

March 2010

Prayer Calendar of St. Paul, Lake Mills

Mon. March 1 Have no fear of perfection – you'll never reach it. Salvador Dali 2 Cor. 13:11 Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Hebrews 10:14 by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. **Heavenly Father, thank you for setting us apart and aside for God. In that sense you have made us holy. You have called us by your Gospel message and the power of the Holy Spirit to be saved and so to live our lives in loving gratitude to you is our goal. We do aim for perfection, LORD, but we know on this earth we will never reach that goal. Help us to keep aiming so that others may see you in us, but when we fail, help us to accept that loving grace which made us free of the devil, world and flesh. When others are disillusioned by bad examples set by Christians and point out hypocritical actions, help us to take this seriously & to seek to do our best, but always keep the focus not on our works but on those of Christ who saved us. In His name, Amen.

Tues. March 2 Hide not your talents, they for use were made. What's a sun-dial in the shade? Benjamin Franklin 1 Tim. 4:14-15 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. **LORD, forgive us for the laziness we often have when we know you are asking us to do something for your kingdom. We can give excuse after excuse, but often times it's just a way of slapping you in the face, since it is your Gift we are wasting. Help us, God, to recognize our talents and to use them in whatever way will benefit your kingdom here on earth. Thank you for those who are giving of themselves in many, many ways to promote your Gospel message, using talents of evangelism, preaching and teaching, but help us recognize the myriad of other ways our talents can serve from cooking & cleaning to caring for young & old to encouraging the broken-hearted or just listening & drying tears. Help us to faithfully use Gifts & talents for Jesus' sake, Amen.

Wed. March 3 Never let the fear of striking our get in your way. George Herman (Babe Ruth) Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. Philip. 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Hebrews 10:35-36 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. **Father, there are times I want to serve and I truly am not trying to avoid the opportunity to try something new, but I get paralyzed by fear. Sometimes it's fear of failure or fear that I will look awkward, stupid or inadequate. Of course much of this is just plain pride, but at times there have been others who have been overly critical and I've heard their talk and ridicule. Forgive them. And forgive me for sometimes judging others' performance when they seek to serve you with their talents. We all need to develop those gifts you've given. We are not perfect, but you have promised that you are made perfect in our weakness. Help us to rely on you to meet our needs as we seek to serve you with our meager abilities and skills. Make us grow in our abilities as we count on you & serve one another with the gladness that fills our hearts in knowing Jesus as our Savior. In His name. Amen.

Thurs. March 4 The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me. Billy Graham Galatians 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Psalms 31:24 Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. 2 Cor. 4:8-9 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. **Heavenly Father, you never promised us a rose garden just because we follow you. Jesus had a rough life on this earth, why wouldn't we? This is not our eternal home and there will be times of discouragement and doubt. There will be many times we need to come to you with our needs and our confession of sin and failure. Praise your holy name for the Grace and Mercy we receive at your throne. Thank you that Jesus made it possible for us to approach you even in our times of failure and discouragement. Thank you for the closeness which is ours when we receive communion; for the loving reminder of your body and blood in the bread and wine for our strengthening and assurance of forgiveness. Give us courage to go on even after times of terrible discouragement and depression. Help those in need of your loving kindness. Use us to minister to them with your words of love and forgiveness in Jesus our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen

Fri. March 5 Creativity is a God-given ability to take something ordinary and make it into something special. Emile Barnes Gen 1:31 God saw all that he had made, & it was very good. Ps 102:25 In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, & the heavens are the work of your hands. Ps 89:11 The heavens are yours. also the earth; you founded the world & all that is in it. **Holy Maker and Creator, of course "creativity" is God-given! That's why you are called the Creator. Yet all gifts and talents are given by you and for you and should be used to your glory. Help me this

day to be filled with the wonder of your creativity in the many parts of your Creation. How boring this world would be if we were all the same in our temperament, our abilities and looks. How precious that you made so many forms of flowers, butterflies, birds and the like. How much like you to love us with so many choices of fruits, colors, sounds and on and on! Help me to see myself as created for a purpose with exactly what is needed to carry out your holy will and purpose. That would make me 'special' even as I am redeemed by you for eternity. Praise your holy name, Jesus and thank you for loving me with your life. Help us to share such love with all, especially those suffering from low self worth and little confidence. Help them to find purpose in you and a plan for a future in your kingdom through Christ. Amen.

