therapy and exercise her left leg and arm remained weak. During this difficult time her mother became ill. Angie and one of her sisters cared for their mom till she died.

Her brother George, who had done more to encourage Angie than any other person, died in an accident. And then crop failure made it necessary to sell the family farm.

But through it all, Angie kept praying that she could someday serve the Lord as a missionary-teacher. God honored her desire, and about 5 years after her mother's death Angie began her life's work as a teacher for the Navajo Mission. She became such an effective Christian worker that two books have been written about her. Today her happy face reflects her inner joy. Angie faced incredible obstacles in her walk of faith. Yet, like the heroes of faith listed in Hebrews 11, she continued to trust God.

If you're discouraged and feel like giving up, remember, God makes spiritual heroes out of unlikely people. -HVL

All God's testings have a purpose-
Someday you will see the light;
All He asks is that you trust Him,
Walk by faith and not by sight. -Zoller

Suffering can prepare ordinary Christians
for extraordinary service.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Tenth Day

A Christian Lifestyle

Read: Colossians 3:12-25

Even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. . . . You serve the Lord Christ. --*Colossians 3:13,24*

He was a remarkable person. Author of 150 books, Toyohiko Kagawa was a teacher, a poet, a philosopher, a scientist, and an evangelist. He wrote on various subjects ranging from scientific studies to theological issues.

During World War II, he was imprisoned for his pacifistic views. But he never ceased to love and serve God. Often he repeated these three prayers: "Father, forgive." "God, let me live to serve." "O God, make me like Christ." Those brief petitions reveal the spiritual dynamics of a truly Christian lifestyle.

That third prayer cannot be realized unless we take seriously the other two. Jesus said that He "did not come to be served, but to serve" (Mt. 20:28). And having taught His disciples to forgive (Mt. 18:21-22), He became the supreme example of His own teaching when on the cross He prayed for His executioners, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Lk. 23:34).

Only to the extent that we serve and forgive can we become like Jesus. And that will require God's enabling grace. How He longs to hear us pray, "Father, forgive," "God, let me live to serve," and "O God, make me like Christ." These are essential to a Christian lifestyle. --VCG

Forgiving when we suffer wrong,
And serving others in the throng--
Yes, this is what God's grace can do
When Christ's own likeness we pursue. --DJD

A Christian lifestyle
is Christ living His life through you.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Eleventh Day

Money Trouble

Read: James 5:1-6

Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare.
--1 Timothy 6:9

When I was in Haiti, I saw a poor elderly woman at a mission station. She had walked miles for a meal, yet she was sharing her food with a young girl. When I mentioned this to "Granny," a veteran missionary, she said, "Herb, the very poor are much more generous than the very rich."

I think Granny was right. While some multimillionaires are godly, generous, and kind, they are the exception rather than the rule.

From the days of the Old Testament prophets until now, many of the rich have exploited the poor. James warned his generation that the wealth of those who oppress the poor "will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire" (Jas. 5:3).

Even today, the rich contribute relatively little to charitable causes. Popular author Vance Packard says that the USA has at least 800 people worth more than \$100 million. How much do they give to church and charity? Less than 2%!

I have sometimes wished I had wealth, thinking of all the good I could do with it. But would I? Paul warned that coveting riches is a snare (1 Tim. 6:9). Realizing this, we should honor the wealthy who are generous. We should also thank God for the blessings He gives us, and then give as lavishly as we can out of that abundance. --HVL

For Further Study

Compare the rich young ruler (Lk. 18:18-27)
with the believers at Macedonia (2 Cor. 8:1-6).

Who gave generously? How does this apply to your life?

He who has no money is poor;
he who has nothing but money is even poorer.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Twelfth Day

The Missionary Option

Read: Acts 1:1-8

You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. --Acts 1:8.

H. A. Ironside used to tell a story about a meeting in which a missionary offering was taken. When the collection plate was handed to a wealthy man, he brushed it aside and said, "I do not believe in missions." "Then take something out," said the usher. "This is for the heathen."

