

A photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a campus. The sky is filled with clouds, illuminated from below by the sun, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several buildings are visible against the bright horizon. The most prominent building on the right features a tall, multi-tiered steeple with a dome. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

# *Journeying Together in Prayer*

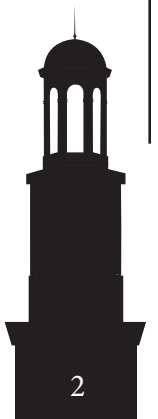
2017 Prayer Journal  
Judson College

## *Acknowledgements*

We are so thankful to, and proud of, the student writers who contributed to this project:

Tyne Amos  
Chandra Barnes  
Miranda Brown  
Lillie Hobson  
Lauren Hurt  
Kayla Jones  
Sara Jean Lane  
Quenteeria Mooney  
Jordan Ross  
Hannah Woods

We are indebted to **Katlin Bailey '12** for cover art, page graphics, and formatting assistance.



# *Introduction*

Welcome to the seventh annual Judson College prayer journal!

This year, we designed the prayer journal as a guide that would help Judson alumnae to feel connected to the Judson campus community through their prayers. Each entry's prayer focus highlights a current campus event or group of Judson community members, and we've included a few prayer guides suggesting specific ways to pray each week. Most of our entries are written by current Judson students, whom we asked to reflect on their experiences with each week's prayer focus.

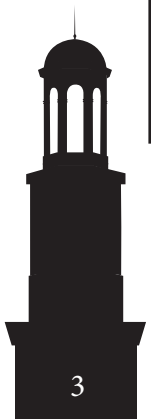
When we compiled the students' entries, the result was a journal that focused less on current Judson events and people, and more on the ways in which each student's experience with her assigned prayer focus helped her discover who God was calling her to be. Many of the students' entries you'll read will focus on calling: how God called them to Judson, to their major, to their vocation.

Rather than just feeling "in the know" about what's happening on campus as you're praying, our hope is that you'll begin to realize the ways in which your story is connected to those of our student writers. The theme of stories is an important one for the Judson campus this academic year; the Student Life division's theme is "Discovering our Story", and this spring's J-Day theme will be "Sharing Our Story".

This year's prayer journal links current students' stories and voices with those of the generations who have come before them. When you read about Mary Essie Stephens and Christian Emphasis Week, or engage with Jordan's perspective on the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame, or learn about Quenteeria's admiration for her peers, we hope that you'll be prompted to reflect on your own calling and ways that your Judson experience may have helped to get you there.

We pray that you would be strengthened and encouraged by the lessons our students are learning. As we "journey together in prayer" for our campus this spring, let's grow together with current students in our love for Judson and for our God.

Amy F. Butler, '09  
Mary Amelia Taylor, '09  
Co-chairs, Journeying Together in Prayer Committee





*Week 1:* January 22 - January 28

*Prayer Focus:* Christian Emphasis Week (January 24-26)

Judson's annual event known as Christian Emphasis Week began at the request of a Judson student. During the 1943-1944 academic year, junior Mary Essie Stephens asked Judson President Dr. John Riddle if it might be possible to bring special guests to campus to encourage the college community in their spiritual growth. Riddle agreed. With the support of Judson's faculty and staff, Stephens planned Judson's first Religious Emphasis Week. Stephens graduated from Judson in 1945 and in 1954 entered what would become a thirty-year career as executive director of Alabama WMU. Stephens' life illustrates what happens when we let go of our own plans and follow God's path for our lives, and her story is particularly fitting to remember during this year's Christian Emphasis Week.

The speaker for Christian Emphasis Week is Grace Thornton, a freelance writer, blogger, and correspondent for *The Alabama Baptist* newspaper. Thornton is the author of a book entitled *I Don't Wait Anymore: Letting Go of Expectations and Grasping God's Adventure for You*, which updates that theme for a 2016 audience.

The book is an intimate look at Thornton's own faith journey, in which she confronted her own assumptions about what her life should look like--assumptions she had formed during her life growing up in church and well-meaning "obedience" to God. She describes the restlessness that followed when her experience didn't match the "well-worn path" she'd wanted. "God had to be bigger than this," she wrote, "bigger than the supervisor of my blueprints, bigger than the God who brings the life I want on a platter as a reward for my obedience..." Thornton's life reached a turning point when she realized that her understanding of God needed to "become bigger in my heart than anything else." "I didn't want to wait anymore. I already had God. And He is everything."

