



GUIDEPOSTS
DAILY PLANNER
2023

*Clap your hands, all you nations;
shout to God with cries of joy. —PSALM 47:1 (NIV)*



A PRAYER FOR JULY

Our fathers' God, to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, our King!

SAMUEL FRANCIS SMITH

FILLED WITH PRAISE Applauding God

My visit to Carmel, one of the loveliest spots on the California coast, coincided with a rock festival in nearby Monterey. Late on a sparkling afternoon, my hostess and I went down to the beach to watch the sun-spectacular. We were dismayed to find the usually placid beach aswarm with noisy, brawling, long-haired young people, all of them drinking, smoking, wrestling, shrieking. It was quite a sight, and we were about to retreat—but suddenly the glorious sunset swept over us. And over them.

For almost an hour, as kaleidoscopic streamers of red, gold, rose, and lavender streaked across the sky, we sat there enthralled. A deep hush fell over the throng, and an unbroken peace descended upon all. Finally, as the last little rim of the brilliant red ball dropped below the horizon, a great wave of spontaneous applause burst from the rock crowd.

"What do you know?" my friend exclaimed in astonishment. "They're applauding God!"

"No," I countered rather bluntly, "they're applauding nature."

She smiled at me. "Somewhere I read these words," she said. "'A sunset is nature. The beauty is God.' I don't think you can love the one without the other, do you?"

—*Elaine St. Johns*

JULY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

NOTES

JUNE

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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AUGUST

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28
WEDNESDAY

He has made everything beautiful in its time. —Ecclesiastes 3:11 (ESV)

29
THURSDAY

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
—Psalm 145:3–4 (NRSV)

30
FRIDAY

In peace I will lie down and sleep . . . —Psalm 4:8 (NIV)

JULY
1
SATURDAY

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
—Philippians 2:4 (ESV)

shadows all these years? No more. From now on, I'm going to stop wasting time. No more looking for monsters, no more waiting for those dire

imagined calamities; today I'm simply placing all my trust in my Father, knowing that He is in complete control.
—Madge Harrah

PRAYER REQUESTS _____

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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JUNE

OUR PRAYER

Father, may we always hear Your message.

2 SUNDAY	Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! —Psalm 100:4 (ESV)
3 MONDAY	The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. —Matthew 13:45 (NIV)
4 TUESDAY INDEPENDENCE DAY	All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. —Hebrews 11:39 (NLT)

ACCORDING TO A WORLD War II story, word went out through an infantry unit that the communications office was looking for a telegrapher. Because the fighting was heavy and the communications outfit was far from the front lines, an unusually large number of soldiers showed up at the appointed time to apply for the job.

The applicants sat outside the interviewer's office for several minutes, but no one was called inside. Only the sound of dots and dashes from a telegraph machine broke the silence.

Suddenly, one of the soldiers jumped to his feet and rushed into the interview room. The others were astounded, but a minute later he returned with the officer in charge, who announced that the man at his side had won the job. "Why?" the others demanded.

"It's like this," the officer explained. "While you were sitting here, I sent a message in code that said, 'Anyone who can read this, come into my office immediately.' This man understood the message, so obviously he's the best qualified for the job."

JULY 2023

Order your *Guideposts Daily Planner 2023* Today

5
WEDNESDAY

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. —Proverbs 3:6 (KJV)

6
THURSDAY

Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. —Isaiah 40:26 (NIV)

7
FRIDAY

For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. —Psalm 72:12 (KJV)

8
SATURDAY

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. —Psalm 96:1 (NIV)

JULY

We know that God has a plan for each of our lives—the Bible tells us so. Our job is to stand ready to hear His message when He calls—and

then to obey His marching orders.

Are you tuned in to receive His message today?
—Fred Bauer

PRAYER REQUESTS _____

JULY

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OUR PRAYER

*Father, You always make me feel welcome.
Help me to pass Your loving hospitality on to others.*

9
SUNDAY

Each will be like a refuge from the wind and a shelter from the storm, Like streams of water in a dry country, Like the shade of a huge rock in an exhausted land.
—Isaiah 32:2 (NASB)

10
MONDAY

As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him. —Psalm 103:13 (NRSV)

11
TUESDAY

Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them. —John 7:38 (NIV)

MY HUSBAND AND I were traveling across the country and decided on the spur of the moment to drop in on some old friends, only to find that they were in the midst of packing for an imminent move! Boxes were stacked high in all the rooms, trash was strewn over the floors, unkempt children dashed about the halls.

Nevertheless, our friends greeted us joyfully. They seated us without apology on crates in the midst of the chaos and served us fresh-baked cherry pie and steaming coffee while giving us their undivided attention for a full hour. Seldom have I

felt so royally treated.

The memory of that day has since helped me through many a household crisis of my own. Among other things, it has taught me that I need never be embarrassed over a messy house or a chaotic situation. To throw a damper over what could be a happy occasion just because I'm not happy with the current state of disorder is selfish. It only serves to focus attention away from the guests and onto my tension and discomfort. Yes, the annoyance that petty problems may present is certainly trivial when we consider that what *really counts* is

JULY 2023

Order your Guideposts Daily Planner 2023 Today

12
WEDNESDAY

Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. —Psalm 82:3 (KJV)

13
THURSDAY

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. —Hebrews 2:1 (NIV)

14
FRIDAY

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. —Isaiah 43:1 (NIV)

15
SATURDAY

I will give you treasures concealed in the dark and secret hoards—so that you may know that it is I the Lord. —Isaiah 45:3 (JPS)

JULY

the joy we find in one another's company.

