

My precious praying friends, July 25, 2026

So many of you have been praying for me for years and I still don't have enough words to tell you how thankful I am. You have been persistent, relentless, and faithful in your prayers for me as I have lived with the following health issues (some for decades!) and yet, you are still praying!

--Atrial fibrillation (A-fib) episodes which I've had for 32 years now,

--2 unsuccessful heart ablations that didn't help with the A-fib,

--Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) 1 week after the 2nd ablation I was hospitalized for CHF (no cause was determined so it was likely a result of the failed ablation procedure) 21 years now,

--Fluid retention in my lungs from the CHF which causes severe shortness of breath, 21 years now.

--Osteopenia,

--Hypothyroidism.

I believe I'm doing as well as I am because of your prayers. And now, I'm asking for them again. I've recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. It affects me so differently than anything else I've been through. I have never known anyone who had it so it's all new to me. I thank God I'm not in this alone! I have my Heavenly Father Who provides my every need!! And I have Brent, the most loving and caring husband who would do anything and everything for me, as he has proven over the years - 50 to be exact as we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last month!! I have a loving and caring family and I have you, my faithful praying friends! Even though I haven't met most of you, I know so much about your character, the kind of person you are, by how you consistently ask Brent how I am doing and to let me know you are still praying for me. Thank you for all the notes, cards, and gifts! Still, I just don't have enough words (but as you can tell by the length of this letter, I'm trying! I have written it 4 times trying to shorten it, but I have not been successful!)

Now, I get to share with you my praise to God for all He has done for me! He made a way to Heaven for me! He allowed me to hear and understand the Gospel and ask Him to forgive my sins and save me! He has allowed me to have His precious Word in my language to read, learn, understand, and live by! He has saved my husband, my son, my granddaughter, and both sides of our families down through great nieces and nephews! Not only has He allowed us to serve Him in full-time ministry but to serve Him with

FirstBible International! We are extremely humbled and grateful and thank Him every day for the ministry of FirstBible and our privilege of knowing and loving Dr. and Mrs. Charles Keen.

And now, this is what I want you to know today. I have learned and am still learning to thank God for everything, (good, wonderful, exciting, bad, heartbreaking, devastating) including Alzheimer's Disease. It's been one of my hardest lessons, but God has promised to be with me every step of the way, to comfort me, encourage me, strengthen and fortify me and flood my soul with unexplainable peace and even joy!! There is no sickness that can come our way that God cannot heal. He has healed even after death! Praise our Almighty God! The desire of my heart is that God would choose to heal me completely of this disease if that's His will for me. And I want God's will for me more than I want my own desires, but if God answers with a "No," please pray that I will bring honor and glory and praise to Him as He helps me through this difficult trial. Enduring affliction is what helps us to become more like Christ. I have a song in my heart and verses that I've memorized in my thoughts, and both, along with the privilege of talking to God through prayer, are what help me through each and every day. Through every struggle our Heavenly Father gives us the opportunity to be a vessel of praise for Him!!! And I don't want to miss my opportunity or disappoint my Father.--Just a couple of my verses --

Isaiah 48:10

"Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction." MY GOD has REFINED ME!! Not with silver, HE has CHOSEN ME in the FURNACE of AFFLICTION!! My trials haven't slipped by Him. They have not gone unnoticed by Him. He has CHOSEN them for me! Does that sound like a privilege to you?!!

2 Corinthians 12:9 "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." That sounds like another privilege!!--And one more! --

Psalms 57:1 "Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast." When you are facing a calamity, come rest under the shadow of His wings and look for me! I stay here often. I will save you a spot!

From my heart, overflowing with love and gratefulness,

Shelley

Ephesians 3:20