Thornton's book encourages readers to do exactly what Mary Essie Stephens did: to thirst for the God who writes infinitely better stories than we could imagine and to joyfully give up our plans to gain the infinitely greater prize of having HIM.

*Prayer Guides:*

- Pray for the Judson campus community this week. Pray that each person may come to see God as the vast, boundless, loving Father that He is. Pray that He will be everything to them so deeply that they will let go of their own plans with joy to embrace the story that God is writing in their lives.
- Pray for Judson students who will interact with Grace Thornton outside of Chapel services--in their Journalism and English classes, meal times, Q&A sessions, and Monday night REVIVE Bible study and worship service. Pray that they would be bold and honest in asking her questions about what knowing and following God could look like in their daily lives and future plans.
- Pray for the pastors that Grace will be leading in the pastors' conference on Tuesday. Pray that they will be challenged and encouraged by her teaching.



*Week 2:* January 29 - February 4

*Prayer Focus:* Current Judson Students

*Student Writer:* Quenteeria Mooney, sophomore Biology and Chemistry major  
Jacksonville, Alabama

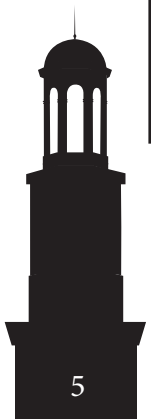
My peers at Judson have influenced me in many ways. They have shown me how to be compassionate to others, to have a positive attitude despite hard times, and to be fearless. These are three important qualities that have encouraged me in my calling to become a doctor. I have learned that it is important to be compassionate and aware of my community, not just at Judson but also in Marion. I have also learned that being compassionate means to be consistent in giving back to Marion and its people.

While I have been at Judson, there have been several young women who have been through trials and tough times, such as losing a parent, which many young people could not even bear to think about. However, there were times on campus that I saw those women and noticed that, despite their circumstances, they still kept a positive attitude about life. Those moments made me take a step back and look at what my life is offering me right now and what it could hold in the future and learn to appreciate even the tiniest bits of the puzzle.

Being fearless and being a woman are two ideas that sometimes seem odd when they are used together, but that should never be the case. A woman was made to be fearless, and, in the pursuit of my degree, I see firsthand the goals that young women, including myself, aspire to achieve. In a world of constant contradictions, it feels good to be here at Judson where we have the option to be fearless in whatever we choose to do, whether it's to become a teacher, an artist, a doctor, a scientist, a lawyer, or any other goal we want to reach.

*Prayer Guides:*

- Pray for current Judson students as they commit themselves to their studies. Pray that they will learn and grow in God's plan and purpose for their lives.
- Pray that, as students walk alongside each other, they will reveal love and encouragement to one another. Pray that God would guide them in sharing His grace and love to not only each other, but to all people they meet.
- Pray for the students who do not understand what it means to be in relationship with God. Pray that they may find this truth during their time at Judson.



*Week 3:* February 5 - February 11

*Prayer Focus:* College Administrative Staff

*Student Writer:* Tyne Amos, senior Social Work and Spanish major  
Umatilla, Florida

Judson is a unique place where young women are able to learn and grow as individuals. I believe that we are given a unique opportunity to not only grow academically at Judson but to grow in Christ and continually form our lives around Him. We are able to interact with others to better understand what it means to follow Christ in a community. This year has been unique for me in that I have been able to observe some key people on Judson's campus that are essential to equipping Judson women to live out their full callings: the admissions office staff.

Remember when you were preparing to go to college? You might remember uncertainty, excitement, or simply the need to understand what the application process was all about. Close communication with the admissions staff may have been the determining factor of whether or not you chose to attend Judson. Whether as an administrator, recruiter, or office manager, all staff members serve a purpose in getting students to Judson. Having had the opportunity to serve as a telecounselor for the College and as a Student Ambassador, I have been able to experience a little of what it is like to be a part of that mission. I love to see how the members of this office are aware of their specific jobs and do them to the best of their abilities in order to be a shining light to new students. They are the start of the journey for many students in becoming who God has created them to be at Judson.