As a boy I looked up to missionaries as godly people who sailed to some far-off, uncivilized land and didn't return for several years. Being a missionary was the ultimate calling--nothing could be more noble or admirable. I still believe that God calls men and women to missionary service in other lands, and I still have great respect for them, but my idea of missionaries has changed.

Every Christian is part of Christ's mission in the world. What Jesus told His disciples in Acts 1 applies also to us. We are His witnesses and therefore must speak and live so that others will glorify Him when they hear our message and see our faith in action.

Being a missionary is not an option--it's what we are called to be. --DJD

I am a missionary, Lord,
Wherever I may be;
At home or in a distant land,
I'll tell the world of Thee. --Brandt

One thing you cannot do about missions--
escape your responsibility.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Thirteenth Day

Make Your Body Listen

Read: 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

I discipline my body and bring it into subjection.

-1 Corinthians 9:27

The apostle Paul was serious about the gospel. He gave himself to the task of serving God with the same dedication that an athlete devotes to preparation for competition. While athletes train for a temporal prize, Paul endured tremendous hardship to win an eternal reward.

Although he had experienced several years of fruitful ministry, the apostle had every reason to quit. On five occasions he had felt the searing bite of 39 lashes as leather cords tore into his flesh (2 Cor. 11:24). He was also beaten, stoned, and shipwrecked, and he endured hunger, thirst, cold, and many other troubles (vv.25-27).

Paul's body must have rebelled each time he prepared to go to another place of service. I imagine it told him, "Look, Paul. I'm tired and hurt. I've done enough. Why do you insist on such insane acts of love for these difficult people? There's no way I'm going to risk more abuse. It's time to retire!"

But Paul disciplined his body. "I know you hurt," I can hear him say. "I would like to give in to you. But for the gospel, for Christ's kingdom, for Jesus Christ Himself, I have to keep going. And I can't go without you. Come on!"

Paul made his body his servant and the servant of the gospel. Are we as determined to serve Christ? -HWR

For Further Thought

Do you ever feel like quitting?

Where did Jesus find the strength to continue to minister? (Matthew 14:13,23; 26:36-44).

When you're working for Jesus,
it's always too soon to quit.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Fourteenth Day

Who's The Builder Of Your House?

Read: 1 Corinthians 3:5-23

Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it. --*Psalm 127:1*

The S. C. Johnson & Son Building in Racine, Wisconsin, has been labeled "the greatest piece of 20th-century architecture in America." Its magnificent half-acre "Great Workroom" has a 3-story sky lighted ceiling that produces an ever-shifting interplay of light and shadows.

Despite its placement on the National Register of Historic Buildings, the Johnson Building is far from an ideal workplace. The same glass tubes that produce stunning light effects also serve as unintended mousetraps. The Great Workroom is so cavernous that employees can hear conversations 100 feet away. Water leaks through the expansive flat roof, and condensation drips from the glass tubes.

Could we be building a "house" that looks terrific but is flawed and totally impractical? We're doing just that with our life if we are building it according to our own ideas instead of God's Word. Our skewed sense of morality lays a crooked foundation. Our neglect of our spiritual life allows our house to fall into disrepair. Our self-centeredness leaves gaping holes for the enemy to creep through.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Ps. 127:1). Let Him build the house of your life, and you'll be sure it's built right! --DCE

For Further Study

Who is the believer's foundation? (1 Cor. 3:11).

How are we to build on that foundation? (vv.10,12-13).

What do we gain by doing so? (v.14).

With God as the Architect and His Word the blueprint, your life will be built on a sure foundation.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Fifteenth Day

I Can't Change Jesus

Read: Hebrews 13:5-8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

--Hebrews 13:8

Bill Irwin, a friend of mine who is blind, has a talking computer he uses to study the Bible. He's had a few chuckles over some of the pronunciations. "For a long time," Bill says, "the computer pronounced Holy Bible as 'holly bibble' until I figured out how to modify it."

