INTERCESSOR Fall 2017

He *Hears* Our Prayers & **Fights** Our Battles

I Have OVERCOME the World

The Magazine

Read about how bedtime prayers led to a thriving prayer life for one man | p. 9

Read about how God defeated the fears of a dying man through prayer | p. 12

About Prayer

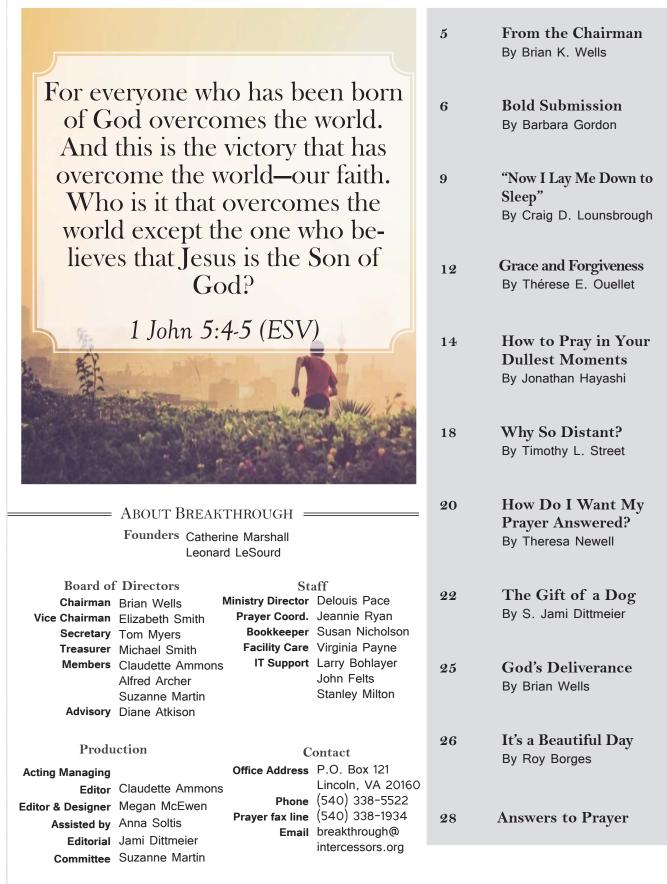
I n searching for GOD'S PURPOSE - the reasons behind events - I saw that whenever I had come to Jesus stripped of pretensions, with a needy spirit, ready to LISTEN to Him and to receive what He had for me, *He had met me at my point of need*. He can make the difference in every human situation.

The word "IMPOSSIBLE" melts away with Him. *He knows no defeat*; can turn every failure and frustration into unexpected victory. He can reverse a doctor's grim prognosis. With Him a seemingly dark and desolate future becomes a JOYOUS NEW LIFE.

I know all this to be truth *because I have lived it*. I have met God at moments when the straight road turns... and *he has picked me up, wiped away my tears, and set me back on* THE PATH OF LIFE.

> Catherine Marshall October 26, 1980 Meeting God at Every Turn

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Our Mission: Bringing together anonymously those needing prayer and Christians willing to pray for them; calling, equipping and encouraging people for this work.

Our Mission

By reakthrough Intercessory Prayer Ministry is here for anyone who wants prayer. Prayer requests may be sent to us by mail, phone, email, fax, or through our website. Your prayer request is sent anonymously to six of our nearly 4,000 intercessors around the world who agree to pray for 21 days for each request they receive.

You will have your own prayer team of dedicated intercessors holding your needs up before the Lord. People often report an increased sense of peace during the prayer period. As you read this magazine, you will learn about many prayers that have been answered.

Catherine Marshall was given the inspiration for Breakthrough nearly 40 years ago. She was a best-selling Christian author who became concerned about the many prayer requests sent to her by her readers. At the same time, other readers were writing to tell her that they longed to be used by God but had no idea what they could do. God gave Catherine the vision of matching these two groups of people: those with prayer needs and those Christians who wanted to be part of a ministry. Thus Catherine and her husband, Leonard LeSourd, began the Breakthrough ministry.

Prayer requests are identified by first name only and are never sent to intercessors in the same geographic location as the prayer requester. The 21-day prayer period was arrived at based on the story in Daniel chapter 10. Daniel was praying for three weeks before the angel of the Lord was able to come and help him. The angel had been detained by spiritual forces from the first day of Daniel's prayer.

Our intercessors may receive scriptural insights from God for the prayer requester. Those messages, in the form of Scripture verses, are sent to the office and then forwarded to the person requesting prayer. In turn, prayer requesters send their answers to prayer to the staff which are



then forwarded to the intercessors as encouragement for their faithfulness in praying.

We want to hear from you. Pray about becoming one of our intercessors. It is a small expenditure of time compared to how it will impact your life and change the lives of others. As you read this magazine, think of your own stories of answered prayer that you would like to share. Our editorial committee will consider them for publication in The Breakthrough Intercessor. Remember also to send us your prayer requests. It is our privilege to pray for you.

