

THE BREAKTHROUGH
SUMMER
2011 INTERCESSOR



*W*andering the
desert...
looking for God
p. 10

THE MAGAZINE ABOUT PRAYER

God answers prayers for a
dog to the letter | p. 6

Learning how to not be
so busy | p. 28



Prayer Walk

by Cindy J. Evans

Lord, as we stroll through these streets,
may we be those with beautiful feet,
praying the good news will be spread
in each home, each life, each bed.

We lift up each neighbor's needs
and that they'd live lives as You lead.
You're familiar with each person, each heart,
and we will intercede and do our part.

We feel the Spirit moving here and there,
it is our joy to lift each and every care,
knowing that You love them dearly
and answer prayers wisely and clearly.

Help us obey Your holy prompting,
give us strength to continue walking...
Lord, what an honor to serve and pray,
be with us now each step of the way.

THE BREAKTHROUGH INTERCESSOR

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

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Leonard LeSourd

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our mission

Breakthrough 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 30 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.



giving hope

I keep several Breakthrough mini-brochures with me at all times. It's amazing how many people I run into who are having problems or know someone going through a rough time. Recently I met a lady who said she might have to move because she wasn't making enough money to make ends meet. Her adult daughter has recurring problems from a leg amputation and that adds to her financial difficulties. She said she has trouble sleeping because of worry.

I reached into my purse and gave her a Breakthrough brochure. She took it and started reading it right away. I told her how easy it is to request prayer and that you can actually submit a prayer request in about one minute. I told her she could keep the mini-brochure by her computer and request prayer anytime. It was such a small thing to do, but if you could have seen the look of hope in her eyes, you would know that Breakthrough gives hope.



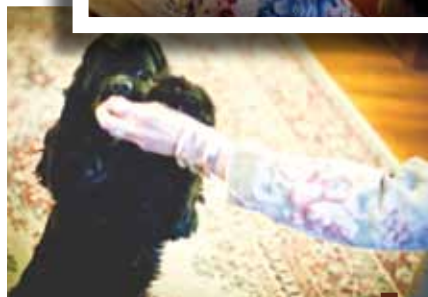
Not long ago, my daughter who lives in California reminded me that her salary had been cut by 20% over a year ago during the recession. She confided that her finances are really stretched and she is looking for a job that will pay more. I suggested Breakthrough. I told her she could make a request in about a minute and that six wonderful intercessors would take her needs to the Lord in prayer. This morning she sent an e-mail telling me that she had just received a raise and bonus. Breakthrough gives hope while we are waiting on the Lord.

Recently in a hotel lobby I talked to a mom whose husband suffered both emotionally and physically from the war in the Middle East. His constant pain makes him impatient with their children. She worries about her husband's health and that their children won't understand his disability and forgive him. I reached into my purse and gave her a Breakthrough mini-brochure. I told her she could go to www.intercessors.org and make a prayer request in about a minute. She was so excited that she went into the Business Center at the hotel and looked up the Breakthrough website. Breakthrough gives hope to people when they realize that God loves them and wants to meet their needs.

You can contact Breakthrough to request our free mini-brochures so you will be able to pass on hope to the people you meet who are going through tough times. If you share the Breakthrough Prayer Ministry with others you give them hope.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Elizabeth Smith". The script is elegant and cursive.

Elizabeth Smith
Vice-Chairman of the Board



the gift of a dog

by S. Jami Dittmeier

Dear Jesus,

As You already know, we would very much like to have another dog, but only if this is in accord with Your will. Should You desire to bless us with a new friend, we would like it to meet the following criteria:

*Free
Female
Less than 5 years old
Spaniel
House broken
Crate trained
Good with people and other animals
Black & white
Good Shoppe dog*

So these are our desires. We turn this over to You as You know what is best for us.



Photos by Gabrielle Ryan

For the last 38 years my husband David and I have raised dogs and co-habitated with them. We've owned and loved seven dogs in all. Our last friends, Chance, a Belgian Shepherd, and Minnie Pearl, a Springer Spaniel, went over the Rainbow Bridge in July of 2009. It was the first time we had been without a furry friend in years. Since we never had children, our dogs have always meant a lot to us. Needless to say, we were very sad so we began searching for a new friend to rescue a month after Chance and

Minnie Pearl left us.

After searching for four months with no success, we decided early in December of 2009 to write that letter to Jesus, giving Him our desires.

Three weeks later we heard from our vet's office (they knew we were looking) that a woman in a neighboring town who had serious health issues needed to locate homes for a couple of her dogs. She had a four-year-old and a four-month-old and both were female.