But there was one thing Bill couldn't change. The computer uses the Spanish pronunciation for Jesus Christ--HEYsus Krist. "The programmer is Hispanic," Bill told me with a smile, "and he made sure that HEYsus Krist cannot be altered."

I like that. It reminds me that among the things in life that can be changed to suit my taste, one remains tamper-resistant--I can't change Jesus.

When life is unsettled, I gain great comfort from the Bible's affirmation that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). But the statement is also a stern rebuke to my tendency to try to modify the words and character of Christ when I don't like what He says. How easy it is to forget that I came to Christ longing for Him to transform me, not the other way around!

Praise God that His Word and His love are perfect and unchanging. And praise Him too that in His love He is working to change me (Mt. 5:48; Rom. 5:3-5). --DCM

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father!

There is no shadow of turning with Thee;

Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;

As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. --Chisholm

In a world of constant change,
you can trust the unchanging Christ.

The thought I want to keep with me today is _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

1. Have I fulfilled all my personal obligations today?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being highest)
2. Have I shown a grateful spirit today?
-to team members? 1 2 3 4 5
-to missionaries? 1 2 3 4 5
-to nationals? 1 2 3 4 5
3. What was my influence on the team today?
1 2 3 4 5
4. How can I improve on it tomorrow?
5. This is the basic thought of my quiet time today:
6. This was my most fulfilling/happy/funny experience today:
7. This was my most frustrating/difficult/stupid experience today:
8. Here are the interesting people I met today:
9. Specific observations made today about:
 - myself

 - missionaries

 - nationals
10. What progress have I made toward my goal for the mission trip?
11. Was God pleased with my total life today?

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Daily Journal Thoughts

Date _____ Location _____

Prayers for Mission and Servanthood

O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in your image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ; and grant that, by the prayers and labors of your holy Church, they may be brought to know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;
For those who have never heard the word of salvation
For those who have lost their faith
For those hardened by sin or indifference
For the contemptuous and the scornful
For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples
For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others
That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience. Amen.

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, by your grace you have given us a new life in Jesus Christ, and by your Spirit you have called us to proclaim his name throughout the nations: Awaken in us such a love for you and for your world that we may so boldly proclaim Jesus Christ by word and deed that all people may come to know him as Savior and follow him as Lord; to the glory of your name. Amen.

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to thee, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly thine, utterly dedicated unto thee; and then use us, we pray thee, as thou wilt, and always to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Almighty God, whose will it is to be glorified in your saints: Shine, we pray, in our hearts, that we in our generation may show forth your praise, who called us out of darkness into your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Grant, Lord God, to all who have been baptized into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give to us all a pride in what we do, and a just return for our labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Songs

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

Fishel

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his Name.

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation. *Refrain*
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen. *Refrain*
3. We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live for ever. *Refrain*
4. Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Savior. *Refrain*

© 1973 Donald Fishel, Word of God Music, CCLI License No. 390290

Alleluia, He Is Coming

Butler

1. I looked up and I saw my Lord a-coming,
I looked up and I saw my Lord a-coming down the road.
Refrain: Alleluia, He is coming, alleluia, He is here.
Alleluia, He is coming, alleluia, He is here.
2. I looked up and I saw my Lord a-weeping,
I looked up and I saw my Lord a-weeping for my sins. *Refrain.*
3. I looked up and I saw my Lord a-dying,
I looked up and I saw my Lord a-dying on the cross. *Refrain.*
4. I looked up and I saw my Lord a-rising,
I looked up and I saw my Lord a-rising from the grave. *Refrain.*

©1979 Martha Butler, 3826 Langdale Drive, High Point, N.C. 27260; CCLI License #390290

Amazing Grace

Traditional

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

3. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come; 'tis grace
That brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

As The Deer

M. Nystrom

1. As the deer panteth for the water,
So my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship Thee.

Refrain: You alone are my strength, my shield,
To You alone, may my spirit yield;
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship Thee.

