SEALY PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

40 Days of Prayer for Life

A Journey Through Psalm 23

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

Introduction

Forty Days of Prayer for Life was inspired by a similar call to prayer to seek the Lord's guidance, published by the Shenandoah County Pregnancy Center in Virginia. We are using their guide material, with their permission, along with material from other Pregnancy Centers.

Each week we will publish a reflection on Psalm 23, on our website with seven days of prayer requests. We will also post each day's reflection on Facebook. Each posting will be an invitation to pause, reflect, and seek God's truth and guidance for our lives.

Even as we pray with urgency and conviction, we do so humbly, knowing that God's thoughts and purposes are far higher than our own. We look to Him confidently, expectantly, trusting His Word, that promises He will do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.

To God be the glory!

Your Prayer Journey

Day	Topic	Day	Topic
1	The Good Shepherd	21	Clients Who've Experienced Miscarriages
2	God Is the Source	22	I Will Fear No Evil
3	God Is Always Working	23	Do Not Be Anxious
4	Knowing Where God Is at Work	24	Human Life Valued in Our Culture
5	God's Plans vs. Our Plans	25	Those Who Govern
6	God Speaks with a Purpose	26	Spiritual Warfare
7	God Invites Us to Join Him	27	Power of the Holy Spirit
8	He Leads Me Beside Still Waters	28	Perseverance
9	Staff	29	My Cup Overflows
10	Volunteers	30	Donors

Day	Topic	Day	Topic
11	Board	31	Financial Needs
12	Medical Director	32	Church Support
13	Ultrasound Technician	33	Ministerial Alliance
14	Trainers	34	Business Support
15	He Restores My Soul	35	Prayer Support
16	Ladies in Community Who Had Abortion	36	Goodness and Mercy Follow Me
17	Clients with Pregnancy Tests	37	Blessings
18	Teenagers	38	Future Impact
19	Abortion Workers	39	Praise God for His Grace
20	True and Lasting Change	40	Final Reflection

WEEK ONE · DAYS 1–7

The Lord Is My Shepherd

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. — Psalm 23:1 ESV

DAY 1 The Good Shepherd

> **PSALM 23:1 ESV**
> *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

As we enter into this season of 40 Days of Prayer for Life, standing for the protection of unborn children, women, and families in Texas, we are reminded in this verse that we are not alone. Psalm 23 opens with a declaration that is both intimate and powerful: “The LORD is my Shepherd.” The Lord is not a distant deity or abstract force but He is my Shepherd – one who sees me, knows me, and walks with me.

The image David paints is deeply personal. Shepherds live among their sheep. They guide with gentleness, guard with strength, and provide with consistency. Sometimes they move the sheep to greener pastures. In the same way, God attends to our every need with unfailing love and care.

In a world marked by uncertainty, division, fear and chaos, this truth grounds us: we lack nothing in Him. That doesn’t mean we always get what we want or avoid hardship. It does mean that in His presence we are never abandoned, forgotten or without hope. His provision satisfies us. His guidance leads us. His protection surrounds us.

We don't approach this struggle from a place of scarcity, panic, or fear, but from the fullness of God's presence. He is our Shepherd. He will provide the words to pray, the strength to stand, the wisdom to speak, and the courage to love well.

In Him we lack nothing.

> **PRAYER FOCUS**
> Pray that we recognize who provides all that we need.

DAY 2 God Is the Source

> **JOHN 15:5 ESV**
> *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

Recognizing from where your help comes is a first critical step in any endeavor. Our lives, our very souls, are dependent on the Lord. He provides the lifeblood for our existence. Likewise, where the Sealy Pregnancy Resource Center (SPRC) gets its support has always been predicated on who God chooses. We've had numerous donors who prefer to remain anonymous. We have others who are literally like the woman with the mite, giving us all that they have to see that our work can be sustained. It is a humbling experience.

The second part of that verse is equally important. If we abide in Him, we will bear much fruit. From the beginning, the SPRC has strived to look for the needs of the community and meet those needs. We always want to stress that the work is for Him, and all glory goes to Him for any successes.

> **PRAYER FOCUS**
> With that in mind, please be praying that we will continue to recognize and honor God as not only the creator of all things, but also the driving force and creator for the SPRC and its mission. Ask for God's continued guidance as we make decisions for the future.

