

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS RELATING TO PRAYER

Compiled by Clergy and Program Staff at Roswell Presbyterian Church 2008

Books with an asterisk are available in the RPC Church Library

DAILY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER BOOKS

* Baillie, John, *A Diary of Private Prayer*. New York: Collier Books, Macmillan Publishing Company, 1949.

Over a million copies of this book have been printed and are still available today because of the depth and richness of the prayers written in this book by John Baillie. This personal prayer book by Dr. Baillie includes a morning and evening prayer for every day of the month. Further, there is a blank page beside each morning/evening prayer for the reader to add their own petitions. The prayer language is an older English style with “thee,” “thou,” etc., and there is no use of gender inclusive language. However, the beauty and truth found in the prayers is so captivating that the language difficulties can either be overlooked or altered as you use these prayers for conversations with God.

* Calvin, John, *Heart Aflame, Daily Readings from Calvin on the Psalms*. Foreword by Sinclair B. Ferguson. New Jersey: P& R Publishing, 1999.

Calvin described the Psalms as “an anatomy of all parts of the soul.” They include every conceivable human emotion from joy to sorrow to anger to despair. This devotional extracts from Calvin’s *Commentary on the Psalms*, short segments from the book of Psalms in chronological order. At the time of Calvin, the knowledge of the Psalms was quite common. Believers would sing them around their family tables, silently recite parts of them throughout their day. The Psalms were a part of the everyday fabric of their living. Today we miss that component. In this devotional, Calvin leads us to the substance of the psalm verses for the day.

The gender exclusive writing may create a little bit of bump, but the beauty that is found in the writing and the truth that is lifted out is spiritually nourishing.

Cowman, L. B., *Streams in the Desert*, ed. James Reimann, *366 Daily Devotional Readings*. Grand rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997.

This updated edition in today’s language appeared in its original form in 1925. It is a compilation of daily devotional readings, each based on a brief scripture with a one to two page devotional. These prayerful meditations have provided nurture, inspiration, and wisdom for many Christians over the decades and is just as relevant for life today as when it was first written. It may be used as a personal devotional book or for a family or couple looking for something to serve as a springboard for conversations related to their spirituality as it pertains to life experiences.

Fuller, Cheri. *The One Year Book of Praying through the Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 2003.

This daily devotional is a partner book to *The One Year Bible*. A small portion of scripture is offered each day with a personal commentary, a prayer, and a quote from various Christians throughout the ages representing different Christian perspectives. It is very usable, in that it offers short readings that are applicable to our daily lives.

Newell, J Philip. *Celtic Treasure: Daily Scriptures and Prayer*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2005.

This book of prayers with scriptures offers a fresh expression of the ancient Celtic Christian tradition. This tradition includes an emphasis on creation, nature and the Trinity, as well as justice, love and wisdom. There are seven “books” each with seven days: Scripture and prayers are provided for each day and each book focuses on a different theme: Stories of Creation; Journey and Promise; Power and Justice; Sayings of Wisdom; Songs of the Soul; The Good New of Jesus; Letters of Love. Celtic art illustrations are also included.

BOOKS ABOUT PRAYER

Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection. *The Practice of The Presence Of God*. Trans. John J. Delaney. Foreword by Henri J. M. Nouwen. New York: Doubleday, 1977.

Brother Lawrence lived in the seventeenth century. His spoken and written words speak to the disjointed ethos of our postmodern world, “fragmented and alienated” in our living. Brother Lawrence’s aim was to practice the presence of God in all things that he did and in all relationships he had. While these words are of a seventeenth century monk, this book