2. You're my friend and You are my brother,
Even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
So much more than anything. *Refrain*
3. I want You more than gold or silver,
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joygiver,
And the apple of my eye. *Refrain*

©1984 Maranatha! Music, CCLI License #390290

Change My Heart, Oh God

Espinosa

1. Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true.
Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You.
You are the potter, I am the clay,
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.
2. Repeat Verse 1
3. Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true.
Change my heart Oh God, may I be like you.

©1982 Mercy Publishing, Eddie Espinosa, CCLI License #390290

He Is Exalted

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high;
I will praise Him.
He is exalted, for ever exalted and I will praise His name!
He is the Lord - forever His truth shall reign;
Heaven and earth - rejoice in His Holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.
Sung twice, adding at the end:
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

©1985 Straightway Music, ARR. UBP. Of Gaither © Management, Twila Paris,
CCLI Lic. #390290

Holy Ground

C. Beatty

1. This is holy ground.
We're standing on holy ground.
For the Lord is present
And where He is is holy.
This is holy ground.
We're standing on holy ground.
For the Lord is present
And where He is is holy.

Refrain: We are standing on holy ground,
And I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now.
We are standing in His presence
On holy ground.

2. These are holy hands.
He's given us holy hands.
He works through these hands
And so these hands are holy.
These are holy hands.
He's given us holy hands.
He works through these hands
And so these hands are holy. *Refrain*

© 1979 Birdwing Music/Cherry Lane Music Pub. Co., Inc. CCLI License No.
390290

I Love You, Lord

(Sung twice)

I Love You, Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship You, O my soul rejoice.
Take joy, my King,
In what You hear,
May it be sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

© 1978, 1980, House of Mercy (Admin. By Maranatha! Music) Arr. ICS. UBPO,
Laurie Klein, CCLI License No. 390290.

I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light

Thomerson

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all,
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
2. I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path
And show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*
3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

© 1970, 1975 Celebration (Maranatha! Music), Kathleen Thomerson, CCLI
License #390290

I Will Never

G. Bullock

1. I will never be the same again,
I can never return, I've closed the door;
I will walk the path, I'll run the race,
And I will never be the same again. *Repeat verse then sing refrain.*

Refrain 1:

Fall like fire, soak like rain,
Flow like mighty waters, again and again;
Sweep away the darkness, burn away the chaff,
And let a flame burn to glorify Your name.

2. There are higher heights, there are deeper seas,
Whatever You need to do Lord, do in me;
The glory of God fills my life,
And I will never be the same again.

Refrain 2:

Fall like fire, soak like rain,
Flow like mighty waters, again and again.
Sweep away the darkness, burn away the chaff,
And let a flame burn to glorify Your name.
Repeat, then sing final refrain

Final Refrain:

Fall like fire, soak like rain,
Flow like mighty waters, again and again.
Sweep away the darkness, take away the pain —
And I will never be the same again,
And I will never be the same again.

© 1996 Word Music (a div. Of Word, Inc.) CCLI License No. 390290

Lord, I Lift Your Name On High

Founds

Lord, I lift Your name on high, Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life, I'm so glad You came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high. *Repeat, adding:*

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

© 1989 and this arr. © 1990 Maranatha! Music. CCLI License No. 390290

Lord, Reign In Me

Brown

1. Over all the earth, You reign on high,
Every mountain stream, every sunset sky;
But my one request, Lord, my only aim
Is that you reign in me again.

Refrain: Lord, reign in me, reign in Your power,
Over all my dreams, in my darkest hour
'Cause You are the Lord of all I am.
So won't You reign in me again?

2. Over every thought, over every word,
May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord;
'Cause You mean more to me than any earthly thing
So won't You reign in me again? *Refrain*

Repeat Verse 1

Final Refrain (sung twice)

Lord, reign in me, reign in Your power,
Over all my dreams, in my darkest hour
'Cause You are the Lord of all I am.
So won't You reign in me again?

Final ending: Won't You reign in me again,
Won't You reign in me again?