Personal Devotion

Hello Beloved,

Personal devotion. This isn't the name of a Bible Study lesson of the day. Rather, it is the description of someone whose life is one of being drawn by the Savior - someone who spends time with God because they truly are in love with their risen Lord! Your ability to intercede for others in prayer desperately depends upon it.

Are you pursuing God? Or are you simply going through the motions of singing a praise song, followed by another worship song, before you start running down the prayer list of people you are praying for?

In Matthew 15:22-25, Jesus was approached by a woman seeking help for her daughter, who had been grievously vexed with a devil. At first Jesus ignores her, but, when she begins to worship Him, she gets His attention. True, genuine worship is what gets



God's attention. Are you a worshiper? If you aren't a worshiper, your intercession doesn't have a prayer.

As a worshiper, you should desire to be continually drawn deeper and deeper into his loving embrace. If this is not the sentiment of your heart, you should ask yourself and God why!

Have you ever been lost in worship? Do you know the presence of God? John 9:31 says, "... if any man be a worshiper of God, and does His will, him He hears."

Set in your heart the godly desire to be swept away by God's loving embrace when you come before Jesus, the Lover of your soul. Your Heavenly Father seeks such followers to worship Him.

Be a worshiper! Song of Solomon 1:4

Juin K. Wells

Brian K. Wells, Chairman of the Board Breakthrough's statement for financial accountability is available upon written request from the Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs: P.O. Box 526, Richmond, VA 23218

SUBMISSION

By Barbara Gordon I made myself comfortable in the familiar well-worn green rocking chair and crossed my legs. Rummaging through my purse, I located the small spiral notebook that itemized my prayer list. For 15 years, Alice and I met weekly in her homey living room to pray. She was 30 years my elder and, to me, epitomized a modern day prayer warrior.

Alice spoke to God as if He was sitting in the chair next to us. When Alice opened her mouth to pray, no introduction was necessary. She and the Father were well acquainted.

My friend taught me a lot about praying. Though Alice is now with the One who makes constant intercession for us to the Father, the lessons she taught still influence the way I pray.

Alice prayed with both boldness and submission. While the combination of boldness and submission seems like an oxymoron, Alice combined the two traits into beautiful conversation with God. I learned to pray with reverent submission from Alice's example.

When Alice prayed for her personal health concerns, I was reminded of the humble request of the leper in Matthew 8:2, "And, behold, there came a leper and worshiped him, saying, 'Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.""

Hearing Alice pray in this manner also reminded me of how Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not My will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42 NIV). Jesus' and Alice's prayers of reverent submission stated their own desire, followed by them asking for the Father's best.

When my mother was in a serious car accident, I wisely called my praying friend. I was confident Alice would pray for Mom in a way I could not. While my petition was, "Heal her," I knew that Alice would pray with reverent submission, "Thy will be done."

Yet at other times, Alice prayed with confident boldness, causing me to reflect on an account in Acts 3 and 4.

The religious leaders had put Peter and John in prison after the two had healed a lame man at the gate called Beautiful. The next day, they were released from jail and were commanded not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

When the two disciples reported the incident to their companions, a prayer meeting ensued. Their petition concluded in Acts 4:29-30 with these words, "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy servant Jesus."

Scripture records that, as they prayed, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. The place shook, and they were empowered to courageously speak

God's Word.

Boldness characterized Jesus' prayers as well. With a loud voice Jesus commanded Lazarus to come out of the tomb after He prayed, "Father, I thank You that You have heard me. I knew that You always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that You sent me" (John 11:41-42 NIV). Jesus was confident that His prayers would be answered. He modeled that boldness for the benefit of onlookers.

"Jesus was confident that His prayers would be answered. He modeled that boldness for the benefit of onlookers."

- Barbara Gordon

Shortly after midnight on a hot August night, I answered the phone and heard these words from Alice's granddaughter: "My dad is dead, and my grandma needs you." I hurried to Alice's home and learned that a tragic accident had taken the life of her only child.

Wailing and tears permeated the night. However, sitting at her kitchen table the next morning, Alice, in her grief, prayed with bold submission, "This is the day the Lord has made. I WILL rejoice and be glad in it."

The following days were sad and difficult, but Alice drew strength from her God - who comforted her because He too had lost His son in a tragic way.

No doubt, Jesus is the ultimate

prayer warrior and His Spirit is the One who taught my elderly friend to pray with such passion. As I grow in my ability to pray with boldness and submission, I am expectant that I, too, can experience the victory in prayer that Jesus and Alice knew.

Barbara Gordon began freelance writing when she retired from public school teaching



and administration. She lives in a small town in western Missouri with her husband of 40 years and enjoys family time with three sons, three daughters-in-law and six grandchildren.

"Now I Jay Me Down to Sleep"

by Craig D. Lounsbrough

It goes something like this: "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take. God bless Mommy, Daddy, Mark, Brett and Granny. Amen." *Simple*.

I recited that prayer thousands of times as kid. It comes to my memory today as clearly as it did those many thousands of times. It's wonderfully simple and joyously profound. Its words shaped my soul as an infant and then as a child. It drew a soft blanket of warmth over my bed every night, and it calmed my heart when life turned dark.