I have learned from the admissions staff that, to fulfill any mission that God has given us, we need other people. As we pray for the admissions staff as they seek out and guide prospective students, let us remember Proverbs 27:17. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another". Admissions staff members, as well as all of us as followers of Christ, must be people of character who see in others the potential and greatness that God wants to cultivate in them. God has something special in store for every person, and many times he uses people like the admissions staff, to show them where that might be.

*Prayer Guides:*

- Pray for the Admissions staff as they talk and build relationships with potential Judson women.
- Pray for the future of Judson based on the young women who are recruited by the Admissions staff. Pray that they may continue to live into the Judson legacy and desire to know and share Light and Truth.
- Pray for other administrative staff teams at Judson. Pray that God would reveal to each staff member his or her role in helping students live out their callings.
- Pray that the Judson staff community is equipped with individuals who care deeply about Judson's mission and her students.



*Week 4:* February 12 - February 18

*Prayer Focus:* Preview & Scholarship Day (February 18)

*Student Writer:* Kayla Jones, freshman Biology major  
Silverhill, Alabama

After attending Scholarship Day at Judson, I knew it was the college for me.

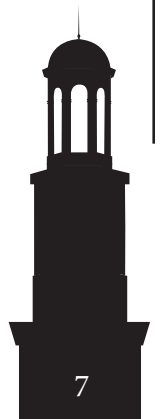
When I first walked into Jewett Hall, I was amazed by the beautiful staircase and historic features. Like any junior in high school excited for college, I searched “Judson College” on the Internet. I read about its Christian beliefs and unique traditions. Looking at the stairs in the foyer of Jewett, I imagined myself singing step sing songs and going to serenades. I liked that Judson was a women’s college with small class sizes. I didn’t feel as nervous in the crowded parlors as I would have been in a big co-ed university. Because the group was mostly girls my age, I didn’t feel as though anyone was looking down on anyone else, but instead it was more like one sisterhood.

I loved taking the tour around campus and learning about the historic buildings. I was excited to one day live in a dorm where so many memories have been made. After seeing the science building, I was positive that I would learn so much while completing my Biology degree. Between the amazing science professors that showed a genuine desire to help me grow spiritually and the historic campus, I knew Judson was the perfect place to pursue my dream of becoming a medical missionary.

As soon as the activities were over, I made my family go to the Vault, and everyone purchased Judson merchandise, because I knew I was going to college here. I left Judson that day feeling empowered and more proud to be a woman than I ever thought possible.

*Prayer Guides:*

- Pray that Scholarship Day is beneficial to the young women who attend. Pray that the College staff would be clear, helpful, and understanding in providing answers to the questions guests have.
- Pray that the Light and Truth on Judson’s campus would be evident to all visitors.
- Pray that prospective students and their families would leave campus after Scholarship Day as Kayla did, with an understanding of, and passion for, the mission and life of the college—and a sense of their own callings from God.
- Pray for the safety of Intercollegiate Horse Show Association teams who are traveling to Judson for a competition on Scholarship Day, and for the safety of the riders during the competition.



*Week 5:* February 19 - February 25

*Prayer Focus:* Judson Faculty

*Student Writer:* Lillie Hobson, junior History and Criminal Justice major  
Kinsey, Alabama

I think it is fairly safe to say that people who come as faculty members to Judson come because they feel a sense of calling. Upon talking to many of my professors and asking them the simple question, “Why Judson?,” their responses had a common theme: this small, rural, Christian college was where they were supposed to be, and this is where they felt God had called them to work and share their love of knowledge. It’s rather a simple response, but an inspiring one. Before coming to Judson, all my career plans, goals, and aspirations revolved around one thing: me. My concerns were petty, but after really seeing how many of the faculty members here love and invest in their jobs because they felt a divine calling, I soon realized that my goals shouldn’t always revolve around me, but around the Lord.

Since my freshman year, my sense of calling has completely changed. I have definitely moved away from thinking solely about myself and future paychecks, and instead focusing on and praying about what God is calling me to do. I still freak out a little sometimes because I don’t have everything mapped out, I’m not sure what next year will look like, and I’m not sure exactly where I’ll be after graduation next June—but I know God has everything in control.

After all the lectures they have taught, the papers they have assigned, and all the other tasks they have given me, the most important thing the faculty here at Judson have taught me is to do my best to better and educate myself but to ultimately give God control over my life.

