



# Al SANDERS

Our founder has been a lifelong student of the Word ... and a voracious reader. We thought it was time to hear *his* picks for a "Recommended Reading" list. For us—well, we would recommend *his* book. ***I'm Trying to Number My Days, But I Keep Losing Count!*** is filled with encouragement and humor—something Al has made a hallmark for nearly ten decades. That and a love for Christian TV and radio!

*When it comes to publications which I consider a "must" in my life, it's extremely difficult to keep the number to ten (so I'll cheat a little here and there).*

1 A good study Bible HAS to be number one! In my opinion, there's nothing better or more practical than ***The MacArthur Study Bible*** (published by Thomas Nelson). It's available in everything from the NKJV to the NIV. The ESV is great, but, for me personally, I choose the NASB. This Study Bible has up-to-date notes, as well as practical and easy-to-understand commentaries throughout.

2 I like using ***The Message***, by Eugene Peterson (NavPress) for the shading and nuances on popular verses. Keep in mind, though, I look at it as a paraphrase.

3 I can't do without a good hymn book. I try to memorize the ones I enjoy. Someday I expect to be in a hospital, and these are the words for my mind and heart. I like ***Hymns for the Family of God***, but most any edition will do. Your church may not even use them anymore. I like everything from ***Youth Sings***, to ***Favorites***, to the three great Maranatha chorus books. And, for the backstories, don't overlook ***Then Sings My Soul***, volumes one and two, by Robert Morgan.

4 Joni Eareckson Tada has written an absolute MUST, ***Heaven: Your Real Home***. (I have her painting to go with it. I also love ***Joni and Ken's*** autobiography, simply titled that. If you have a sick friend, don't overlook the ***Beyond Suffering Bible*** with such comforting footnotes (Tyndale).

5 Chuck Swindoll's study of Philippians, appropriately titled, ***Laugh Again***. And, I love his volume, simply titled, ***Jesus***. (I'm hoping he has one coming on my favorite Bible book, "James.") His expositions are impeccable!

6 In 2011, Billy Graham wrote about, ***Nearing Home*** (Nelson). What a reunion he must have had with Ruth, Cliff and Bev! (I've got this one pretty well marked up!)

7 It was probably a dozen years or more ago that Moody published John MacArthur's, ***The Vanishing Conscience***. It's more up-to-date than tomorrow's LA Times!

8 Always a solid challenge are books by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, which is especially true with, ***Brokenness, Surrender, Holiness***. I'm anxious to read her new one (***You Can Trust God to Write Your Story***), co-authored with her husband, Robert.

9 I love ANY book by Max Lucado. I fell in love with his style 100 books ago, as I devoured, ***Six Hours One Friday***. And now, I don't want to miss his latest, ***How Happiness Happens***. (You shouldn't either!)

10 It was Dennis Rainey who challenged me years ago to pray daily, out loud, with Margaret, my bride of 72 years. You can't beat what he and Barbara have compiled in ***Moments Together for Couples***.

#### BONUS:

Okay, okay, I also love a good mystery story. I don't understand, however, why writers feel they need to add four letter words to move along the narrative. It's frankly disgusting. In this genre, my favorites would be John Grisham, David Baldacci, and even James Patterson (his chapters are usually only three pages long).

For reference, since the Psalms mean so much to me, you can't beat ***The Treasury of David*** by Charles Spurgeon; and my well worn edition of ***Unger's Bible Handbook***.

*When the Lord calls me home, someone will be the richer for these incredible publications! Why not add some of them to your library!*