Sat. March 6 Tomorrow – oh, 'twill never be. If we should live a thousand years! Our time is all today, today. James Montgomery. *Psalm 23:6* Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. *Psalm 84:10* Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. **Help me, dearest Jesus, to live in today & not be distracted by the cares of tomorrow which may never come. Fill me with joy & gladness in knowing you, the Giver of Life, that I might not miss or waste any part of this day or the memories you may build into my activities. Help me to reach out to someone today with a message of hope and healing. Maybe there is something special you have in mind for me to learn or just to enjoy. May I be open for anything and at the end of the day rejoice that I had one more day of your Grace here on earth until the time I enjoy your presence for eternity through Jesus in whose name I pray Amen.

Sun March 7 To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant; to enact gratitude is generous and noble; but to live gratitude is to touch Heaven. Johannes A. Gaertner. Col. 3:15-17 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Heavenly Father, all gifts come directly from your loving hand; the very same hand that formed Adam from the dust of the earth and the very hand which was nailed to the cross to save us. Yet we often fail to thank you for all you give us. Often times we even fail to recognize the Blessings and gifts you give because of our perspective. What appears to be a disaster may indeed be the very avenue which provides us opportunity for bringing someone to faith. Forgive us for our short-sightedness, for our distrust, for our grumbling, complaining and failure to appreciate and give thanks. Open our eyes through the power of your Holy Spirit to see each and every moment and each event as orchestrated by the hand of the Divine conductor. We love you. Amen

Mon. March 8 A Sociologist, accompanying a group of mountain climbers observed a distinct correlation between cloud cover and contentment. When there was no cloud cover and the peak was in view, the climbers were energetic and cooperative. When the gray clouds eclipsed the view of the mountaintop, though, the climbers were sullen and selfish. The same thing happens to us. As long as our eyes are on his majesty there is a bounce in our step. But let our eyes focus on the dirt beneath us and we will grumble about every rock and crevice we have to cross. Max Lucado *Col. 3:1-3* Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God **Dearest Jesus, may we worship your Majesty, seeing you as our strong and mighty Savior. Keep our eyes focused on your promises and the way you have fulfilled them in Scripture and the many times we have seen you actively in our own lives, working here and there to build faith and trust. But, dear LORD, help us to still trust and keep that "bounce in our steps" when we see a battered Savior, the same one who allowed himself to be beaten and bloodied for our salvation. As the disciples lost focus when their world came unraveled at your capture in the garden, our world sometimes get knocked off center by illness, death of a loved one, or painful events which seem to indicate you are not in charge, or else have given us over to the evil of this world. Keep us focused on you and the reason you become weak. When we experience those wonderful "mountaintop experiences," may they serve to strengthen us for the next valley. Help us to always look up where our hope lies and awaits for your return. Give us strength to lift others who are dwelling in the dirt and filth of this earth. Help them to know the joy and peace we have because you are our LORD and Savior. Thank you for your love, faithfulness and forgiveness as we pray in your name. Amen

Tues. March 9 Much of the stress that people feel doesn't come from having too much to do. It comes from not finishing what you start." David Allen *Luke 14:28-30* "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'" *John 19:28,30* knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."... When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. *Luke 23:46* Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. *Acts 20:24* I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. **Dearest Heavenly Father, we all live with stress. In fact stress itself is a good thing and we thank you for the way it causes us to be motivated, but when it gets out of hand or becomes too much it can add to worry, doubt, to be crabbiness & can create many physical problems in our health. Father, help us first to be wise in our stewardship. Since financial issues are the source of much stress, may we carefully plan how we live within our means, giving to you as you have given to us. Help us to handle our stress as Jesus; giving it up to your able & loving hands. May we see as our greatest task the race **you** have set before us. In our earthly jobs or whatever we do help us testify to others of your Grace & Mercy to us in Jesus. We pray & say Amen in his name

Wed. March 10 When friends stop being frank and useful to each other, the whole world loses some of its radiance. Anatole Brayard

Prov 27:6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. **1 Peter 3:15** in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, **Dearest Heavenly Friend, thank you for friends who will be honest and hold us accountable when we are walking down the wrong path. May we do so for them as well. Help us to be true friends to all we meet by telling them, openly, honestly, and with respect about you so that we may enjoy an eternity together in Heaven through Jesus' work on the cross. Hear & help us, Amen