*Prayer Guides:*

- Pray for the faculty as they mentor and walk alongside their students.
- Pray for them as they are being used to reveal truth and direct students in the pursuit of their dreams and future vocations.
- Pray for strength and wisdom for faculty as they pour knowledge into their students.





*Week 6:* February 26 - March 4

*Prayer Focus:* Parents' Day (March 4)

*Student Writer:* Lauren Hurt, junior Business major  
Huntsville, Alabama

Parents' Day is one of the most beautiful traditions at Judson. The basketball tournament between the dorms is a thrilling experience no matter whether we win or lose. Parents' Day is also a special time when parents, family members, and friends are encouraged to visit. Whenever my parents come to Judson, it gives them a chance to peer into my Judson experience and to have the opportunity to be part of my story here. Seeing the Judson community and meeting my friends helps my family better understand what my life at Judson is like. Like many traditions at Judson, Parents' Day has helped me to appreciate the support of my fellow students and my family during my time here. I'm grateful to have the support and love of my family, and their commitment to making the long drive to come see me is a reminder of how much they care.

I love my Judson sisters, and Parents' Day basketball is one of those times when I am reminded of how much my friends, especially my teammates, mean to me. Being able to take time away from studies to spend time playing with my classmates is a blessing. The weeks of practice have not only toned our bodies, but have also strengthened our relationships and taught us how to work together. We learn to have fun together, to get along, and to work as a team. Spending time with my teammates during the weeks of practice makes me treasure the sisterhood we share even more. Even when it is over, we continue to build our relationships as we work together to help one another reach our goals off the court--in our studies, at our jobs, and in our campus clubs and organizations.

Parents' Day is just one of the many Judson events when I cherish my friends and our time together most dearly. I am thankful for the women that the Lord has graciously brought into my life. My heart will forever cling to these golden memories.

*Prayer Guides:*

- Pray for students as they learn to work together. Pray that, as they play basketball, they will grow in understanding of what it means to work together as a team and to accomplish things in community.
- Pray for the students' families. Ask God to heal broken relationships for some and, for others, to use this day as a reminder of the blessing of having supportive families.



*Week 7:* March 5 - March 11

*Prayer Focus:* Alabama Women's Hall of Fame (March 9)  
*Inducting Sara Crews Finley and Mary Ward Brown, JC Class of 1938*

*Student Writer:* Jordan Ross, junior Interdisciplinary major (focus in Journalism)  
Grand Bay, Alabama

The idea of “calling” has been a huge theme in my life recently. What will I do? Who will I become? What will I be known for? Will I ever make it into the Judson quiz? Everyone feels this need to accomplish something in her lifetime and “make her mark” on the world. As early as our freshman year, we begin to learn about the founders of Judson and the difficulties they faced in building up these hallowed halls of ivy. (We are on our third Jewett Hall; need I say more?) We begin to understand that this is a place of legacy, history, and tradition. As students, we follow in the footsteps of the faithful before us, and we hope to make our own.

I have walked through the doors of the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame many times headed to my history class, but I didn't fully realize its experience until I took the time to stop and learn about the women honored there. (As you may remember, stopping is rare in college life.) Once I was able to stop, to read, to absorb, I felt strangely humbled. As I began to read accomplishment after accomplishment, the question, “Who will I be?” began to repeat in my mind.

Honestly, the Women's Hall of Fame can be a bit daunting. We want to be as good as someone else. We strive to follow in their footsteps. This can be a great motivator for some. However, when someone younger than I am has written over two hundred sonatas before their eighteen birthday, it can be disheartening. When struggles with self-doubt come my way, God's words to Joshua in the Old Testament come to comfort and encourage me. In Joshua 1:7, God instructs Joshua, “Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go.” God is saying that Joshua is not only supposed to be “strong and courageous” in following God's commands, but he also mustn't look around. He is not meant to find a different way. He is not meant to compare himself to anyone. Joshua is commanded to stick to God's plan, and God promises to give him success.

Instead of saying “I wish to be the next \_\_\_\_\_,” why not strive to be who God has called you to be? Yes, let women like the ones honored in the Hall of Fame inspire and motivate you, but let them inspire you to be who God has created you to be. Realize that these women are known today because they did not look to the right or to the left. Remember the words God has spoken over you: You are fearfully and wonderfully made. You were known before the foundation of the world. He knows your thoughts, your next word, and you are not hidden from His sight. So, walk.