DAY 3 God Is Always Working

> **JOHN 5:17, 19-20 ESV**
> *But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." [19] So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. [20] For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.*

Often times we may ask "what is God's will for my life," with the best of intentions. One person has stated "if you ask the wrong question, you will get the wrong answer." Asking what God's will for your life may be the wrong question. Maybe it should be "What is God's will, and how do I need to adjust to it?" The emphasis changes from myself to God. Jesus always spoke of doing the will of His Father, not His own will.

The same is true for any organization. We can get tied up with the wrong question, with all the best of intentions. God is always at work around us. The question is, are we aware enough to discern that work, and make adjustments to join in with Him? Our future success as the SPRC will be predicated on whether or not we are trying to join what God is doing, rather than trying to force God to fit our will.

PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray that God will open our eyes to see His work all around us, and to join Him as He wants us to do. Pray He alerts us to the needs of our clients so we make adjustments to our programs and fulfill the work He has for us.

DAY 4 Knowing Where God Is at Work

JOHN 14:15-17 ESV

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. [16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, [17] even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

Sometimes God tries to get our attention by revealing where He is at work. We see it, but aren't certain if it's really God's activity. We may even say we need to pray about it to be sure it's from God. We may miss out on an opportunity. Jesus promises, in the passages above, to send the Spirit of truth to dwell in us. That means He will help us interpret the world around us to discern if an activity is from God or not. Once again, the Good Shepherd is providing us with all that we need – even an interpreter.

PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will live in us and guide us to discern where God is working in our lives and the lives around us.

DAY 5 God's Plans vs. Our Plans

ISAIAH 55:8 ESV

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

Understanding what God's plans are and what He's about to do is more important than telling God what we want to do. We cannot even begin to understand the mind of God. The great news is, we don't have to! God will handle the situation, whatever it is. We just have to trust in Him. Jesus points to the lilies of the field and tells His followers that the flowers neither toil, nor spin, yet God clothes them with beautiful colors. He gives us the assurance that we are much more valuable to Himself than the flowers, and He will provide.

PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray that God would make His plans and work around us evident that we can join in with what He is already doing. Help us to literally live for Him.

DAY 6 God Speaks with a Purpose

HEBREWS 1:1-2 ESV

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, [2] but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

God has always spoken with a purpose – from "Let there be light," to "This is my Son in whom I am well pleased." God has communicated with His people through the ages. The writer of Hebrews tells us that God has spoken to us through His Son. He speaks to us through His Word. He tells us to take care of the widows and orphans, and those in need, even for something like a cup of water. How much are we listening to the voices in need around us? God promises to take care of our needs. One of the ways He chooses to do for others is through us. It's critical that we be aware of the needs around us.

PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray God will open our eyes to all the opportunities to serve others around us, and that we listen to His voice as we make plans.

DAY 7 God Invites Us to Join Him

JOHN 8:12 ESV

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Jesus promises us that if we follow Him, we won't walk in darkness but have the gift of light – His light. God has already promised to fulfill our every need. Here He tells us that if we join with Him, His light will shine on us and illuminate our path, allowing us to see where we need to be going next.

PSALM 119:105 ASV

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And light unto my path.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that Jesus' light will shine on our path through this life so that we can clearly identify our next steps. Thank Him for providing all our needs.

WEEK TWO · DAYS 8–14

He Leads Me Beside Still Waters

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. — Psalm 23:2 ESV

DAY 8 He Leads Me Beside Still Waters

> **PSALM 23:2 ESV**
> *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*

Nourishment. Safety. Rest. Stillness. These are the intentional gifts of our Good Shepherd. In a season of focused prayer, as we boldly ask the Lord to move in our world, God invites us to rest.

Green pastures speak of provision – not just barely enough, but abundance. Still waters speak of peace – not the absence of struggle, but the presence of calm. These are not places we find on our own, but places where the Shepherd leads.

As we ask the Lord to defend the vulnerable and defeat all that would harm them, we remember that intercession doesn't come from a place of striving, but from a place of surrender. Surrender to the good gifts of our Gentle Shepherd.

Let today be a holy pause, and let His abundance and peace be the place from which your prayers arise.

> **PRAYER FOCUS**
> Pray that God would quiet our anxious hearts and understand that His peace is not rooted in outcomes, but in His unchanging presence.