That simple prayer became a marvelous conduit of connection, creating a place each night where I could connect with God in days that seemed completely full of Him and in other days that seemed entirely void of Him.

Its words were like an anchor of iron, dropped into seas churning and calm, restful and tumultuous. Their simplicity held me fast and their depth held me strong. I

am warmed when I recite them even today.

But they were never prayed alone. On the edge of my bed sat Mom or Dad, or sometimes both of them. The words of this simple prayer were recited in unison, creating a corporate simplicity that lent even greater power to them.

There is a certain richness present when others join us in engaging the infinite. Something about joining another in prayer accelerates our humanity to peaks that we don't even understand. All we know is that it's powerful, it exceeds words to encapsulate it, and it sets us in places that we're supposed to live in but rarely visit.

"Now I lay me down to sleep...," Praying with Mom and Dad ushered me in to heavenly places and introduced me to vast spaces far beyond my simple bedroom.

Samuel Chadwick said that "prayer is the acid test of devotion." It is the indication of how devoted we are to God. It's the gauge of our love for Him and our commitment to Him, because it's the daily enterprise of putting all of our interests, all of our desires, all of

> our agendas, all of our goals, all of the things that incessantly clamor for our attention, and all other loves behind us in order to focus exclusively and selflessly upon

God. Prayer is an intentional action of the abandonment of self in favor of the focus and worship of God.

The acid test of our relationship with others is partnering with them in prayer. It's joining others in prayer as a means of bringing them before God, and them only. It's not about any thin shade of us. Our needs and our agendas are rendered entirely invisible and wholly absent, wiped off the slate of prayer. It's where we utterly relinquish our agendas, completely write off any potential gains, and stand solely in the

Prayer is an intentional action of the abandonment of self in favor of the focus and worship of God.



stead of another. Prayer is about partnering with others and bringing their needs before God without a shred of consideration for ourselves. It's making us entirely invisible so that another is rendered more visible than a single soul can be alone. It's pristine selflessness. That is the acid test indeed.

"Now I lay me down to sleep...," My parents set their lives entirely aside, sat on the bedside of a heavy-eyed child, and spoke those words into his life. They put their own scars aside. They forfeited their own struggles and ignored the uncertainty that often dogged their steps and haunted their days. They held the hand of this tired child and prayed everything for him and nothing for themselves. They faced adversity that I couldn't comprehend until I faced adversity in my own life. They scaled mountainous obstacles that I had no idea existed for them. They often peered into uncertain futures and prepared to put themselves to bed only to face challenges the next day that I never saw.

Yet, in that simple bedroom, their prayer was just for me.



Craig has over 28 years of counseling and coaching experience and over 10 years of experience in pastoral ministry. He is a

Licensed Professional Counselor in Colorado, a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors, and Certified Professional Life Coach. Forgiveness

ace

by Thérese E. Ouellet

For me, 2016 was a year of loss... my brother died. It was also the end of a long battle with un-forgiveness towards him.

My journey towards total forgiveness from the bottom of my heart began several years ago. It seemed to be at a dead end for a long time, although I wanted to forgive him and used several tools to help, such as books, prayer, and handwritten Bible verses about the subject. For a while, I was discouraged. What was I doing wrong?

A few years ago, I seriously asked the Holy Spirit to guide me into that journey. It was joyful and painful at the same time. I totally trusted God alone for victory. To my surprise, it happened. I do not know exactly when, but it did. As God is never late, this miracle coincided with my brother's illness. I visited him at his house. His attitude was not too friendly, but with God's grace I did not fall into unforgiveness again.

A week later, he became terminally ill in the hospital. The following Sunday morning, I woke up with an urge to go to the hospital. When I saw him, my heart sank. I sat by his bed and said, "Louis, this is Theŕēse. If you hear me and if you know who I am, squeeze my arm." I saw his fingers move a little as he tried to put pressure on my arm. What a gift that was from God!

In the meantime, some of his family had entered the room. I asked the Lord, "Please give me the boldness to pray, and please give me the right words." A second later, I heard myself say, "Do any of you object to me praying?"

"No!" They answered.

I knew he was afraid. He had lived all his life with fear. So, I said, "Jesus, Louis has lived all his life in fear."

At that moment, my brother, who had not said a word for a couple of days, clearly said, "The fear of the uncertain."

It was clear that the Lord had opened wide the door for me to know exactly what to pray. I heard myself say under the influence of the Holy Spirit, "Louis, you do not have to be



afraid. Jesus is here ready to take your hand to guide you to Heaven."

"Please, Lord, send angels to be with Louis. The Lord is extending His hand to you; take it, and you two will walk together the path to Heaven," I prayed.

I prayed the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23. After verse four ("Even though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you are with me"), I could no longer talk. When I opened my eyes, my brother was calm and his face glowed.

There were three members of his family there with me: one of his four daughters and her two children. To my surprise, his granddaughter, Rachel, had rested her head on the bed, crying. Her brother was holding his grandfather, crying. The Lord had only allowed those there who were in unity with me to stay. Rachel said to me, "Thank you, Theŕēse, for praying for Grandpa."