© 1998 Vineyard Songs. CCLI License No. 390290

Open Our Eyes

B. Cull

Open our eyes Lord we want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him and say that we love Him.
Open our ears Lord and help us to listen.
Open our eyes Lord we want to see Jesus. *(Sung twice)*

© 1976 Maranatha! Music, Bob Cull, CCLI License 390290

Refiner's Fire

B. Doerksen

1. Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold and precious silver,
Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold, pure gold.

Refrain: Refiner's fire.
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy,
Set apart for You Lord.
I choose to be holy, set apart for You my master,
Ready to do Your will.

2. Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from my sin, deep within. *Refrain*

© 1990 Mercy Publishing. CCLI License No. 390290

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you;
Allelu, alleluia!

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Allelu, alleluia!

2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find,
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;
Allelu, alleluia! *Refrain sung twice.*

©1972, Maranatha! Music, Karen Lafferty, CCLI License #390290

Shine, Jesus Shine

Kendrick

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness shining,
Jesus, Light of the World shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain: Shine, Jesus shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance.
By the blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me. *Refrain*

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory.
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain: Shine, Jesus shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.

© 1987 Make Way Music/Thankyou Music, CCLI License No. 390290

Shout To The Lord

D. Zschech

1. My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my Shelter, tower of refuge and strength;
Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.

Refrain 1: Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King;
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

2. Repeat Verse 1, then sing refrain 2.

Refrain 2: Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King;
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have, so let's

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King;
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of your Name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have,
Nothing compares to the promise I have,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You!

© 1993, Darlene Zschech/Hillsongs Australia. Integrity's Hosanna! Music.
CCLI License No. 390290

Surely It Is God Who Saves Me

C. Daw/R. Urwin

1. Surely it is God who saves me;
Trusting him, I shall not fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me
And his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water
From salvation's living spring;
In the day of your deliverance thank the Lord,
his mercies sing.

2. Make his deeds known to the peoples;
Tell out his exalted Name.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things;
All his works his might proclaim.
Zion, lift your voice in singing;
For with you has come to dwell,
In your very midst, the great and holy one of Israel.

Words: © 1982, Carl P. Daw, Jr.; Music: © 1984 *St. Anne*, Ray W. Urwin

Surely The Presence Of The Lord Is In This Place

1. In the midst of His children, the Lord said He would be;
It doesn't take very many, it can just be two or three.
And I feel that same sweet Spirit that I've felt oft-times before;
Surely I can say - I'm here with the Lord.

Refrain: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

2. There's a holy hush around us as God's glory fills this place;
I've touched the hem of His garment, I can almost see His face.
And my heart is overflowing with the fullness of His joy;
I know without a doubt that I'm here with the Lord. *Refrain*

© 1977 Lanny Wolfe Music (Adm. By Pathway Press) Arr., CCLI License #390290

The Lord Almighty Reigns

T. Butler

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, the Lord reigns.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, the Lord Almighty reigns. (*Repeat*)

He has shown his awesome power,
He has triumphed mightily,
He's the victor over darkness and the grave.
He has broken chains that bound us,
He has set the prisoner free,
By his own great mercy we are saved.

© 1995, Mercy/Vineyard Publishing. All Rights reserved. CCLI Lic. # 39020

The Servant Song

R. Gillard

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow 'til we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

© 1977 Scripture in Song, All rights reserved.

Thy Word

A. Grant/M. Smith

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path;
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me;
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end. *Refrain.*
2. I will not forget Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering;
Jesus be my Guide. Hold me to Your side.
And I will love You to the end.
And a light unto my path.

Final Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path;
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
And a light unto my path.