We called Melissa immediately



as we had learned from the previous four months of searching that female dogs get placed very quickly. By the time Melissa returned our call, she had decided to keep one of the dogs. Initially we thought we wanted the older dog but then just before she called back we decided it would be refreshing for us to train a puppy. As it turned out it was the puppy she still wanted to place.

When the day came for us to meet the puppy for the first time, we were very excited but also a little apprehensive as we had suffered some disappointments during our several months of searching. When we ar-

rived at Melissa's home she greeted us warmly. We discovered that she was a breeder, so we were able to meet the puppy's parents, a sibling and her grandmother before meeting her. Her family was both beautiful and talented; Melissa trains her dogs for agility trials.

Then Melissa called, "Pup, Pup, Pup," and in raced this tiny black streak. I bent down, commenting on how small she was; as I did, she leapt into my arms and began to nuzzle my neck. My husband said he believed we'd found the dog we wanted. We asked Melissa what the next step would be and she said, "If you want

her she's yours." We happily accepted her offer.

That was over a year and three obedience courses ago. We named the puppy Hadassah (Hebrew for Joy) Selah (Hebrew for Praise God), and we have been praising God for the incredible joy He bestowed on us ever since that day. Not only did He answer our request but He fulfilled each of the criteria we had asked—even down to the color. Dassah (as we call her) is a black Cocker Spaniel; when we mentioned to Melissa we had been searching for a black and white dog she showed us that Dassah had white on her chin, throat and chest.

We own a Christian book and gift

store in our town and Dassah comes to the store with us every day. Many of our customers come by just to visit her. She entertains everyone with her tricks and general sweet nature. In 2011 we plan to begin agility training with Dassah as well as visiting nursing and assisted living facilities as a way for Dassah and us to witness God's goodness to many people. Just maybe God will reach someone who is lost through Dassah.

This answer to prayer reminds us every day that our God cares about everything in our lives and He indeed gives us the desires of our hearts if we but ask. All the glory for our precious little friend goes to Jesus. ■



Photos by Gabrielle Ryan



S. Jami Dittmeier co-owns The Christian Shoppe in Purcellville, VA, with her husband. She has been a Breakthrough Board member for the past 10 years and a Breakthrough intercessor since 1998.

Hitchhiking



The rear side panel in my jeep popped loose inexplicably. Maybe there was a sudden great wind. Traffic was light and I was about to pull off onto the shoulder of the interstate to make a quick repair.

"Don't pull off here, there's an exit just ahead," I was told by the inner Voice.

A minute later a sign said, "Exit - One Mile."

As I exited and decelerated, I saw a hitch hiker in the distance ahead near the on-ramp, sitting in the 100 degree heat, head down.

"He will be riding with you this afternoon," I was told.

If a stranger dwells with you in your

in the *H*eat

by S.T. Mann

The rewards of listening to that Still Small Voice

land, you shall not mistreat him.... You shall love him as yourself.

As I neared the man, another voice interrupted -

"Didn't your mother teach you anything? Don't pick him up. He's just a bum - he doesn't deserve a ride; he doesn't deserve any favor. He might make you late for your important business meeting. The chill from your AC might make him sick after sitting out in the heat. He might stink. He might want to smoke. He might be drunk...look - he's holding a bottle. He might be dangerous. He might not like listening to your music or want to listen to you singing hymns. Just go over there to the convenience store and delay - someone else will probably pick him up."

I opted for plan B. I used the restroom. I washed my hands. I purchased a drink. I perused the newspaper head-

lines. I flipped through the magazines. I greeted the other patrons in the store. I was cheerful with the cashier. Like a good church-going Christian.

I don't remember the name of the place. It should have been called the "Tarshish convenience store."

Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord....