God had orchestrated the precious reconciliation to my brother in spite of the war between us for such a long time. What an awesome gift! Long before his passing, I had forgiven him from the bottom of my heart. The day I prayed, there was not a shadow of resentment left in my heart. Without that "miracle" a few weeks prior, my brother may not have gone to Heaven. The presence of the Lord was there.

What a grace! What a blessing! And He chose me for such a sacred moment. Joy fills my heart.

Thérese Ouellet (88) has always found solace in prayer. She learned to pray as a child with her father and mother. These precious memories were indelibly imprinted upon her mind, even through prayer-less times. Since 1974, prayer has permeated every part of her life, day and night. Therese resides in Can-



ada and has been a Breakthrough Intercessor for close to twenty years.



How to Pray In Your DULLEST Moments

By Jonathan Hayashi

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Do you remember when your greatest desire was to read the Word, to pray, and to be like God? When your greatest desire as a young believer was to just be in His presence? Something has happened. You have left your first love.

Someone once asked me, "Well Jonathan, what if I don't want to pray? What if I want other things of this world rather than Jesus?"

At times I am walking with my wife in the park. I can just give her a glance. A single glance and her heart will beat faster because she is mine, and I am hers. I kneel on the floor in the night.

When I glance towards heaven, the heart of God beats faster. When you bow your knee to pray and you look up to heaven, an amazing thing happens. Why wouldn't you want to pray? Doesn't that make you want to pray? This is not work.

D.A. Carson explains, "People do not drift toward Holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the undisciplined of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated," (Excerpt from For the Love of God).

His love is so great. It really does cover a multitude of sins. How beautiful is the presence of God, the fragrance of God's presence; it has so much worth. It is so wondrous. It is beyond words to describe. The presence of God is such a joy, and God feels the same about our presence to Him.

One time, my little girl drove me to tears. I walked into the bedroom, and she opened her arms the moment she saw me. There wasn't a doubt in her mind that her father was going to receive her, that her father was going to love her, and that her father was full of joy to see her.

"Well, I don't know if I am worthy to be received," you say. You are not. You never will be, but that is not the point. Your unworthiness is swallowed up by His love. This is all about Him. All of that doesn't matter anymore. Jesus paid the price. When it is finished, as the Savior said on the cross, it is really finished. It is a done deal. Love was opened up. Mercy was opened up. A fountain was opened up. All the powers of hell could not close it down.

There is a place for you now. It is not for you just part-time; it is not for you just when you get it right; it is not for you just because you are really dedicated; it is not for you just because you are involved in missions and do ministry and have a title in the church. It is for you because Christ Jesus made it for you. It is always yours and you can always go there. You don't have to go far. God's love is omnipresent – you never have to go far. He is everywhere Same magazine, BRAND NEW FORMAT! The Breakthrough Intercessor is now publishing online! For online, exclusive content & ministry updates, "Like" Breakthrough Intercessors on Facebook!

all the time in His fullness.

Grace connects us with our inability to save ourselves, with God's gracious willingness to do so, with the enormous price that had to be paid in order to do so, and with the gratitude that should flow as a result.

Hayashi has been a pastor who has a good reputation with other pastors across the states of Illinois and Missouri. He has served in full-time ministry for eight years at two churches in Illinois and Missouri. During this time, he has been a camp pastor at several Christian camps and has been the speaker at multiple revivals and evangelistic rallies. Jonathan has a strong desire to serve



the local church by leading, equipping and shepherding the flock into authentic mature followers of Jesus Christ. He has been tremendously blessed by his wonderful wife, Kennedi. They have one beautiful daughter, Kaede Selah Hayashi, and another one expected in October.

How can Breakthrough maintain a network of nearly 4,000 intercessors who pray faithfully and individually for each request They receive? Only through YOUT partnership.

Gifts of Stock

Maximize tax-deductible contributions by making a charitable stock donation with an account you have owned for at least one year. You won't pay capital gains tax and will receive an income tax deduction for the asset's full fair market value.

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Wire transfer to Breakthrough through our broker at Fidelity Investments (1-800-544-6565), account ID number X37-243558, DTC 0226. Please notify Breakthrough of your intentions so your gift can be tracked and properly receipted.

Leave your Legacy

Consider leaving Breakthrough a gift in your will to ensure that our ministry can continue calling, equipping, and encouraging people in the work of faithful intercession. Include the following wording: "I give, devise, and bequeath to Breakthrough, Inc., tax identification number 23-7423474, P.O. Box 121, Lincoln, Virginia 20160 (insert amount, percentage, or nature of gift, or remainder of estate) to be used for its ministry purposes."