Thurs. March 11 Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other. Abe Lincoln

1 Tim. 3:13-16 Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus... I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great. **Dearest LORD Jesus, although Abraham Lincoln knew we should try our best & work hard to succeed, the only real necessity is to know you and trust your saving work on the cross. Help those who are caught in the bondage of work righteousness, trusting in good works for salvation. May we do good works out of love & gratitude for your love to us. Break the hold of prideful perfectionism in our lives, but help us strive to be successful in all we do to bring glory to you who succeeded in bringing down Satan, the world and our sinful flesh. Lead us to areas of kingdom work in which we can be involved. We ask a special blessing on those who serve as missionaries; for those in teaching & preaching roles. Help all to faithfully serve. Forgive those who have used these positions to further their own purposes. May all who call on your name work to glorify you in all we do or say. Amen

Fri. March 12 I've always known I was gifted, which is not the easiest thing in the world for a person to know, because you're not responsible for your gift, only for what you do with it. Hazel Scott. **1 Cor. 12:7-11** Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. **Wow, LORD, St. Paul is not messing around in this section of Corinthians. If I thought for a moment I wasn't given a gift from you, he dispels that lie with the words "to each one is given." Then if for some reason any of us thinks more highly of ourselves because we are given a specific gift, it's almost as if he's slapping us aside of our heads with "by the Spirit...by the same Spirit..and all the work of one and the same Spirit." None of us can claim rights to any talent or gift. They are all from your loving hand. However, WE are responsible for how we develop those gifts. Help us first to recognize our gifts from you, acknowledge we have them and then give glory to you in how we go about growing and developing our skills within those gifts. This is not an easy task, especially with the world, seeking to use those gifts for worldly means; with the devil always seeking to destroy anything of God or use it to his own perverted glory; and then there is our flesh which is constantly wavering between feelings of inadequacy and pride. Isn't it amazing we ever do anything worthwhile for your kingdom?! Only by your Grace and the power of your Spirit are any works accomplished. May they indeed be done in us, through us by the power of your Spirit. Amen in Jesus

Sat. March 13 When You say, "I can't solve this..." God tells you, "I will direct your path." Global Media Outreach, an Internet ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. **Prov 5:1-6** My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion & your lips may preserve knowledge. For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, & her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, her steps lead straight to the grave. **Prov 3:5-6** Trust in the Lord with all your heart & lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, & he will make your paths straight **Dear LORD, sometimes I'm too prideful or embarrassed to admit I need help. Forgive & help me to seek the wisdom of others who can solve problems. But LORD, lead and guide me to those who are not wise in their own knowledge or in the knowledge of the world or Satan, but only those who have gained wisdom through Godly discipline and knowledge. Help us all to search the Scriptures daily which make us wise for salvation and truly give practical answers to daily dilemmas. Forgive any who look at your word as old and out-dated. May we trust your Words of life & commandments as the best way to live a life on this earth & only way to Eternal Life. When we buy a new piece of equipment or a car or any other man made creation, we seek help in the "manual" written by the manufacturer. Help us to look to your "manual", the Bible for answers to "troubleshooting." Amen. .

Sun. March 14 (Daylight savings time begins) When You say, "I feel all alone..." God tells you, "Never will I leave you." (Hebrews 13:5) (Global Media Outreach, an Internet ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ.) **Deut. 31:8** The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." **Matthew 28:20** surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." **LORD Jesus, what a comfort it is to know you are here with us at all times! Even more, you know exactly how it feels to be a human with the emotions that sometimes work against faith. We know and believe your words of comfort. We understand your promises, but often human emotions and our stubborn need to reason fights against that childlike faith. Forgive our doubts and strengthen our faith with the Word and Sacrament. Open our hearts to receive your Holy Spirit's

prompting and help us to comfort others who are feeling lost and alone with the sweet Gospel message and your loving promises. In Jesus' name Amen

Mon. March 15 When You say, " I AM TIRED..." God tells you: (Global Media Outreach, Internet ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ). **Matt 11:28-30** "Come to me, all you who are weary & burdened, & I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you & learn from me, for I am gentle & humble in heart, & you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." **Strong Savior, how true this verse from Matthew is! When I give you my burdens they become manageable. When I try it on my own, it's too much to carry. On days when I'm in a hurry and forget to wrap myself in prayer and your word, things usually don't go well and I become tired, frustrated and overwhelmed. Thank you for always being there even when I'm "late" in coming before your throne. Thank you for walking alongside me & "getting into the yoke" with me. You are my strength when I am weak, you are the treasure that I seek...you are my all in all. Keep me awake for you. Thank you Jesus, worthy is your name. Amen.

