



Journeying Together in  
*Prayer*

2015 Prayer Journal

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JUDSON COLLEGE

Welcome to the fifth annual Judson College prayer journal!

This year's journal is almost identical in format to last year's edition. We found the stories of our Judson sisters so powerful that we decided to include ten more this year. Their lives, though different, share two common themes: love of God and love of Judson. We are grateful for their faithfulness to live into their callings with strength, grace, and determination. We hope that you will find these Judson women equally encouraging and inspiring as you ask how you can serve your God and your Judson.

In addition, each week features a scripture passage and a list of prayer concerns to guide our prayers for our beloved Judson. As you study, read, and pray, we ask that you allow your minds and hearts to be changed. Let God mold you, call you, and use you. A host of Judson women already have and we are blessed beyond measure because they dared to say yes!

Susan D. Jones, '02  
Mandy E. McMichael, '02  
Co-chairs, Journeying Together in Prayer Committee

## Opening Prayer

*Lord, we ask for your help as we seek to make Judson a college that serves you. Grant all of us – trustees, faculty, administration, students, alumnae, and supporters – wisdom as we discern where you are leading us next. May we seek your guidance as we determine how we might increase Judson's influence in Perry County, Alabama, the United States, and the world. Give us clear goals, capable leaders, and willing servants to accomplish each task you bring before us. Remind us that sometimes we will be the laborers that are called upon. When we are, help us answer the call to serve this institution to whom we owe so much. Thank you, God, for your faithfulness to Judson College. May all who come behind us find us faithful, too. Amen.*

## Week 1: February 1 – February 7

### **Betty Ann Colburn '63**

Betty Ann Montz Pritchett Colburn is a retired school counselor and teacher residing in Marion, Alabama. She has been a very active member of the Marion Chapter of the Judson College Alumnae Association. She is a former president of the chapter. Betty Ann served as the Director of Alumnae Affairs in the late 1970s and was president of the Judson College Alumnae Association from 1976-1978. She was co-editor of the Judson College cookbook and was a sponsor of the Judson College Tapestry Project. Betty Ann received the Alumnae Loyalty Award in 2003. Betty Ann is the proud mother of four Judson graduates, Lisa Pritchett Presley, Leigh Pritchett Sawicki, Lynne Pritchett Sluder, and Lori Pritchett Wright. Because of her love and dedication to Judson College and the Marion community, Betty Ann's legacy exemplifies that of a true "Judson Girl."

*O send out your light and your truth;  
let them lead me;  
let them bring me to your holy hill  
and to your dwelling.  
-Psalm 43:3*

### **Prayer focus: Admissions and prospective students**

- Pray for admissions and financial aid staff members.
- Pray for prospective students and their families.
- Pray for pastors, guidance counselors, and other leaders who influence prospective students.
- Ask God to help you identify students that you know that might be interested in Judson.

## Week 2: February 8 – February 14

### Nancy White Thomas '26

During her lifetime, Nancy White Thomas exemplified the qualities of a true Judson woman. Her gifts to Judson were numerous and in 1996, she began making special donations to Judson each year on her birthday calling her gifts “her best birthday presents.” Mrs. Thomas wrote many articles on church music, particularly the study of hymns.

Beginning in 1966, her primary focus was the field of criminal justice. She volunteered to work with the Richmond Bureau of Police and was the first civilian to be permitted to attend the Basic Police Training School in order to be able to represent the police to the community. Her association with the police led her to work with the women in the city jail for 26 years; Thomas loved, taught, and encouraged the female inmates whenever possible.

Her kindnesses to Judson included donating the Flentrop Organ in the Ramsay-McCrummen Chapel, funds to build the Thomas Choral and Recital Room in Tucker Hall, her collection of church music and hymnals, and her collection of porcelain Boehm Birds displayed in the Dunkin parlors of Jewett Hall. She received a Judson College Board of Trustees Resolution of Appreciation on her 100th birthday in 2005. On that occasion, Thomas said that she has tried to reflect God’s grace and love. Her faithfulness to her church, her family, and her Judson evidenced that deep love.

*I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.  
-Psalm 32:8*

### Prayer focus: Freshmen

- Pray for this year’s freshman class as they finish their second semester of college.
- Pray for students who are preparing to declare a major.
- Pray about the retention of students.

## Week 3: February 15 – February 21

### **Ruth Aung Ra Saga Vreeland '04**

When Ruth Aung Ra arrived in Marion in 2000, she became the first Burmese student to attend Judson College. Like most other Christians in Burma, now officially called Myanmar, Ruth traces her spiritual ancestry back to Adoniram and Ann Judson. Ruth grew up in Myitkyina, Kachin State, Myanmar. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree at Judson in 2004, then earned a Master of Divinity degree from Beeson Divinity School at Samford University. As a student, Ruth inspired her classmates with her commitment to return to Burma and work with her father at the Kachin Theological College and Seminary, where she and her husband, Mike, now lecture for several months out of each year. Since her graduation from Judson, Ruth has helped four other young women from Burma continue their education at her Alma Mater, while helping Judson build an ongoing partnership with the Kachin Theological College and Seminary.

*Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for I delight in it.  
-Psalm 119:35*

### **Prayer focus: Junior/Sophomores**

- Pray for this year's Junior/Soph class.
- Pray that God will prepare students for leadership positions on campus and in the community.
- Pray for the mental, physical, and spiritual well-being of Judson's students.

## Week 4: February 22 – February 28

### **Iona Gillespie Fontaine '35**

Iona Gillespie Fontaine attended Judson on an Alabama WMU scholarship and completed her mathematics degree in 1935. As a student, she taught Vacation Bible School and study courses for the Baptist Sunday School Department. She also taught Sunday school at Siloam Baptist Church. Iona would go on to serve as a Church Education Director in Jackson and Montgomery, Alabama. At 102 years old, Iona Fontaine continues to be a dedicated supporter of her Alma Mater, an officer of the Montgomery Area JCAA Chapter, and a Sunday school teacher and dedicated WMU member at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Montgomery.

*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.  
Let your spirit lead me on a level path.  
-Psalm 143:10*

### **Prayer focus: Seniors**

- Pray for Seniors as they approach graduation and begin to look for jobs and apply for graduate schools.
- Pray about how you can help new graduates as they leave Judson.
- Pray that these Judson women will remain connected to their alma mater.

## Week 5: March 1 – March 7

### Frances Ford '77

Frances Ford demonstrates her desire to serve God by serving her neighbors daily. Through her work among “the least of these” in Perry County, Frances stands as a role model for current Judson students engaged in Faith-Based Service and Learning activities. Her advocacy work for the people of the Black Belt is inspiring to generations of Judson alumnae. Her genuine concern for each person she meets and her commitment to sharing God’s love through thought, word, and deed make Mrs. Ford an outstanding representative of her Alma Mater.

Frances Dobyne Ford is a native of Perry County, Alabama. After a long career in nursing, Mrs. Ford began her ministry with Sowing Seeds of Hope, a non-profit community development organization based in Marion. Ford first served as Perry County Health Care Coordinator before becoming Executive Director of Sowing Seeds of Hope. Her daughter, Marsha, is a 2007 Judson graduate who currently serves the College as Assistant Vice President for Athletics.

*I keep the LORD always before me;  
because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.  
-Psalm 16:8*

### Prayer focus: Student Services

- Pray for staff members in Student Life and Athletics as they develop relationships with students.
- Pray for Resident Assistants in the residence halls as they seek to minister to their fellow students.
- Pray for the student-athletes on Judson’s soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, tennis, and equestrian teams.

## Week 6: March 8 – March 14

### Carol Schjott '65

Carol Schjott followed her big sister Marian's example and began classes at Judson College after graduating from Murphy High School in 1961. She graduated with a degree in elementary education in 1965. Carol taught in Atlanta, Georgia for seven years before returning to Mobile to complete her Master's in Education at the University of South Alabama in 1976. She completed a second graduate degree at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1982. She then began work as a preschool and children's minister in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Carol later returned to Mobile, working as the preschool secretary, single adult intern, and leader for church-related seminars at Cottage Hill Baptist Church in addition to teaching in the Mobile County Public School System until her retirement to assume care of her mother. After a career spanning more than three decades, Carol retired from teaching and became the primary caregiver for her aging mother, who was suffering from Alzheimer's. She has held several officer and committee positions for the JCAA and the Greater Mobile Area Chapter. Carol is currently a member of Judson's Board of Advisors. Her life has been dedicated to serving others, and she has set a standard that Judson Girls everywhere should emulate.

*Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,  
for in you I put my trust.  
Teach me the way I should go,  
for to you I lift up my soul.  
Psalm 143:8*

### Prayer focus: Facilities and Housekeeping staff

- Pray for members of the facilities and housekeeping staff as they keep campus buildings clean and in working order.
- Pray for members of the Marion community.
- Pray for Judson faculty, staff, and students as they seek to love their neighbors well.

## Week 7: March 15 – March 21

### **Dorothy Pryor '51**

Dorothy Pryor grew up in Decatur, Alabama, where she attended Central Baptist Church. Her pastor, Dr. Paul Roberts, was a Judson trustee and encouraged her to consider Judson. Once at Judson, Pryor was named to the Dean's List, served on the SGA council, and played hockey and basketball. She was also listed in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities." As a Judson student, she worked in Vacation Bible Schools and at Girl's Auxiliary summer camps. After Judson, she taught for two years at West Blocton High School, about 40 miles from Marion, while continuing her summer work with the Alabama Woman's Missionary Union. In addition to her BA from Judson, Pryor holds a master's degree from the Carver School of Missions and Social Work at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, which she earned in 1955. She planned to serve in international missions, possibly in China, but instead became a missions proponent in her homeland.

Pryor became Young Woman's Auxiliary director for the Georgia Baptist Convention and later director of the Woman's Missionary Society before becoming Georgia WMU director in 1963. Pryor retired in 1991 after many years of service in the Woman's Missionary Unions of Alabama and Georgia. Her extensive travels took her to mission fields in the U.S., South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Pryor served as president of the Judson Alumnae Association for two years beginning in 1988 and received the Outstanding Alumna Award in 1992. She established the Dorothy M. Pryor Fund for Faculty Development at Judson in 2005 and currently serves on the college's Board of Advisors.

*Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.  
Psalm 25:4-5*

### **Prayer focus: Faculty and Academic Support staff**

- Pray for members of the faculty, library personnel, and the academic support staff.
- Pray that they will have enough kindness, encouragement, and vision to inspire their students to try new things.

## Week 8: March 22 – March 28

### Nina Brice Gwin '43

Though Nina Brice Gwin, who graduated from Judson in 1943 as the 34-year-old wife of the pastor of Siloam Baptist Church, wasn't a typical Judson student, she was a real "Judson girl". She was a leader in local and state Woman's Missionary Union organizations and was actively involved in the work of local churches and Baptist associations. On her Golden Club information form, Mrs. Gwin cited her confidence to lead and willingness to serve as benefits of her Judson education. Mrs. Gwin received the Judson College Outstanding Alumna Award in 1968, during the 100th anniversary year of the Judson College Alumnae Association. She faithfully devoted her time and talents to her local church in music and in teaching Sunday school, and to missions work for local, state, and national WMU organizations. She made important contributions to the preservation of church and WMU records in several states. She conducted oral histories of church and WMU leaders, and crafted plays, stories, and even poetry to preserve and communicate the stories of the people and organizations she encountered. Mrs. Gwin's life reveals the impact of a woman devoted to "doing her part" to improve the world around her. Her commitment to serving God and others, wherever she was and in whatever capacity, gracefully embodied "the Judson ideal."

*You are indeed my rock and my fortress;  
for your name's sake lead me and guide me.  
-Psalm 31:3*

### Prayer focus: Administrators

- Pray that the President and other administrators would have wisdom as they make decisions that affect the future of the College.
- Pray that God would guide them toward individuals and groups who can help make Judson even better.

## Week 9: March 29 – April 4

### Mary Wellborn Clark Bell '43

Mary Wellborn Clark Bell's life exemplifies her love for God and for Judson College. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Judson College in 1943 with a B.A. degree. She is also a *summa cum laude* graduate of the Margaret Booth School with a Latin Diploma. She was married to the late Tommy Bell, and they have two children: Mary An (a Judson graduate) and John.

Bell worked a Sunday School Worker for 23 years in First Baptist Church of Montgomery, including 17 years as Department Director and leader of a women's prayer group. She served as JCAA National President from 1956-1958. She also sat on the Judson College Board of Trustees from 1943-1967 and was elected the first woman chairman of Trustees. In 1985, Judson awarded her an honorary doctorate.

*The counsel of the LORD stands for ever,  
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.  
Psalm 33:11*

### Prayer focus: Alumnae and Boards

- Pray for members of the Board of Trustees, Board of Governors, and Board of Advisors as they seek to guide and support the College.
- Pray that Judson alumnae will find effective ways to reach out to prospective students, minister to current students, and connect with fellow graduates. Pray specifically about how you can personally do each of those things in greater ways.

## Week 10: April 5 – April 11

### Margaret Mead Britton '34

Margaret Mead Britton graduated from Judson College with a BA degree in Home Economics. She continued her education at Columbia University in New York where she earned a Master's degree in Institution Management. Margaret was a very active student while at Judson with memberships in the Baptist Student Union, the Triangle Staff, the Home Economics club, and the Art Club. She described one of the many valuable lessons she learned at Judson: "I learned to live with and appreciate others from day to day, giving my best and finding their best." Margaret Mead Britton dedicated much of her time and abilities to helping preserve her Alma Mater for the generations of Judson sisters who followed. She said her definition of the Judson legacy was "learning the value of faith, of knowledge, and of tradition." Margaret Britton was a very active member of the Montgomery Judson Alumnae Chapter and a lifetime member of the Judson College Board of Trustees. She was married to Dr. William R. Britton and mother to two sons. She was an active member of First Baptist Church of Montgomery, AL. She was awarded the Judson College Outstanding Alumna Award in 1991.

Someone once described Britton as possessing, "all those things we have come to expect from an outstanding woman and a Judson girl. She was a committed wife, mother, and grandmother while serving on numerous committees, boards, and staying very active in her church." Her pastor said of her, "Margaret Britton personifies the love of Christ in action."

*You have multiplied, O LORD my God,  
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us;  
none can compare with you.  
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,  
they would be more than can be counted.  
-Psalm 40:5*

### Prayer focus: The future of Judson College

- Pray for the future of Judson.
- Pray for staff members in institutional advancement and the upcoming capital campaign.
- Pray that you will be open to a variety of ways that you can help your alma mater.

## Closing Prayer

*God, we have been given so much. Help us to understand our responsibility to give to others. At times, that responsibility is overwhelming, but we believe that you will give us powers that are equal to our tasks.*

*God, we know that you do not call your people to mediocrity. Thank you that those who have come before us have left us an example of how to follow you well. Help us to live in such a way that those who come behind us will find us faithful.*

*Give us the faith and strength we need to aspire to the “high endeavor, lofty thought, and noble deed” to which you call us. Amen.*