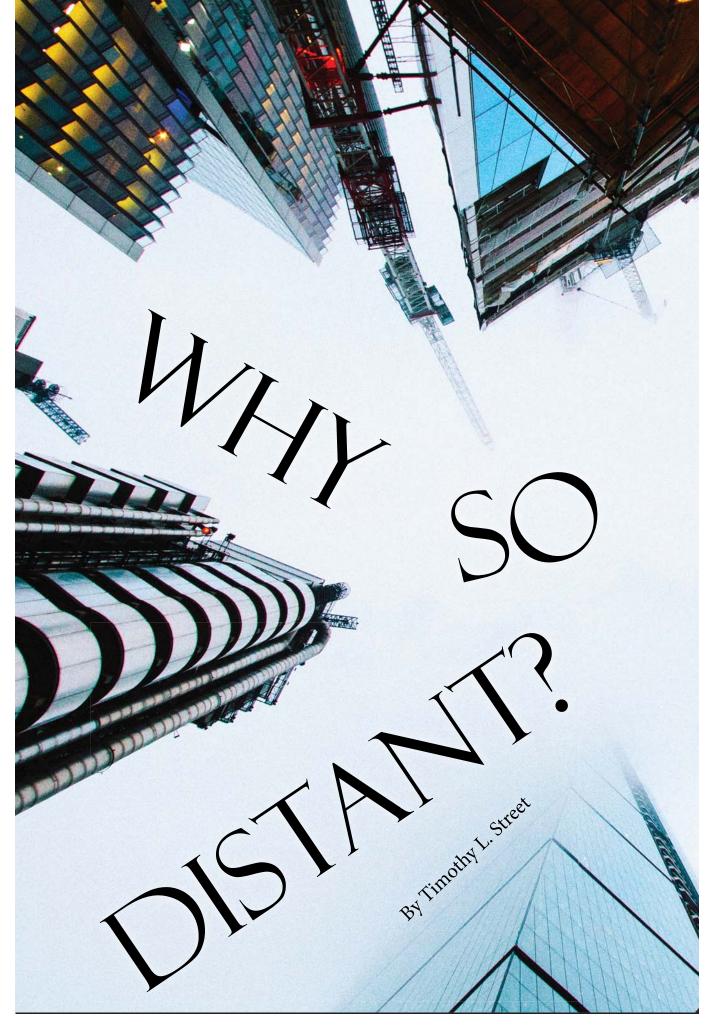
Has God taught you about prayer? Has He answered prayer and you want to share it? Do you write prayer poetry? The Intercessor's editors welcome submissions!

Some Guidelines:

Articles: 500 to 1,000 words. Poems: 12 lines minimum.

- Topic must focus on prayer: an experience or teaching supported in Scripture
- Authors give Breakthrough permission to edit material for length and content

Email: editor@intercessors.org Mail: Breakthrough Editor, P.O. Box 121, Lincoln, VA 20160



LORD GOD, why do YOU feel so distant?

I'm not talking about distant like I'm in the living room and YOU'RE in the bedroom.

Maybe distant like I'm in Atlanta and YOU'RE in San Francisco.

Or maybe I'm on Earth and YOU'RE on Pluto.

YOU'VE been quiet lately like a baby that a mother has nursed and rocked to sleep. But I know YOU see me every time I weep.

Yes, like Jeremiah, this might be the time to take my praise and worship higher.

If it's sin that's blocking our relationship, I ask for forgiveness right now in the name of Jesus.

Please clean me with hyssop in a front loader washing machine.

YOU know my ways o' LORD, all my shortcomings and faults. I pray make me clean.

I'm not used to this feeling like YOU'RE just not there. I know you are omnipresent and YOU'RE everywhere but why not here?

I cry out to YOU like a man in a seat in a stadium size arena. Help me with the things that're not pleasing to YOU.

Take them away by YOUR Holy Spirit, lead me and guide me today. I will bow before YOUR throne and continue to pray.

Why do YOU feel so distant? Like a Frisbee that was thrown by a man on the beach, that a dog couldn't fetch, because it was engulfed by waves and taken far out to sea.

I plea for YOUR presence, or am I getting my faith mixed up with feelings?

Why do YOU feel so distant?

Like a baby bee that has flown from her hive in the small neck of the woods

To the city, to the ceiling of the 50th floor in a building.

But I do know YOU are there, like the sun hidden behind clouds on a cloudy day. But why do YOU feel so distant?

That's all I have to say.

How Do I Want My Prayer Answered?

by Theresa Newell

There was a man hanging on the roof of a house as flood waters climbed higher and higher. He cried out to God: "Save me!"

Along came a boat, and the men in the boat told him to jump in. He refused. "God will save me," he told the men in the boat.

Again, he prayed, "God, help me!" Soon a raft floated by. "Grab hold," the man in the raft called out to the man on the roof. Again, he refused, saying that God would help him. As the waters came even higher, a helicopter flew over and let down a rope toward the man. Still he didn't take the help. Finally, the waters rose over the house and the man drowned! Upset, he stood before God and asked: "I cried out to you for help! Why did You let me die in the flood waters!" God replied, "My son, I heard your prayer. I sent you two boats and a helicopter!"

Sometimes I am like that when I pray. I have a picture in my mind about HOW and WHEN I expect and want God to answer my prayers! I may even think that God isn't "fair" because I am having problems that I don't think I've done anything to deserve!

"Why me, Lord?" I ask.

