My Prayer--Is It Offensive and Defensive, or Defensive Only?

Defensive: Maintain or re-gain status quo, re-active to circumstances and situations
Offensive: break new ground/pro-active. Taking spiritual initiative.

Read over the following prayer requests and rate them as mostly offensive/pro-active [O] or mostly defensive/reactive [D]—

- Pray for my mom—surgery this week.
- My friend Bill is in the hospital having medical tests done. He also needs the Lord.
- Pray for me that I will be bold to stand up for the Lord in my car pool where the conversation gets very racy.
- My friend's dog is old and angry. Pray that I will be kind.
- A neighbor on our block who is a believer and myself are thinking of how to reach our neighbors. Maybe an evangelistic Bible Study? Pray that God would show us the next step.
- Could you pray for my son, Amos. He is heading off to college and my prayer for him is that he will continue to grow in the Lord and learn discernment about his choices.

Look over these prayers and establish the offensive/defensive balance:

- And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:9-11
- ...we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.
  Colossians 1:9-12
- Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. Colossians 4:12