DAY 9 Staff

> **MATTHEW 11:28 ESV**
> *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

Our staff meet the clients where they are, and provide counseling and support outside the walls of the SPRC. It's a lot of responsibility, and that's on top of all the things going on in their own lives.

> **PRAYER FOCUS**
> Please pray for our staff members, that God would renew and refresh them as they minister to the clients. Pray that they would reflect His love to the clients they serve.

DAY 10 Volunteers

Volunteers hold a special place in Israel's history. David asked for volunteers to go with him into Saul's camp at night (1 Samuel 26:5). Ezra and Nehemiah used volunteers (Ezra 7:13, Nehemiah 11:2) to rebuild Jerusalem after they were allowed to come back from exile. Similarly, we rely on volunteers to help us meet the needs of the clients. Our volunteers work tirelessly to get diapers and clothes prepared for use. They do so out of a love for others, and a desire to help.

PRAYER FOCUS
Pray that God would bless them and keep evil away from them as they selflessly serve others.

DAY 11 Board

1 CORINTHIANS 4:2 ESV
Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

The Board of Directors has a grave responsibility to be good and faithful stewards of what God provides so that it is used as He intends to serve the clients. Just as Paul spoke of himself as a steward of the mysteries of God, the Board is to be a steward for the faithful operation of the SPRC.

PRAYER FOCUS
Pray for the Board of Directors, that they make decisions in keeping with His will, and that He would refresh them with His Spirit.

DAY 12 Medical Director

MATTHEW 21:16 ESV
and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?"

The babies born to our clients are precious. Jesus lets us know that those very babies can praise Him. A critical area of expertise for the SPRC is a Medical Director. We've been searching for a Medical Director for a while now. It was through God's providence that our new Medical Director's name came to us. A wonderful lady, who was donating material items and taking a tour of the facility, found out about our need and recommended a doctor. That very same doctor has enthusiastically signed on to oversee our programs.

PRAYER FOCUS
Pray that God would bless our new Medical Director. Offer praise that He has provided a willing heart to fill a much-needed gap.

DAY 13 Ultrasound Technician

LUKE 10:21 NASB
At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for doing so was well pleasing in Your sight.

Providing ultrasounds is one of the more popular options among our clients. We can't provide them, however, without an Ultrasound Technician. Our Ultrasound Technician has a full-time job away from SPRC. She is a wonderful lady who works in her "spare" time to serve the clients, even when it means coming off a night shift and driving directly to the center to perform ultrasounds.

PRAYER FOCUS
Pray God will protect her as she travels to help us. Pray that He would lift her up and give her strength.

DAY 14 Trainers

PROVERBS 10:17A ESV
Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life

We have numerous trainers who teach classes to our clients on a variety of helpful topics, from cooking and nutrition, to managing household finances. These trainers are imparting critical skills to the mothers. Following the examples that these trainers provide will lead to better outcomes for our client families.

PRAYER FOCUS
Pray that the trainers' wisdom will help the families involved, and that the mothers will take the training to heart. Thank God for providing the willing hearts that provide this training.

WEEK THREE · DAYS 15–21
He Restores My Soul
He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. — Psalm 23:3 ESV

DAY 15 He Restores My Soul

PSALM 23:3 ESV
He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

The Hebrew word for "restores" also means "to return to its rightful owner." What a sacred truth: our souls belong to God. He is our rightful Shepherd, the One who created us, claims us, and lovingly restores what's been broken or lost within us.

Before God leads us into bold action, He begins with restoration. Righteousness starts in the soul, not in striving. A soul ruled by anxiety, pride, or despair cannot carry the weight of God's purposes. A soul that is healed and strengthened by the Shepherd is ready to walk His path, humbly and courageously.

Invite the Shepherd to restore your soul and lead you in His righteous path – not just for your sake, but the sake of His name and His kingdom purposes. As we pray for His guidance, we remember every life belongs to God, and every heart needs His restoration. We ask for souls to return to their rightful Shepherd, for hearts to be restored, and for righteousness to rise not just in the public square, but in the inner lives of individuals and families in our community and across the nation.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that God would restore the wandering souls – the weary, the distracted, the restless. Pray for a spiritual turning to Him.

DAY 16 Ladies in the Community Who Have Had an Abortion

PROVERBS 14:13 NLT

Laughter can conceal a heavy heart, but when the laughter ends, the grief remains.