Perhaps, I have a mistaken notion that MY life is supposed to be perfect, that nothing is supposed to touch me - terminal illness, loss of job or a broken relationship. Even when I know in my mind that "life is difficult," in the midst of a personal crisis I lose sight of the bigger picture. I forget the mammoth suffering that is going on all around me: refugees who have lost everything and ended up in dreadful camps year after year, children suffering with cancers, or sixteen year olds dying in automobile accidents. There is something about the "sin default" that causes me, especially in what feels like a desperate situation, to focus only on my immediate needs.

My physician brother puts it this way: we offer people a pink life-jacket in their need, but they have a mental picture of a blue life-jacket as an answer to their prayers. Consequently, they refuse the pink one which God is sending them. They miss a perfect gift being extended from the hand of a loving God Who is perfect in His wisdom, Who knows us intimately, and Who has our greater good in mind.

Which brings up a larger theological issue or, simply put, what do I think about God's character. Is He just? Fair? Does He really answer prayer? Is He asleep? (This is the question that Elijah asked about the Canaanite god, Baal, when he confronted Baal's prophets in 1 Kings 18:16-39).

Or is He the God He says He is: "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin" (Exodus 34:6,7).

When I demand that God answer my prayer on MY timetable and in MY way, am I truly trusting the Almighty God who knows the end from the beginning? The God who is "working all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes" (Romans 8:28)? The God who tells us in our most difficult time, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm, and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you" (Exodus 14:13).

Lord, in my most trying and difficult time of need, build faith in YOU under my feet. Let me search diligently in Your Word and seek out Your character in deeper ways. Cause me to wait upon You in quietness and peace, praising You as the all-loving God, Who is my faithful Father. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Theresa Newell served as assistant to Len Le-Sourd (1986-89) and was called as the first Breakthrough Director in 1989. She and her husband, Bruce, served on the Breakthrough Board (Bruce was Chairman in the 1990s). Theresa has a Masters in Biblical Studies and a Doctor of Ministry in Missions. She has worked in Jewish missions for 40 years and leads Bible study tours to Israel each year.

The Newells live in New Holland, PA and together have eight children, 31 grandchildren and soon will welcome a third great grand-daughter.



The Gift of a Dog

The Story Continues...

by S. Jami Dittmeier

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Hadassah Selah (Dassah), our Cocker Spaniel, is now seven years old going on eight. According to three different vets that we consulted in June of 2013, she should not be alive today.

As a three-year-old, she was diagnosed with a very serious autoimmune mitigated Hemolytic Anemia while we were vacationing in Maine. We had had a difficult trip of over 14 hours in the rain and even lost our way a couple of times, taking us miles out of our way. When we finally got to a hotel, it was after 10 p.m. We were all tired, but Dassah seemed fine. We could tell, however, that the trip had taken its toll on her, because she had some diarrhea the next day of our trip – which is normal for her in stressful situations.

Later that day, we arrived on Peaks Island, Maine, and picked up some family members at the airport. While we got settled in the house to wait for the rest of our family to arrive, we noticed that Dassah refused to go outside without being carried down the stairs at the house where we were staying. She also refused to eat apples and carrots, which were normally some of her favorite treats. We decided that something must be done.

We found a card for the island vet tacked to the refrigerator and agreed to call her the next morning. That night I consulted "Dr. Google" and found that Dassah had all the symptoms listed for Hemolytic Anemia. We called Dr. Burkholder the next morning. When I explained the symptoms, she told us to bring Dassah right over to her clinic. After she looked in her mouth and listened to her irregular heartbeat, she told us to take the ferry to the main land immediately. She instructed us to carry her, as she could collapse from lack of oxygen. In this malady, the white blood cells destroy the red so the oxygen levels in the blood plummet, starving the organs.

Thus, the organs shut down and the animal perishes.

The animal hospital was a 45-minute ferry and taxi cab ride away.

At this point God intervened, making it possible to get to the animal hospital without incident. That was the first "God miracle." Next, we met Dr. Sarah Noble. She told us that the clinic treated several dogs a month with this same malady, and the prognosis was not favorable for a total recovery. However, she was confident that they could treat Dassah - not that she would be "fine" necessarily, but that they would do their best.

Dassah was kept, treated with strong drugs, and given a blood transfusion. We picked her up two days later, and she was looking and acting much better thanks to the drugs, transfusion, and the prayers of family and friends.

When we met with our vet upon our arrival home, he was not optimistic. However, over the course of the next several weeks of receiving cancer drugs and heavy doses of Prednisone, Dassah began to improve.

Throughout all of these weeks, we were praying. We asked several of our friends to join us. Additionally, we sent a prayer request to the Breakthrough Intercessory Prayer Ministry, as we were on the board of directors at the time. They prayed for her healing for twenty-one days, as is their custom for all prayer requests. In addition to praying for Dassah and us, they printed Dassah's amazing story of how God brought her to us in the Summer 2011 issue of *The Breakthrough Intercessor* magazine.