*Prayer Guides:*

- As Judson students reflect on the lives of the women honored by the AL Women's Hall Of Fame, pray that these young women may find encouragement and motivation within those stories. Pray that the lives of the women who have gone before them will serve as reminders of the mark they can make in this world.
- Pray that students will grow in consciousness of God's calling in their lives. Pray that they would not be overwhelmed by their own expectations or live in the shadow of others' accomplishments, but that they would trust God to write their own stories.



*Week 8:* March 12 - March 18

*Prayer Focus:* Spring Break (March 13-17)

*Student Writer:* Miranda Brown, junior English and Religious Studies major  
Robertsdale, Alabama

My first Spring Break mission trip experience was in Marion, AL. I was so excited to be a part of the small team that stayed in town for Spring Break to really focus on our relationship with the surrounding community.

One experience I had during this week was not really centered around Marion itself. I came into the week expecting God to teach me about Marion. Instead, He taught me about myself and the girls I was spending my week doing ministry with. During this mission outreach opportunity over my spring break, I really started to understand the heart that God has given me for others. I am now understanding a passion deeply rooted in me that God has given me. Through the time spent with the other girls on my team, I was able to enter into many meaningful conversations. The way I was able to connect with the girls on my team allowed me to see that I can connect with other women and young ladies by sharing experiences I've had in my life.

Because of my spring break missions experience, I have begun to feel God calling me to work with women and young girls. I don't necessarily know what this entails, whether it be a career of ministry or service to women, small groups hosted in my home, lunch with students at their high schools, or something else that might be used to connect with women, but I have felt God's calling on my life and the transformation of my heart.

Colossians 3:16-17 says, "...whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." I know that whatever I do with my life, as long as I give all the glory to God, He will continue to use me and my life.

*Prayer Guides:*

- During this week, two groups of Judson students will spend their break serving in Baton Rouge, LA and New York City, NY. Pray that this time would make a positive impact on the lives of people the Judson women meet, as well on as their own lives.
- Pray that this experience might reveal to each student a future calling or vocation, as well as strengthen her relationship with the Lord.
- Feel free to pray for each spring break team member and their leaders by name.

**New York City Team**

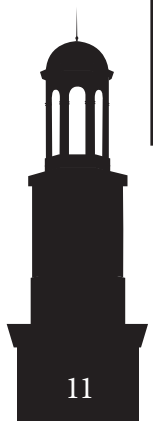
Leaders: Susan Jones and Sarah Fowler

Students: Alexis Whetstone, Katie Owens, Kayla Jones, Lillie Hobson, Miranda Brown, Ruth Mushall, and Macie Lee

**Baton Rouge Team**

Leaders: Cynthia White and Amy Butler

Students: Kenzie McDaniel, Madison Casale, Kayla Oliver, Dominique Williams, Destany Sherman, and Audri Thicklin



*Week 9:* March 19 - March 25

*Prayer Focus:* Residence Life

*Student Writer:* Hannah Woods, freshman Social Work major  
Sylvan Springs, Alabama

I have really loved dorm life my first semester of college. I thought it would be difficult (at times it was) because I have always had my own space at home and the idea of a roommate made me slightly nervous. But what I didn't realize was how much having a roommate would make me grow as a person and how much fun it would be.

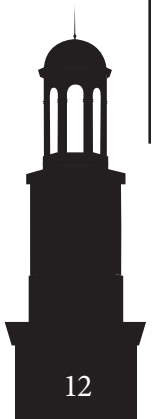
I have learned how to compromise and how to live peacefully in community with others. I have improved greatly in communicating and have made more friends than I thought I would.

My favorite part about dorm life is the built-in friends. Living at Judson has almost been like gaining sisters that I always wished I had. I met my best friend on Kirtley Hall's first floor. That was an answered prayer, because all throughout high school I begged God to give me a best friend, and He did. Not only that, I met my accountability partner. One thing about living on campus is that there is always someone checking on you or cheering you up when you're down.

While moving to college has definitely been an adjustment, I am so thankful for the time spent with my sisters in Christ and the constant opportunities for fellowship and support.

*Prayer Guides:*

- As the students live together, pray for friendships to be made and for deep learning to occur about how their faith is strengthened and encouraged through relationships with one another.
- Pray for the Residence Life staff as they live and serve the women living in their residence halls. Ask the Lord to give them wisdom and insight as they support and minister to the students.