Tues. March 16 When You say, " I can't do..." God tells you, "Yes you can." (Global Media Outreach, Campus Crusade for Christ) **Phil. 4:12-13** I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. **2 Cor. 12:10** That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, ...for when I am weak, then I am strong. **Heavenly Father, all of us have experienced that sick feeling in the pit of our stomachs, bordering on panic when we face a dreaded event or a doctor's report or some other "terrible" situation of life. When we feel we just can't go through it, help us to recall these words of St. Paul, as he recognized his source of strength to face anything in his life. May we not just endure, but be content as you take us through the obstacle course of life with the twists and turns of relationship, financial, health and other issues which create unrest when we take our eyes off you. May the cross be more than a symbol to us. May it be life-giving hope for today and eternal hope for tomorrow as we look to you and trust in you for all needs. Thank you Jesus, Amen.

Wed. March 17 When You say, " I don't deserve forgiveness..."God tells you, "I have forgiven you." (Global Media Outreach) **Job 40:4** "I am unworthy--how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. **Romans 8:1** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness**Dearest God, my heart knows I don't deserve forgiveness. What Grace and Mercy you have shown me! May I remember your passion all year long, not just during this season of Lent. Keep the image of your sacrifice always before me and help me to live in Loving gratitude to you who gave all that I might have all. Father, when others hurt me or are disrespectful, remind me to forgive them and reach out with the Gospel message. We know it's your Kindness which leads us to repentance, May we show Christ-likeness to others, but know when to step back and allow the Spirit to convict of sin so they would repent. Help us to be your hands & feet in this lost and lonely world. Thank you for loving and forgiving me. I come in the name of my Savior. Amen.

Thurs. March 18 When You say, " I am afraid..." God tells you: (Global Media Outreach, Internet ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ). **Isaiah 41:10** So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. **LORD, so often I look back at my fears and recognize how foolish they were. Satan, the world and my flesh have such destructive powers to lie to me and create a scenario of disaster when I speculate and assume the worst. Forgive me. You have told me you will always be with me, so what is the worst that can happen to me?! If I die, I win eternal life through your victory on Calvary's cross. If I live, I live to enjoy the role you have given me on this earth. Whether in sickness or health, in life or death, you are my God. I do not need to fear anything. Help me to believe and trust your promises. When my faith wavers, bring me back by the power of your Holy Word. May we, as a body of believers, encourage one another and lift each other up in prayer and support. We pray in the name and for the sake of the one who destroyed fear along with the power of Satan & death. Amen!

Fri. March 19. When You say, " It's impossible..." God tells you, "Everything is possible." (Global Media Outreach), **Luke 18:27** Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God." **Mark 10:27** Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." **Heavenly Father, the word "impossible" is so final and so hopeless, but you are the God of hope and the Almighty One who tells us nothing is impossible to you. We are your children and have seen you through the eyes of faith. We have learned of your mighty deeds through the Bible stories of our childhood and know the power of your Holy Spirit in our lives. Some may think the age of miracles is over, but those of us who know you understand you perform them every day in the birth of a child, the protection from earthly dangers and most of all in bringing a lost soul to your fold. Thank you. When you choose to allow death, sickness, disasters or other problems, may we never think it is because you aren't able, but trust you to use all things to your glory and our ultimate good. Strengthen our faith, forgive our doubts and hear us and bless us for the sake of Jesus. Amen..

Sat. March 20 When You say, "no one really loves me." God tells you, "I love you." (Global Media Outreach) **John3:16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **John 13:34** A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **LORD Jesus, this prayer is for all the little girls who are told by other little girls they can't play; for all the little boys who are picked last for the team; for all the young ladies who have never been asked on a date or young men who have been rejected for a date; for the spouses who have been left by an unfaithful mate; for those who have outlived their

marriage partner and any who have ever felt unloved, unwanted or rejected. Well, that pretty much includes us all at one time or other, doesn't it? Yet you have loved us with your very life. God of Love, hear our cry for mercy on behalf of those left in the earthquakes, tsunamis & other disasters where family & friends were taken. Father, let them know your love, especially in the form of Jesus, who is love & life & became sin and death for us that we might know your Love and Life for an eternity. Help us reach out to anyone hurting in whatever way you know would provide help & comfort on this earth as well as sharing your Gospel for eternity. Amen in Jesus.