Dassah was recovering one month after the diagnosis. In July of 2013, we decided to rescue a companion for her. My husband suggested that I check a local rescue organization to see if we could find a black-and-white, male Cocker Spaniel from a local rescue group. As I Google-searched these specs, up popped a picture of a young black Cocker male with white markings who had just arrived from North Carolina to a local rescue group. His name was "Jasper," and he was healthy, except that he was recovering from heart worms and eye surgery.

When we were told we could meet him, we went to his foster home. We were also allowed to take him to our home to meet Dassah. Following the instructions of the rescuer, we brought Dassah out of the house on a leash to meet the new dog. She took one look at him, and we could tell immediately that she approved. We took them for a walk around our neighborhood, and by the time we got home they were already fast friends. Shortly after our return, Jasper fell asleep on the couch next to me.

We decided to rescue him; and, since we already had Hadassah (Hebrew for Esther), we decided to change Jasper's name to Mordecai – Hadassah's uncle and foster father in the Bible book of Esther.

When the president of the rescue organization arrived at our home a few hours later, "Jasper," or Mordecai, was fast asleep and snoring on our sofa.

Lisa, the rescuer, indicated her approval at the dog's comfort level, stating

that she had been searching for a dog he could cuddle with. By this time, Dassah was next to him sleeping, too. The autoimmune malady caused her to be cold at times, so she appreciated his body heat.

We adopted this wonderful, skinny dog.

In Luke 11:9-13, the Lord tells us, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, you who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

Now, over four years later, we have retired and relocated with the two dogs. Dassah is now seven years old and still healed, and Mordecai is five years old, all grown up and gorgeous. This goes to show once again that our God is good, gracious, and always interested in doing wonderfully great things for us His children.



S. Jami Dittmeier is a retired Christian bookstore co-owner, former Breakthrough Board Mem-

ber and Intercessor since 1998. She currently resides in Gainesville, GA. along with her husband David, Dassah & Mordecai.

nod's Deliverance

By Brian Wells, Chairman

S everal times, at a large Pastor's conference with people I have never met, someone has privately approached me saying, "The Holy Ghost told me I should ask you to pray for me to get rid of a certain problem I am having." And they name the problem.

Local pastors have called me personally to pray over them, asking the same question, and God sets them free.

One Pastor, a long time friend who lived a few hours away, approached me even though I had not seen him in several years. During our meeting at a restaurant, he said that he had been trying to get free from an enslavement for quite some time, with no success. I could see the oppression in his eyes. I listened for a couple of hours while he told me his story.

As we were leaving, I laid hands on him beside his truck, and God showed up. God set him free. He called later that day thanking me and praising God about how God had delivered him. I was very happy for him.

As I thanked God for his deliverance, I was again overwhelmed at God's trust in me, that He would use me to deliver those He loves, including His Pastors. It is such a privilege to know Jesus trusts you.

When I am all alone, and I worship Him, my heart is overwhelmed with love for Him, because He trusts me with those that are near and dear to Him. That sense has never become usual or normal to me. It always overwhelms me. I remember when he delivered me. He is the lover of my soul.

He is the Lover of your soul, too. He loves you more dearly than you can possibly know right now. And yet, He is going to take an eternity to to reveal that love to you - one step at a time. Get to know Him. Press in. Worship Him.



It's a auti

By Roy Borges

In prison, many things challenge me beyond my abilities, keeping me from having a beautiful day.

I have discovered two options that dictate my success or my defeat.

The first option is to focus on Christ. The Bible says: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

The second option is to focus on myself. The Bible says: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but it ends in the way of death" (Prov. 14:12). When I focus on my own power, I land flat on my face every time.

With faith all things are possible. "But without faith it is impossible to please God," according to Hebrews 11:6. God has given us everything we need to serve and honor Him in every situation.

The Apostle Paul wrote: "Who is adequate for these things?" (2 Cor. 2:16). Our adequacy is always from God. He has given us the Holy Spirit to enable us to speak with Christ's power. If we realize that God makes us competent and useful, we can overcome our feelings of inadequacy. Serving Christ, therefore, requires that we focus on what He can do through us, not on what we cannot do for ourselves.

Never measure God's unlimited power by your inadequacies. Unless we believe Him and step out in faith, we will never experience the fullness of life that He has planned for us. Hidden blessings are in the experiences of your inadequacies. They drive us to God and challenge our faith. God uses our inadequacies to demonstrate what great things He is able to do with a heart that allows Him to control it.

When I forgave an inmate who stole my treasured reading glasses that my sister bought me, God blessed me. When I forgave an officer who abused me and left a scar on my face, God blessed me. God changed my heart so that revenge and hate were no longer in me! Every day became a beautiful day because God blessed me in ways I never would have dreamed possible.

Basically, I am what I think. So, each morning I wake up and thank God for this day. I say these words to remind myself of His continuous presence:

"This is the day the Lord has made;

I will rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps. 118:24).

It conditions my attitude for a favorable day. Ask God to help you deal with every problem you will face today. God is going to make this a beautiful day because He is with you – guiding and protecting you. Start this day with that positive attitude and watch it become a beautiful day.