*Week 10:* March 26 - April 1

*Prayer Focus:* Faith-Based Service and Learning (FBSL)

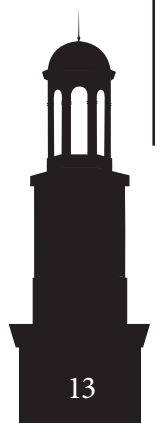
*Student Writer:* Chandra Barnes, junior Social Work major  
Hanceville, Alabama

Faith-Based Service and Learning has shaped my love for Marion and has further affirmed my choice of major (Social Work). The service opportunities that are often offered to the Judson student body remind me that my college experience does not solely revolve around grades or GPAs. Marion has so much to offer, and, surprisingly I have something to offer to Marion. The Faith-Based Service and Learning program has provided gateways for me to learn how to be productively involved in the area in which God has planted me. As a social work major, working with the people in Marion makes me excited to see where I will end up in the future and how I will be involved.

Just as there are needs and opportunities at Judson, there are needs and opportunities everywhere. FBSL projects create productive citizens out of Judson girls by gathering resources to help me and other Judson girls to be actively involved in our local community. I hope to one day professionally help others in similar ways that FBSL at Judson has helped me.

*Prayer Guides:*

- Pray for the office of Faith-Based Service and Learning at Judson. Pray that it may be fruitful in advocating the importance of service and that it may be an avenue through which students become more equipped to use their strengths.
- Pray that FBSL projects may open opportunities where students discover their passions and consider how their chosen career paths might lead them to a life of service to others.
- Pray for the relationship between the Judson community and the community of Perry County. Pray for partnerships to be strengthened and individuals to be empowered.
- Ask God to reveal new ways students can become involved in the community and to help to form strong collaborative partnerships.





*Week 11:* April 2 - April 8

*Prayer Focus:* J-Day (April 8)

*Student Writer:* Sara Jean Lane, junior Music, English, and Math major  
Conyers, Georgia

Pastor John Nicholson at Siloam Baptist Church, in a sermon on the Lord's Prayer, once said that it is all but impossible to consider God without looking to His people. "Give us this day our daily bread," Jesus spoke—and thus our identity as Christians became inextricably bound to others. Having been raised in the United Methodist church, I was immediately reminded of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral and a topic we discussed in my confirmation classes: tradition is not to be taken lightly, and love must be learned in community.

One of the many beauties of Judson is that she instills in each of her daughters a sense of unshakeable attachment to all the others. Like Wesley, she teaches us to look to those who've gone before us, but in particular we find ourselves drawn to those who we know share our memories of ivy halls and sisterhood here. As I watch alumnae doing good work for God's Kingdom, I see in their deeds the Light and Truth that I as a younger student am still only beginning to know, and the maturity of their faith gives meaning to my experiences here. I heard of Ann Judson's love for the women of Burma, and now I see her legacy continuing to unfold in the lives of alumnae working with communities of women around the world. I became a Big Sister and led my "Little" through traditions, and now I see Judson women in the world mentoring those around them in the same way as they grow academically, personally, and spiritually. It is indescribably encouraging to see women who have been in my place "doing good" with the lessons I am still learning; it gives me strength and lights my way. It gives meaning to old traditions, hope and a future, when I look to those who've gone before me and find them faithful as a result of the steps I am taking now. They remind me how to learn; they teach me to look for God's direction in even the smallest steps. For that I am endlessly thankful.

*Prayer Guides:*

- As we gather for J-Day, let's pray together that our lives would represent Mother Judson well. Pray that our actions and callings will drive us deeper in relationship with our Father and deeper in relationship with one another.
- Pray for current Judson students as they meet and spend time with the Judson women who have gone before them. Pray that those opportunities for interaction would be encouraging to them as they seek to find their own callings and place in the world.



## *Concluding Remarks*

Thank you for joining us in prayer over these past 11 weeks. As you read and reflected on the shared stories from current students, we hope that their words encouraged and inspired you.

Our challenge to you as devoted alumnae is to continue to find ways to listen and to learn from Judson's current students. Seek out ways in which you can invest in and empower these young women in the pursuit of their unique callings from God.

*"May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

*Ephesians 3:17-21*