© Bug and Bear Music (ASCAP) ARR. UBP Of LCS Music Group, Inc. Dallas TX
Meadowgreen Music Co., Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, CCLI License #390290

Bible Verses For Daily Life

A. Our Relationship with God

Forgiveness (<i>Repentance</i>)	Psalm 32:5	1 John 1:9
God's Love	1 John 4:9	John 3:16
Guidance	Psalm 143:10	John 16:13
Guilt (<i>Sin</i>)	Isaiah 64:6	Jeremiah 17:9
	Romans 3:10	
Obedience	Matthew 12:50	Luke 11:28 John 14:15
Salvation	Romans 10:9	Acts 4:12
	Ephesians 2:8	
Worship (<i>Praise</i>)	Hebrews 13:15	Psalm 29:2 John 4:23

B. Our Relationship with Others

Acceptance	Romans 15:7	Matthew 7:1
	Ephesians 5:21	
Anger	1 Timothy 2:8	James 1:19 Psalm 37:8
	Proverbs 15:1	Ephesians 4:26
Compassion	Colossians 3:12	Philippians 2:4
	Romans 12:15	
	Matthew 25:40	Galatians 6:2
Forgiveness	Colossians 3:13	Mark 11:25
	Proverbs 19:11	
	Proverbs 24:17	Ephesians 4:32
Hatred	1 John 4:20	Proverbs 10:12
	Galatians 5:19	
Honesty	Ephesians 4:25	Psalm 15:1
Love	John 13:34	John 15:13
	Ephesians 5:1	
	1 Peter 4:8	1 John 3:18
Peace	Romans 12:18	Romans 14:19
Revenge	Romans 12:19	Romans 12:14
	Matthew 5:43	Luke 6:31
Society	1 Peter 2:11	Romans 13:7 1 Peter 2:17
The Church	Romans 12:5	Ephesians 4:4 1 Peter 4:10
	Ephesians 4:11	
Unity	Romans 15:5	Ephesians 4:2 Psalm 133:1

C. Our Personal Life

Contentment	1 Timothy 6:6 Luke 12:15	Hebrews 13:5 Matthew 6:19
Faith	Matthew 21:22 Hebrews 11:1	John 20:29 James 1:6
Fear	Psalm 27:1	Hebrews 13:5
God's Peace	Proverbs 14:30 Isaiah 26:3	Philippians 4:7 John 14:27
Godliness	Galatians 5:22 1 Peter 1:15	Ephesians 4:22
Grief (Loss)	Psalm 23:1 John 11:25	Matthew 5:4 John 16:22
Humility	Micah 6:8 1 Peter 5:5	Psalm 25:9 Luke 18:14
Joy	Psalm 16:11 Psalm 97:1 1 Peter 1:8	Psalm 37:4 Philippians 4:4
Loneliness	Psalm 25:1	Matthew 28:20
Morality	Proverbs 4:7 Philippians 4:8	Jeremiah 9:23 Matthew 22:37
Perseverance	2 Thessalonians 3:13 Hebrews 10:36	Galatians 6:9
Prayer	Psalm 37:7 Matthew 7:7 James 4:8	Psalm 61:1 Luke 18:1
Suffering	Psalm 42:5 2 Corinthians 12:9 Hebrews 12:2	Matthew 11:28 John 16:33
Temptation	2 Thessalonians 3:3 1 Corinthians 10:13	Hebrews 2:18
Thankfulness	Psalm 68:19 Isaiah 63:7	Psalm 136:1
Worldliness	Ephesians 5:20 1 John 2:15	Colossians 3:5
Worry	Galatians 5:24 Psalm 55:22 Philippians 4:6	Matthew 6:25