After all, aren't we familiar with the blessed comfort we feel when our Heavenly Father

welcomes us into His house, at any time, under any circumstances?

—Madge Harrah

PRAYER REQUESTS _____

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OUR PRAYER

Dear God, help me to understand that while my hatred works only against me, prayer works for us all.

16
SUNDAY

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. —Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

17
MONDAY

The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. —Psalm 121:7–8 (NIV)

18
TUESDAY

You, LORD, you are God! You have promised these good things to your servant. —1 Chronicles 17:26 (NIV)

SOME YEARS AGO, A woman in our town seemed to take joy in criticizing people behind their backs, including members of my family.

At first I let that woman's behavior really disturb me. One day, I complained bitterly about it to a friend, who gently urged me: "Don't criticize. Pray."

Reluctant to pray for this bothersome woman, I decided to take my friend's advice anyway. *It won't hurt to try*, I told myself. But what happened next took me by surprise. No, my prayers didn't cause

the woman to change. They changed me! I simply couldn't bring myself to hate someone for whom I was praying. And at last I felt peace within myself because I was no longer having to deal with all those bad feelings.

Have you ever tried praying for someone who has treated you poorly? Try it and see what happens. I wager that you'll be every bit as surprised as I was. Don't pray for the other person to change, but for God to bless that person, always remembering that the other is one of His children too. Then

19
WEDNESDAY

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. —Psalm 56:3 (NIV)

20
THURSDAY

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. —Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

21
FRIDAY

You cannot tolerate wrongdoing. . . . Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves? —Habakkuk 1:13 (NIV)

22
SATURDAY

But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. —Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

you'll find it easier to let go of the ill will that has been destroying your happiness and taking away your peace of mind.

Today's a splendid day to set out in search of peace, don't you agree?

—Samantha McGarrity

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OUR PRAYER

Father, can You hear my footsteps today?

23
SUNDAY

You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them. —Psalm 89:9 (NKJV)

24
MONDAY

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. —James 1:19 (NIV)

25
TUESDAY

His radiance exceeds anything in earth and sky; he's built a monument—his very own people! —Psalm 148:13 (MSG)

SHE LAY WITH HER nose resting on her paws, apparently asleep. Che'la was her name, poodle was her breed, gray her color.

And my friend Sue was the one Che'la loved most of all. This was evident in the way Che'la's shiny black shoe-button eyes peered up from under a fringe of hair and followed my friend every time she stood up and moved about the room. When Sue led me into the dining room, Che'la trotted at her heels. When we went out on the patio, Che'la followed. Wherever Sue went, Che'la was always nearby. And whether the small, curly haired dog

was playing with the new kittens or drinking from the water dish, she always seemed to have one eye fixed on her master.

In Genesis 5, a man named Enoch is said to have "walked with God." I have long pondered over the exact meaning of that phrase—and now I think that at last I understand it. I believe that Enoch walked through life in constant devotion for his Master—just as little Che'la's days are spent in following after my friend Sue. To and fro, here and there, Enoch went about his daily business, ever alert to follow God's commands, ever rejoicing in God's presence,

26
WEDNESDAY

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
—James 4:7 (NIV)

27
THURSDAY

Then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride in triumph . . .
—Isaiah 58:14 (NIV)

28
FRIDAY

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. —Ephesians 6:10 (ESV)

29
SATURDAY

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. —Psalm 139:14 (NIV)

JULY

always choosing to stay close to God.

I would like to “walk with God” too, to share with Him every moment of sunshine that

crosses my path, each shadow of uncertainty, the least thought in my heart.

—Doris Haase

PRAYER REQUESTS _____

JULY

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OUR PRAYER

*Father, stay close that I may
walk with You today—all day.*

30
SUNDAY

For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
—1 Corinthians 12:13 (NIV)

31
MONDAY

You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this.
Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.
—1 Corinthians 12:27–28 (MSG)

AUGUST
1
TUESDAY

... and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. —Isaiah 55:12 (KJV)

I COULD FEEL IT happening to me. Despite the schedule I had set for myself for further spiritual growth—Bible reading, meditation, prayer—I was having trouble staying with my plans. Concerned, I wrote of my problem to the man who had been pastor of our church for many years before his retirement. He replied that although St. Paul tells us to pray without ceasing, this does not mean that we should pray to the exclusion of other efforts.

"Instead of dedicating *parts* of your day to

God," he wrote, "dedicate the *whole* day to Him. Meditate while you travel to work. On the job, offer up your efforts for His glory. Keep God's love in your heart in your relations with others, asking forgiveness when you offend, granting forgiveness when you are offended. Let God be your partner in all you do at *all* times."

His words made me think, and then I remembered that the Lord said He would be with us always—not just in church on Sundays.

AUGUST 2023

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