People generally put on a good act in public, even when they are grieving. That can be the case with those who have had an abortion. They may tell the world all is well, but inside they may be grieving. At the SPRC we want to provide hope and renewal to those who have undergone an abortion. That's also why we provide alternatives to abortion. We never force anyone into a decision, but we do offer support if they want to keep their baby, or help with adoption agencies.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the ladies in the community who have had an abortion. Pray for healing and comfort. Grant them peace and renewal in You.

DAY 17 Clients with Pregnancy Tests

PROVERBS 12:25 NLT

Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up.

Some of the clients who come in for a pregnancy test do so with a good deal of fear and anxiety. Our staff work diligently to make certain that each client is treated with dignity and respect. The staff counsels them and walks them through the results. They continue to walk with them through the pregnancy. We even have two staff members who are trained doulas to help them through the physical and emotional aspects of pregnancy, birth, and caring for the child once they come home.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the ladies who come to the SPRC to obtain a pregnancy test. Pray that they receive the support and counseling they need in order to choose life for their baby.

DAY 18 Teenagers

> **PROVERBS 1:2-4 NASB**
> *To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding, [3] To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and integrity; [4] To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion*

Our teenagers have a lot of negative influences coming at them all at one time. While there has always been temptation for youth to have intimate relations before marriage, the constant bombardment of our society, and social media, can sometimes drown out wise teaching.

> **PRAYER FOCUS**
> Pray for the teenagers in our community that they would hear God's message for them to reserve intimate relations until marriage. Pray that God will work a revival in the lives of our teenagers so that they will want to live the way God intended.

DAY 19 Abortion Workers

> **LUKE 1:39-41 ESV**
> *In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, [40] and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. [41] And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.*

John, still inside his mother's womb, leaped for joy when he heard Mary's greeting. How extraordinary. He knew, as a fetus, that his Savior was entering the room. Oh, that those who work in the abortion industry would know that truth, and realize that they are ending the life of precious, not yet born humans.

> **PRAYER FOCUS**
> Pray for those who work in the abortion industry – doctors, nurses, receptionists, and volunteers. Pray that God will reach their hearts and allow them to see the tragedy that is before them.

DAY 20 True and Lasting Change

> **PSALM 51:10 ESV**
> *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

All the services offered at the SPRC are designed to help the clients learn how to effectively care for their babies, both now, and in the long term. We've seen lives transformed, and a number of clients through the years come back to the Lord. Our goal is a transformation for the clients, facilitated by our providing a "hand up" rather than a "hand out."

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that the clients who take advantage of our services make positive, true and lasting changes to their lives and the lives of those in their families.

DAY 21 Clients Who've Experienced Miscarriages

PSALM 30:5B NASB

Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.

The pain of a miscarriage can last a lifetime. It can affect relationships between husband and wife, friends, and family. Part of our mission is to walk beside the clients who have experienced a miscarriage, and help them with their anxiety during their pregnancy.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for the mothers who have experienced a miscarriage. Pray that God would sustain them, and give our staff the wisdom to support them as each person needs.

WEEK FOUR · DAYS 22–28

I Will Fear No Evil

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. — Psalm 23:4 ESV

DAY 22 I Will Fear No Evil

PSALM 23:4 ESV

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

The desert is a place of intense heat and bright light, but also darkness and bitter cold. The "darkest valley" is a metaphor for the harshest moments of life. The Good Shepherd walks into the deepest and darkest valleys with the sheep. The "valley of the shadow of death" is a chilling and beautiful translation of the Hebrew. Likewise, while the rod and staff are commonly thought to be metaphors for judgment and punishment, in this case the rod was an instrument of protection for the sheep – a weapon against enemies, while also being a prod for guidance. The rod and staff bring comfort, guidance and protection, even in the darkest valley.

God never lets us walk alone. He walks alongside of us, guiding and protecting us along the way. While it's tempting to focus on the protection aspect, we shouldn't neglect the guiding aspect. We need to regularly ask ourselves if we are following the direction that God wants us to follow, and if not, determine where He is leading.

As we continue our journey of prayer, let's ask God to make His guidance clear to us. Ask how He wants us to proceed as we look to serve the ladies of our community.

PRAYER FOCUS

Give thanks to the God who watches over us, even in the darkest times of our lives. Pray He make His desires for the future of the pregnancy clear to us, as to how we can best serve those He brings to us.