Promises from the Bible

A. God's Promise Concerning:

Answered Prayer	Matthew 7:7 1 Peter 3:12	Matthew 21:22 1 John 5:14
Blessing	John 1:16 Romans 8:28	John 10:10 Ephesians 1:3
Christ's Return	John 14:2 1 Thessalonians 4:16	Acts 1:11 Revelation 1:7
Encouragement	1 Thessalonians 5:23 Hebrews 6:10	2 Thessalonians 2:16 1 Peter 2:9
Everlasting Life	John 6:40 1 Corinthians 15:51	John 10:28 1 Thessalonians 4:17
Excellence	Matthew 20:26 John 15:15	John 14:12 2 Corinthians 3:5
Forgiveness	Luke 15:3 Ephesians 1:7	Acts 10:43 1 John 1:9
Freedom	John 8:34 2 Corinthians 3:17	Romans 6:6 Revelation 1:5
Growth	Philippians 1:6 Ephesians 4:14	2 Corinthians 3:18 2 Peter 1:3
His Presence	Matthew 18:20 John 6:37	Matthew 28:20 Romans 8:38
Holy Spirit	Luke 11:13 Acts 2:38	John 14:16 Romans 8:11
Joy	John 15:10 Romans 16:13	John 16:22 1 Peter 1:8
Love	Matthew 10:30 John 15:9	John 3:16 1 John 4:9
Peace	John 14:27 Ephesians 2:14	Romans 5:1 2 Thessalonians 3:16
Salvation	Matthew 1:21 Ephesians 2:8	Acts 16:31 Hebrews 7:25
Strength	1 Corinthians 1:8 2 Thessalonians 3:3	Ephesians 3:20 1 Peter 5:10

B. God's Promise When You:

Are Afraid	Romans 8:37 2 Timothy 1:7	2 Corinthians 1:10 Hebrews 13:6
Are Anxious	Matthew 6:25 Philippians 4:6	Matthew 11:28 1 Peter 5:7
Are Confused	John 8:12 1 Corinthians 2:15	John 14:27 James 1:5
Are Disappointed	Matthew 19:25 John 15:7	Mark 9:21 Ephesians 3:20
Are Impatient	Romans 2:7 Hebrews 6:12	1 Timothy 1:16 1 Peter 5:7
Are In Need	John 6:35 Ephesians 3:20	2 Corinthians 9:10 Philippians 4:19
Are Persecuted	Matthew 5:10 2 Timothy 1:11	2 Corinthians 4:8 1 Peter 3:13
Are Sick	Matthew 8:16 Romans 8:37	John 16:33 James 5:14

God's Promise When You: *(Continued)*

Are Tempted	1 Corinthians 10:13 Hebrews 4:15	Hebrews 2:18 1 Peter 3:9
Are Weak	Romans 8:26 2 Corinthians 4:7	1 Corinthians 1:7 2 Corinthians 12:9
Doubt	John 3:18 Romans 4:5	John 11:25 1 John 4:15
Fail	Romans 3:23 Hebrews 10:36	Romans 5:8 1 John 1:8
Feel Dejected	Matthew 11:28 Hebrews 4:16	Romans 8:26 James 4:8
Feel Guilty	Romans 8:1 Ephesians 3:12	1 Corinthians 6:11 Hebrews 10:22
Grieve	Matthew 5:4 1 Thessalonians 4:13	John 16:20 Revelation 21:3
Obey	Matthew 16:27 John 14:21	John 8:31 James 1:25
Suffer	John 16:33	Romans 8:16

B. What the Bible Says About:

Anger	Matthew 5:21 James 1:19	Ephesians 4:25
Anxiety	Luke 12:22 Hebrews 13:5	Philippians 4:4
Atonement	Romans 3:21 Hebrews 9	2 Corinthians 5:14 1 Peter 2:22
Body of Christ	Mark 14:22 Hebrews 2:14	1 Corinthians 12:12
Compassion	John 11:17 1 John 3:11	2 Corinthians 1:3
Discipleship	Luke 14:25 John 21:15	John 15:1
Discipline	1 Corinthians 11:27 Revelation 3:19	Hebrews 12:1
Eternal Life	Matthew 19:16 Romans 6:15	John 3:1
Faith	Matthew 6:25 Hebrews 11	Romans 3:21
Friendship	John 14:23 1 John 1:1	Colossians 3:12
Giving	Matthew 6:1	2 Corinthians 8
Hope	Romans 5:1 1 Peter 1:3	Colossians 1:3
Joy	Luke 15 1 Peter 4:12	James 1:2
Loneliness	Matthew 26:36	2 Timothy 4:16
Stewardship	Matthew 25:14	Luke 12:35
Suffering	Romans 8:12 1 Peter 4:12	1 Peter 3:8