Sun. March 21 When You want to know everything else that God wants to tell you, read the Bible, (Global Media Outreach) 2 Tim. 3:15-17 from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. **God of Scriptures, we want to know you more. We say that and truly believe it, but then often ignore your love letters to us when we don't read and study your Holy Word as we should. Forgive us and help us to daily read and study, learning more about you and what you want for us to do. We know you have done everything necessary for our eternal salvation, but you have so much for us to learn about you. How fun it is to discover your intimate thoughts toward us! Give us cravings for you. Amen.

Mon. March 22 When You say, "What path does God have for me?" God tells you, "My Beloved Son Jesus Christ." (Global Media Outreach, Internet ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ). Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." 1 Tim. 2:4-6 (God) wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time. **LORD, so many are deceived by Satan into thinking there is another way to Heaven. You have made very clear to us in your Holy Word that Jesus is the only way to your throne, but He is a stumbling block to those who will not receive Him and the Gospel message. Father, we want all to be saved, just as you. Help us reach those with whom you have given us access with the Truth of your Word. Those who just talk about "God" rather than Jesus, or those who believe just Old Testament teachings are missing the only Way to Heaven. Help us truly listen when those around us talk "religion". May they know Jesus of the Bible. Provide an audience for us in those you would have us reach. Give us courage & the words to speak. Spirit, work in them. Amen

Tues. March 23 When You say, "I don't know how to go on." God tells you, "I will show you the path." (Global Media Outreach) Psalms 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Psalms 25:4 Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; Proverbs 4:11 I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. Acts 2:28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' **Heavenly Father, depression is such a terribly debilitating illness. Satan would love those caught in this condition to give up and actually convinces many to do so. We pray for any who are experiencing depression due to a situation in their lives or because of chemical imbalances. LORD Almighty, give them hope and help in the form of your Holy Spirit's comfort and peace. If medication is needed, help them find doctors with wisdom from you to provide what they need. May they see a reason for living based on the purpose for which you have made them. Help all, young and old, to see the path to Christ. Lead and guide us in the way you would have us go. Thank you for showing us the pathway to Heaven through Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Wed. March 24 Buddhism places the entire weight upon the individual. Buddhism teaches that people are essentially good, that there is "divine" power in each of us, an "innate and indestructible goodness" that we just need to access. Buddhists generally don't believe in an eternal God who is external to our lives and who intervenes to help us. They believe in the god within. In Buddhism you have to work out everything by yourself, suffer your own karma for what you've done wrong, and enjoy good karma when you do right. Only (through Christ) can we find forgiveness for evil, approval from God, and the strength and wisdom to make things right. Mark Jeske John 8:31-32 Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Romans 7:18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. Col. 1:13-14 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**Dear LORD, such sadness fills my heart for those who don't know you! To live in the belief that I need to save myself is a burden I could not bear. How utterly hopeless and helpless these individuals must feel. Father, help us to recognize those who don't know you as victims of Satan's lies. Help us to minister in Love to them by telling them of your Grace and Mercy. Be with our missionaries and evangelists. Open the hearts of those who hear to listen, receive and believe the Truth of your Holy Word. Why would you love me so much to let me know of you? Such realization is much too wonderful for me to comprehend. Amen

Thurs. March 25 I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in. George Washington Carver. 1 Cor. 8:6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. Col. 1:16-17 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Rev. 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. **Father as Spring is beginning to show itself all around us we are again reminded of the beauty you have provided us unworthy crowns of your Creation. When we hear those of the world talk about "Mother nature" help us to speak clearly to them about your work of creation.