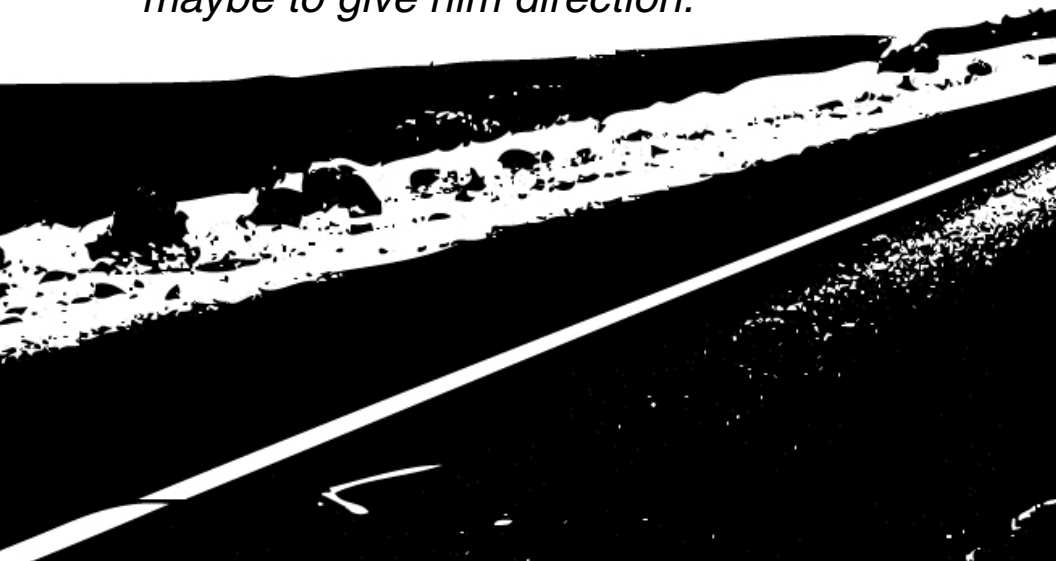
I eventually wandered back to my vehicle, quickly repaired the loose panel, and got in. As I put the key into the ignition switch to resume my journey, I was told firmly:

"Move your briefcase and cooler into the back seat. You will have a rider, remember?"

Darryl was shocked as I pulled over to the side of the road next to him. In fact he didn't see me until after I stopped, when he must have sensed a new presence. He lifted his head.

I had only 45 minutes or so left

He had been ignored by all over drivers for over two hours. Maybe I was sent, maybe to give him direction.



to reach my destination. Darryl was traveling only one exit farther than my meeting.

All in all, he was an attractive man, but his resume wasn't too good. Thirty seven; an alcoholic; drug user; time in jail for trespassing; time in prison for burglary; he liked his women; plural; smoked—heavily.

As we chatted, Darryl told me he prayed and lately had been asking for direction, realizing he couldn't handle his vices and addictions anymore – they were possessing him. He told me, in fact, he had been talking to God that hot afternoon as he waited and waited and waited in hope of a ride.

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find.....

He had been ignored by all other

drivers for over two hours as he stood, and then gave way to sitting, in the sweltering heat. I suggested maybe I was sent, maybe to give him direction.

Darryl told me his mother is a Christian. I told him, “I bet she prays for you every day.” He agreed.

The Voice then spoke to my heart a fourth time –

“Her prayers will be answered this afternoon.”

Quickly, gently, reassuringly, I told Darryl, “Your mom’s prayers are going to be answered THIS afternoon.”

The enemy tried to hold him back, telling him:

“You have a long track record, you could never be good enough. You are



a loser. You've made one bad decision after another, you're not strong enough to beat your vices and addictions, your friends will laugh at you, no church would want you. And even that preacher you talked to at length a while ago - he gave up on you; besides, you won't have any more fun."

Your adversary, the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour....

But, as promised, his mom's prayers were answered.

We held hands and prayed. Darryl walked up the hill, with all his stuff, to the cross and talked to God about handling his life—his addictions, his passions, his poor choices, his future—and about salvation by grace through faith.

He got more of a ride than he

hoped for, farther than crossing from Virginia to North Carolina. Much farther.

Crossing from law to grace.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. ■

S.T. Mann is a 50's vintage encourager and sojourner for Jesus, a lifelong adventurer, longtime coach, Duke graduate, ordained minister, and founder and operator of a prison



ministry. He lives on a farm in the Canadian Rockies, and has written dozens of inspirational short stories based on his own true-life experiences, as well as other works.



Mark your calendars for the 2011
Prayer School on October 15

Breakthrough 2010 PRAYER SCHOOL

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WWW.INTERCESSORS.ORG

Disc I & II – *The Day Intercessors Come out of the Closet - Part 1 & 2* by Pastor David Whiteman

In the next great awakening, which some have called the Apostolic Reformation, intercessors will be used in a much greater way. This is something God will do and we will get excited and let it happen.

Disc III – *Spiritual Secrets to a More Powerful Prayer Life* by Elizabeth Smith

In this session, Breakthrough Board Member Elizabeth Smith will look at several strategies for more effective praying, including steps we can take as we pray, how to remove the barriers to answered prayer, and how to release God's power when we pray.