In prison, it is easy to dislike people, but you can't have a good day when that happens. It may be a challenge, but with Christ's strength you can do it. Look for the likeable qualities in others, especially the difficult ones. It will help you to like them.

Never use inadequacy to justify a distaste or unfriendliness toward others. Constant, sincere, and loving prayer ultimately dissolves hate and illwill, making every day a beautiful day.

To keep my emotions under control I ask, "What would Jesus do?" When you think like Jesus, you will have His peace and joy. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

Curb your tongue, discipline your reactions and, more importantly, curb your mental attitude. Leave the sharp, backbiting retorts unsaid... the cure for anger is delay. Speak softly and control your emotions: if you can't say something nice, then don't say anything at all.

The antidote for inadequacy is to let the Lord make you adequate. Rely on Him and allow Christ to live in and through you. We are no longer alone.

"I have been crucified with Christ – it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

Roy Borges's stories have appeared in

many Christian publications. He won AMY Foundation awards in 1998, 2002, and 2003. Roy's book "Faith and Love Behind Prison Fences" was published in 2002. nswers to Prave

MIRACULOUS PROVISION

On January 27th, Tony asked prayer teams worldwide to pray for his home that was lost to foreclosure. On February 9th, God answered! He sent someone to write a check for the full amount of his home and allow him to repay him at a lower interest rate and lower mortgage with the option to buy the home back in five years. Who can just write a check for \$278,000? As Tony says, "This is nothing short of a miracle Thank you, Father God, and all for praying for my family during our darkest hour. Never give up and never stop praying."

RIGHT ON TIME

Regina was fearful when she lost her keys, since it had the keys to her office for the school district. It is a major thing to lose those keys. She prayed God would help her find them and He did! Praise the Lord!

OUR HEALER

Cynthia praises God for restoring her sister back to health. She had three aneurysms and one ruptured on Easter Sunday. She lost consciousness once and was taken to the hospital. God intervened, though, and she is alert, oriented, and doing well. All of the doctors said that it had to be God because every person they have seen with that condition has died. Hallelujah to Jesus, our Healer!



SALVATION STIRRED

Rose requested prayers for her grandchildren to be brought to Christ. She shares that her granddaughter, Scarlett, is listening to songs about Jesus on her C.D. player and wants to go to V.B.S. this summer even though her parents are not going to church!

A HOPEFUL DIAGNOSIS

Jo-Ann offers up thanks for Mary's story. She was diagnosed with cancer. After surgery, the doctors told her they could not help her anymore, since her cancer was untreatable. They later examined the tissue removed during the operation & found that the cancer wasn't as extensive and was treatable!

RESTORED MARRIAGE

Meryl praises God for restoring her marriage of 33 years! Her husband walked away December of 2015, but he came home October, 2016. She says, "It was a very difficult 17-month period, but we both stand in awe of how the Lord intervened time after time to keep us from divorce until He could lead us to the help we needed! Our marriage was dead, but Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and Life!!" They praise Him and hope that their testimony can be an encouragement to other hurting couples who feel hopeless.

continued on next page

A HOST OF ANGELS

Sharon requested prayers for Charlie who struggled with bulimia. During the prayer period, she saw him surrounded by lots and lots of angels! At the same time, she received guidance on how to resolve one of the issues that she had been dealing with, and the problem seems to be almost completely resolved. She was thankful for the surprise, since she did not request prayer for herself. Praise God!

ABUNDANCE!

Louise has been managing her illness and is able to sew quilts. A woman recently called her asking her to come by her shop for fabric. She drove away with four bank boxes full of good fabric! She gave two boxes to a lady with children. One shelf holds over \$400 worth of good quality fabric. One stack will make a quilt (tied) worth \$99! She feels blessed by prayers.

OPEN DOORS

Michael requested prayer about God opening doors to become a pastor of a church. Well, he is now the pastor of a new church! He is thankful for the opportunity.

GIFTS

A gift from Becky Cooke, Patricia Butler, Jacqueline Rosencronce, and Elizabeth Smith in honor of Suzanne Martin's Birthday

Janice Erickson in honor of Gregg Erickson, Travis Suggs, & Elliot Suggs

> A gift from Mae W. Brooks in honor of Martha Bruton

We welcome gifts in honor of loved ones.

CHANGED FOREVER BY HIS TOUCH

Loretta shares how the Holy Spirit spoke to her. It happened so fast that she didn't even know what the Holy Spirit said to her, except that it changed her life from that day forward. She says, "I quit lying in bed all day. I cleaned up my house that had been a dirty mess for as long as I could remember. God worked an instant miracle for me. I'm happier than I've ever been. It has improved and strengthened my prayer life. I can't praise God, His Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit enough."

IMPRISONED NO MORE

Joshua was imprisoned unjustly in the Congo and mistreated for eight years, during which time his mom faithfully asked for prayers. At last, he was airlifted back home and into good medical hands on May 17th! He got out right on time. There was a breakout in the prison, and if Joshua had not gotten out when he did, they might have delayed his case again. His family is overwhelmed with relief and thankfulness. Praise God for this miracle and His perfect timing!!



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