May our witness be received by them, giving them a desire to learn of this wonderful, Almighty God who means so much to us. Give us openings to talk further of you & your most wonderful work of salvation from eternal death. Amen

Fri. March 26 If you as parents cut corners, your children will too. If you lie, they will too. If you spend all your money on yourselves and tithe no portion of it for charities, colleges, churches, synagogues, and civic causes, your children won't either. And if parents snicker at racial and gender jokes, another generation will pass on the poison adults still have not had the courage to snuff out. **Marian Wright Edelman** Ephes. 5:1-4 *Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.* **Heavenly Father we want to follow the example you have given us in Jesus; being a humble and obedient child. That way our children would have a perfect example to follow. Forgive us for leading our children astray, or anyone else for that matter. Help us to watch our tongue, our behaviors and attitudes. May we give generously, love unconditionally and live our lives with honesty and integrity as befitting a child of God. LORD, we know we will fail at times, but help us to repent and openly receive your Grace, teaching our children to do the same. Thank you for the love you show to all who call on your name. Thank you for the still, small voice you give us in your Spirit. Help us to listen and follow His lead. May our consciences and those of our children be working in tune with You and how you want us to live; to the glory of your Holy name. Amen in Jesus' name and love

Sat. March 27 Each of us has a fire in our heart for something. It's our goal in life to find & to keep it lit.

Mary **Lou** **Retton**
1 Pet 4:10 *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.* 2 Tim. 1:6 *For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you* **Holy Spirit, fill me with your presence. Help me to serve you with a new passion. Bring to mind the wonderful things my Savior has done for me. As we are on the eve of Holy Week, make me more aware than ever of the great Love you had for me in giving yourself, Jesus, and how much I owe you. Although I could never repay you and know there is no use in trying, help me to show my love by discovering and using the gifts your Spirit has granted me for service in your Kingdom. When there is a spark, may it grow into a glow. Where is a glow, may it fire up and flame into a bright light which brings glory to your Kingdom and points the way to Heaven through faith in my Savior, Jesus Christ in whose holy name and for whose sake I pray. Amen.

Sun March 28 Palm Sunday is one of the most extraordinary days in all of history. The events of this day were predicted over 400 years earlier. And the prophecy came to pass exactly as it was foretold. (No psychic, astrologer, horoscope or guru can compete)

Zech. 9:9 *Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.* **King Jesus, may we worship you rightly today and every day, not just throwing our coats and palm branches down for an hour or two on a Sunday morning, but may we call you LORD and make you King of the throne of our hearts at all times, in every situation. May we be pleased to call out your name; Yahweh of the Old Testament, who was not just a baby in Bethlehem but who lived before Abraham was. You, who are the great "I AM" and gave up your life for the sheep who keep running away. We worship and bow down. We honor and obey. We kneel before your throne and call you King of Kings and LORD of Lords...and we ask you to forgive us when we go astray. We love you. Help us to love you more perfectly. Hear us for your own sake, Amen

Mon. March 29 Nothing happens in God's universe by accident. There is no such a thing as "co-incidence". Everything is by design and precise mathematical engineering. God's plan was laid down before the foundation of the world was established. His plan is the ultimate Rubic's Cube.....the ultimate Domino Effect.

Chuck Missler Col. 1:15-20 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.* **Dear LORD, I was never very good at the Rubic's cube and I'm not so good at figuring out many things in your Word; like how three can be One or how you could die, rejected by your Father, and yet come back to Life. But I don't have to figure it out, I just have to believe...but I'm not so good at that either, unless your Holy Spirit works in me. Help me to study your Word, and wherever I can't understand the Plan, open my eyes of faith: "God's Word said it, I believe it," In Jesus I pray, Amen

Tues. March. 30 The most staggering part of the Plan is that we, individually, are His motive for His Plan. Incomprehensible ! **Chuck** **Missler**

Is 53:5 *he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed* Eph. 1:4 *he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy & blameless in his sight.* **So LORD, we are the reason you set up your plan and the motive for that plan. This indeed is not something I understand. But I am extremely grateful for it. Without the understanding of your plan NOTHING makes sense. There must be great confusion for those who don't know you. They must wonder "why am I here? How did I get here? Where am I going?" Thank you for giving us answers to all those questions. Help me to answer them for others. Open their hearts to hear and believe the Plan. Amen.