DAY 23 Do Not Be Anxious

MATTHEW 6:25, 33 ESV

"Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? [33] But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

It's easy enough in times of trouble and change to begin to question what's next and worry about the future. Jesus knew that when He counseled His disciples not to worry, but rather to seek His kingdom and righteousness first.

With changes taking place in the State of Texas, it's natural to question what will happen and how we might be affected. Jesus has already answered that for us, though. We need to look at what is before us, and do His will. Our website states what our focus is:

> *Sealy Pregnancy Resource Center is a Christ-centered ministry providing practical and compassionate support and life-affirming alternatives to the tragedy of abortion. Our programs are designed to empower women and men in making informed choices about their unplanned pregnancy and their future, while respecting their decision without ridicule or rejection. We bring the message of life, hope, compassion, and love to women residing in Sealy and its surrounding communities.*

PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray that God will give us the strength and resources to focus on Him and the mission that is before us. Pray we are true to our mission as we serve the community in love.

DAY 24 Human Life Valued in Our Culture

PROVERBS 18:3A ESV

When wickedness comes, contempt comes also

Contempt for human life is unfortunately on display the world over. Sadly, this contempt extends to the unborn, who are labeled as "a clump of cells" as if they were a tumor that needs to be excised rather than a precious human life waiting to burst into the world.

PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray that human life would be valued in our society and not despised. Pray that eyes and hearts would be opened, and that society would respond in a positive way.

DAY 25 Those Who Govern

PROVERBS 21:1 CEV

The LORD controls rulers, just as he determines the course of rivers.

It's easy to become concerned when election of rulers brings change. We may fear the specter of change more than the change itself at times. An important point we need to remember is that God has placed those people in authority. He has the ultimate control. Our job is to obey, and pray that our rulers honor God.

PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray for wisdom for our rulers. Pray that they also have an awakening to God's plan for the unborn, and that they work to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

DAY 26 Spiritual Warfare

EPHESIANS 6:12 ESV

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Make no mistake. As Paul tells us, our struggles in this world are not just confined to flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces. Alone, and left to our own strength and devices, we would be hopeless. Thank God that He is fighting for us. As the Psalmist told us, God is with us.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that the Lord would thwart the forces of evil bent on disrupting our mission to serve the young mothers. Pray that He would continue to provide us with the space to do His will.

DAY 27 Power of the Holy Spirit

ROMANS 1:3-4 NLT

The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, [4] and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord.

The power of the Holy Spirit is mind boggling. Through His power people have boldly preached the gospel through the ages. They healed the sick through that same power. Not to be overlooked is the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead by this power. Surely that same power, working through us today, can overcome any man-made obstacles.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that the Holy Spirit's power will be present daily as the staff of the SPRC serves the pregnant mothers at our door. Pray that the Spirit guides and directs all of our activities.

DAY 28 Perseverance

ROMANS 5:3-5 NASB

And not only this, but we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; [4] and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; [5] and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Growing up I heard my mother say many times "struggle makes a man strong." The exact origin of that phrase is up for debate. However, it appears that Paul was espousing this same view, but with a twist. Just prior to this Paul says that we have peace with God, knowing we have been justified by faith. What flows out of this, then, is a refining process – not just for individuals, but also organizations. It's been true that struggles through the years have been met with perseverance, which has developed character and hope. We have hope because we know God is with us.

PRAYER FOCUS

Please pray that the staff, volunteers and clients of the SPRC will have perseverance to stand up to the challenges that they will be faced with in the coming years.

WEEK FIVE · DAYS 29–35

My Cup Overflows

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. — Psalm 23:5 ESV

DAY 29 My Cup Overflows

PSALM 23:5 ESV

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

In ancient cultures, the table was a place of intimacy. To share a meal with family, friends, or even strangers, was an act of gracious hospitality. After verses of imagery about the dangers and graces of desert life, the psalmist has taken the reader into the tent of God, who now shares His abundance, His precious oil, with David and his flock. The reader has passed through the darkest valley and now tastes God's new life. The table turns out to be in God's eternal dwelling, His eternal house.