Wed. March 31 Every character has an inward spring; let Christ be that spring. Every action has a keynote; let Christ be that note, to which your whole life is attuned. Henry Drummond **The name of Jesus is the one lever that lifts the world.** Unknown **Ephes. 2:19-21** *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.* **Thank you, dear Cornerstone, for the faith you have placed in me, for allowing me to be part of your Church here on earth, with many other stones holding the structure together. Help each of us to do our part in making the whole building strong. If I am a small stone, let me fill that space well. If I am a strong rock, keep me in place, not allowing me to roll over a weaker one, crushing his spirit. Show each of us the job you have for us to do. May we all work together in love for you, bonded together with the mortar of YOUR Love, which endured throughout the floggings & ridicule, the cross & grave, and will bond us in Heaven. Amen

Thurs. April 1 A fool may be known by six things: anger without cause; speech without profit; change without progress; inquiry without object; putting trust in a stranger; and mistaking foes for friends. Arabian Proverb **Prov 12:15** *The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.* **Prov 29:11** *A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.* **John 18:10** *Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it & struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear.* **Psalm 4:4** *In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts & be silent.* **LORD, if anyone had a reason or "cause" for anger, my human nature tells me it was Peter! He was standing up for you in the Garden against the soldiers who had come to rescue you! Yet you rebuked him. Yeah, I guess it's pretty silly to think this fisherman could stand against those tough soldiers and it's even more ridiculous to think you "needed" to be protected by him. LORD, we do get mixed up on when anger is righteous and when it is just plain temper, with our emotions in the flesh out-of-control. Give us discernment and wisdom to check our motives for anger. You never called the emotion of anger a sin, it's just what we may DO in our anger. Help us to check our anger before acting on it. Oh, yes, sometimes there's reason for immediate action, like when someone is being hurt unjustly and we need to stand up for the helpless against evil, but other times, give us a cool head, to search our hearts, as Psalm 4:4 says and to be silent until we have searched our hearts and allow your Spirit to guide and lead us in the proper way to handle the strong emotion of anger. May we act on it as you would, Jesus. As far as the other things the Arabian lists as foolish, we could fit them all, but with your help and wisdom we will make less foolish choices. Happy are we, even if we are "April fools," because in our sinful foolishness we are forgiven and loved by you. Amen in you.

Fri. April 2 Good Friday "The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake." Basil C. Hum **Numbers 24:17** *"I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the sons of Sheth.* **1 John 3:2-3** *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.* **Jesus, our crucified Savior, your disciples had lost hope and humanly speaking, who could blame them? Looking back at the words of the Bible, through the pages of Old Testament promises and the many times you had told them of your impending death, it seems incredible they didn't "get it." Yet, how often do we not "get it?" On that day, the disciples' eyes had witnessed unspeakable horror of blood and ripped flesh from your body; unimaginable pain and shame which you bore. They had seen you die. You, the same one who raised Lazarus from the dead, was now dead and gone. Their life was shattered and all they had hoped and dreamed was now over because of what their eyes had seen, their emotions had felt and their human reason had understood. But this was Friday and Sunday was around the corner. Heavenly Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit, when we get stuck in the "Good Friday Mode," believing only what humans can see, experience and feel, take us to the empty tomb, where we see through Heavenly eyes and know the peace and joy of a Risen Savior who is able to conquer all pain and suffering, all shame and fear. Take us from the cross to the glory of your Majesty where we see ourselves in Heaven even as we may suffer here on earth. Give us strength and hope and faith to trust you in each and every moment here on earth, looking forward to an eternity of joy. LORD, as we wait, may we openly share with others the peace & joy in you, which the world cannot give Amen.

Sat. April 3 "Christ has not only spoken to us by his life but has also spoken for us by his death." Soren Kierkegaard **John 11:25-26** *Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.'* **Eph. 6:10-13** *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.* **Savior, on this day in between your cross and your glory, may we stand firm in the promises of your word. As the women who loved Jesus so much were preparing to adorn his lifeless body, you were giving them armor as you have given us protective gear to stand against Satan, the world and our own flesh. While those same women were mixing the spices and likely getting better cloths to wrap you in, you were telling Satan just where his boundaries were. You showed him your fully completed life of perfection and an innocent death which destroy his hold over us and the eternal death we would have faced because of sin. You showed Satan you had won the war and he could now only wage battles against your children which had no lasting control. Truly our battles are not of this world. They never have been. We struggle on a daily basis to believe and trust your promises as the effects of sin beat and batter us. Help us to wear and use the FULL armor you have provided through your work of salvation. Cover our thoughts, our emotions and every other part of our being which Satan, the world and

our sinful flesh find vulnerable. Thank you for dying so that we might live eternally with you in Heaven. Keep us in this faith until our end. Amen in Jesus name.