Even in the midst of danger, God invites us into His house, to share in His abundance and goodness. Likewise, we need to invite others in as well, to know their Savior and Lord. That means not only engaging with our clients and showing them the mercy and love of God, but also engaging those who don't see God's plan or the sanctity of life. We need to pray that God would show us how He wants us to reach out to those who do not share our beliefs, and who may be actively working to shut down our efforts. We also need to be praying for those very same people that God would open their eyes to the truth, so that they can become allies in the quest to save lives.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that God would teach us to love as He does, reaching out to those who don't know Him or understand His plan. Pray that He would provide us opportunities to show hospitality and love to others, and grant us the wisdom to recognize those opportunities, as well as the will to act upon them. Ask that He would help us to remember that He created and loves all people, and that it is His will that all have a chance to know their Savior. Give us the words so that we may speak the truth in love in order to not only save lives, but impact souls as well.

DAY 30 Donors

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7 ESV

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

God doesn't dictate exactly how we show His love to others. He tells us what the needs are, but allows us to determine how we give back. That's why we are so thankful for our donors. Without their generosity, we wouldn't be able to offer many of the programs that we currently do. We wouldn't even have the building or land on which we operate.

PRAYER FOCUS

Praise God for our "cheerful givers" who have donated time, money and materials to the SPRC. Pray that they would see the benefits that their generosity has resulted in.

DAY 31 Financial Needs

LUKE 12:29-31 NLT

"And don't be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don't worry about such things. [30] These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. [31] Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.

It's human nature to worry. Part of that is probably an issue we all have to some degree with control. If we don't control a situation, we tend to worry about it. Jesus told us not to worry, especially about what we will eat, drink or wear for clothing. That extends to finances. God already knows where the funds and materials the SPRC needs for operation will come from. Certainly, we need to be good stewards, and also be alert to changes God has in mind. In the end, we need to remember that He is in control.

PRAYER FOCUS

Praise God for all that He has done these past 12 years, and for all He will continue to do. Pray that the staff, Board, and others see where God has the resources available to do His work. Also, please pray that we will continue to be faithful to the work He has before us.

DAY 32 Church Support

ACTS 11:29-30 NASB

And to the extent that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brothers and sisters living in Judea. [30] And they did this, sending it with Barnabas and Saul to the elders.

The SPRC has been richly blessed by many churches in the area. From diapers, to clothes, to volunteers, to Christmas gifts for the children, and financial aid, the churches have blessed us just as the disciples sent back funds to the church in Jerusalem. They make a HUGE difference, and we cannot thank them enough.

PRAYER FOCUS

Praise God for the wonderful churches who support our mission. Praise God not just for the material support, but the prayers they offer up on a regular basis.

DAY 33 Ministerial Alliance

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10 NLT

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. [10] If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.

As it is in all things in life, two really are better than one. As we are reminded in Ecclesiastes, if one falls, the other can help pick them up. So it has been for our working relationship with the Ministerial Alliance. We have benefited greatly by cooperating with each other to help provide for special needs that arise from time-to-time with our clients. Thank the Lord for the wonderful relationship we enjoy.

PRAYER FOCUS

Praise God for the hard-working staff at the Ministerial Alliance and the wonderful support they have provided over the years. Pray that God would continue to bless their ministry as they serve the needs of our community.

DAY 34 Business Support

> **ISAIAH 32:8 NLT**
> *But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity.*

We have also been incredibly blessed through local businesses who have donated clothing, car seats, diapers, and other material goods that help the families who come to the SPRC. We would be remiss if we didn't recognize them for their wonderful generosity that has spanned numerous years. They have truly stood next to us.

> **PRAYER FOCUS**
> Praise God for the businesses who have helped us provide clothing and materials to the families who need them most. Pray that God would bless them for their generosity, as they have been a blessing to so many.

DAY 35 Prayer Support

> **JAMES 5:16 ESV**
> *... pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

We are truly blessed by the prayers of those both near and far. We would be remiss (especially while conducting 40 Days of Prayer!) if we didn't acknowledge the blessings we have received because of earnest people across the country who pray for us daily. We can honestly attest to the miracles we've seen through transformed lives, and to needs being met from unexpected avenues.

> **PRAYER FOCUS**
> Praise God for those who earnestly pray. We ask that those prayers would continue for the SPRC, the staff, the clients, and volunteers.

> **WEEK SIX · DAYS 36–40**
> ### Goodness and Mercy Shall Follow Me
> *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. — Psalm 23:6 ESV*

DAY 36 Goodness and Mercy Follow Me

> **PSALM 23:6 ESV**
> *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

David ends his beautiful poem with sure and steady hope: “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me…” This isn’t wishful thinking, but rather a declaration of confidence in the unchanging character of God. His goodness doesn’t fade. His mercy doesn’t run out. His love doesn’t give up – not just in our best moments, but all the days of our lives.

As we work to provide an alternative to abortion, and to protect the sanctity of the life of the most vulnerable, we are reminded that we are not alone. God’s mercy and love surrounds us. Best of all? We dwell with our Gentle Shepherd. God’s presence is not just a place we visit at church or in our quiet time. His presence is our truest home and our forever refuge.

Take heart. Whether the path is steep or the valley long, God’s goodness follows you, His life within you, and your forever is secure. What a Savior!

A PRAYER

Good Shepherd, thank You for the promise that Your goodness, mercy, and unfailing love follow me all my days. Even when the way is hard and obstacles seem insurmountable, You are faithful. You surround me with grace and lead me with gentleness.

As we seek to glorify You and minister to those in need, we ask that Your mercy would not just follow us but flow through us. Help us to speak the truth in love, to stand firm with humility, to engage in the struggle with our hearts anchored in eternity. Thank You that our dwelling place is with You, both now and forever. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

DAY 37 Blessings

JAMES 1:17 ESV

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Surely every good gift is from God. As we celebrate His greatest gift, the gift of His Son, this Christmas, let us acknowledge what a wonderful Creator and Savior we have.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him you creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

DAY 38 Future Impact

HEBREWS 13:2 ESV

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

We've truly been given an awesome mission – to serve the ladies of the community who are either pregnant, or have recently given birth. We never know with whom we may come in contact. What has been truly amazing and rewarding is to see a number of our clients grow and improve their lives in ways we couldn't have imagined. We even have some former clients who are now important members of our staff.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray that God would continue to send those in need and that we would meet those needs, not only in the short-term, but also in the long-term for those clients.

DAY 39 Praise God for His Grace

JOHN 1:14 NASB

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us remember His grace. That same grace that motivated Him to forsake His glory in heaven, and come to earth so that He might take on Himself the punishment for our sins, works in each of us daily. His grace allows us to do the work He sets in front of us, even if imperfectly. God has chosen to work through us to accomplish His purposes. Pray that we would stay true to His calling, and be a light to a darkened world.

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for His strength to achieve His purposes.

DAY 40 Final Reflection

As we come to the end of these 40 Days of Prayer for Life, Psalm 23 has become our anthem. The words aren't just for personal comfort, but a declaration of Kingdom hope. In a culture clouded by death and deception, this Psalm anchors us in truth: we are not led by fear or by the shifting opinions of the world, but by the Good Shepherd.

Throughout these days, we have prayed with burdened hearts, asking that the womb would once again be honored as sacred, that laws would reflect justice and mercy, and that Texas would choose life. Through every prayer, Psalm 23 has quietly strengthened our souls.

We end where we began – with our Shepherd.

PSALM 23:1-6 ESV

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. [2] He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. [3] He restores My soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. [4] Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. [5] You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. [6] Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

He leads.

He provides.

He restores.

He protects.

He remains ever-present.

So, we rest – not in the outcomes we see today, but in the faithfulness of the One who remains. As we conclude this 40-day journey of prayer, we move forward in confident trust and hopeful expectation. The same Shepherd who has walked with us through this season will continue to lead us forward. Surely, His goodness, mercy, and unfailing love will follow us every step of the way.

FINAL PRAYER

Faithful Shepherd, You have been with us every step of this journey, feeding us with truth, guiding us by Your Spirit, protecting us by grace, and comforting us with peace. We lay before You every prayer that's been lifted; every plea for life, justice and for truth. Once more Sovereign Lord, we ask that You overturn what exalts death and raise up leaders who seek Your kingdom and pursue righteousness and honor life.

We ask for a spiritual renewal. Restore what has been lost. Redeem what is broken. Awaken what has grown numb. Bring transformation that legislation alone can never accomplish – returning hearts to their Shepherd.

As we move forward, may we walk in Your ways with humility, clarity and boldness. May our lives reflect Your goodness. May we dwell, not just someday, but now in Your house and in Your presence.

In Jesus' powerful and precious Name, Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria

Sealy Pregnancy Resource Center