Disc IV – *Delighted Intercessors* by Pastor David Whiteman

Many times we as intercessors get so caught up in the struggle of our prayer war that we need to be reconnected to the joy, rewards, sacred delight, and just plain fun of it all. Jesus offers this in his Beatitudes sermon in Matthew 5.

Photos by Gabrielle Ryan & Nathan Curby



Breakthrough Prayer School

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Take a few minutes and pray. There are great needs around you; just take time to pray to God who is willing and able to answer your prayer. Your prayer can change situations when you speak to God in the name of His Son Jesus Christ. God wants all people to come to Him, so take your petition to Him and then watch prayer make a difference as you stay in

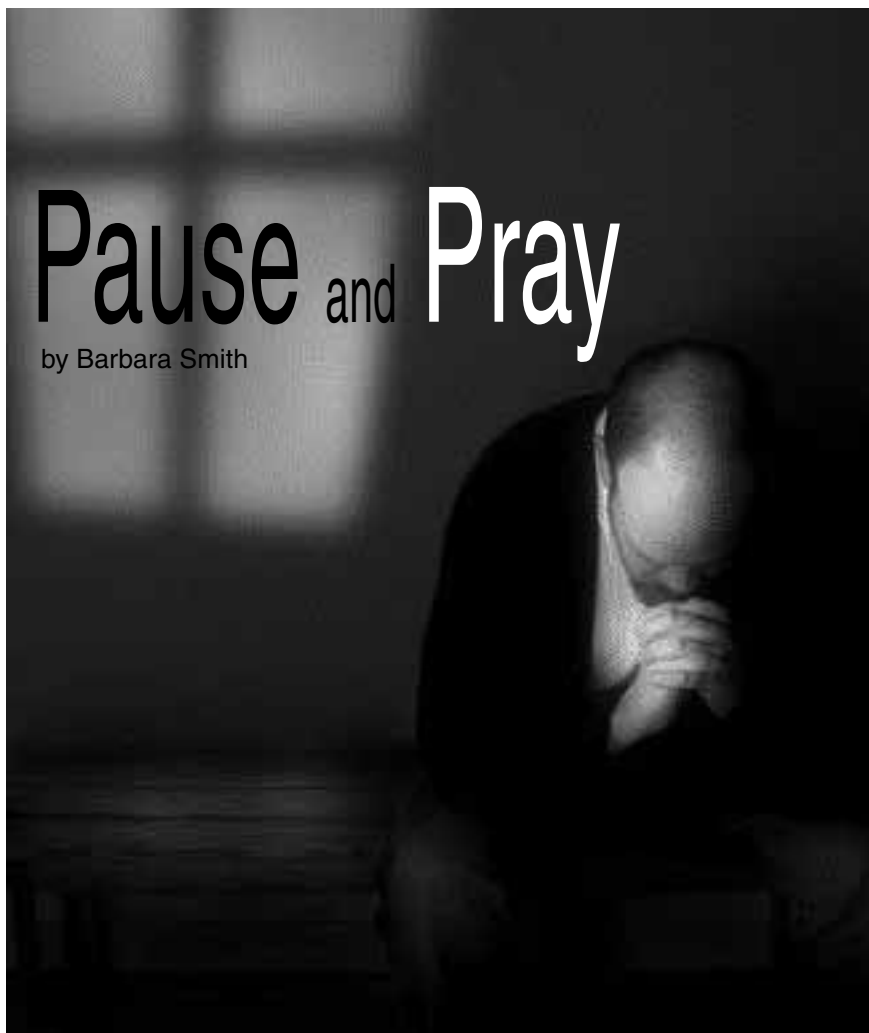
His presence. When you stay in God's corner, all things are possible.

Always remember that you can make a difference in any situation just by having a dialogue with God. Reflect on the last time you prayed and the difference it made. If you have never prayed, try God this time.

As you read this, just pause and pray; as you go through the day, pause

Pause and Pray

by Barbara Smith



There are many instances in the Bible where God instantly changes a situation because a man or woman was not moved by circumstances but rather decided to pause and pray.

and pray; when you encounter things that overwhelm you, pause and pray; and remember that when you pause and pray something supernatural is happening. Even though you might not see or hear anything different, your attitude will change.

After you have paused and prayed, sing a song of thanksgiving over that prayer or hum a tune. Just a simple prayer can move mountains, and your prayers go beyond natural reasoning into supernatural reasoning. You will begin to develop a disposition that God can and will make the difference.

If you doubt God's ability, then read His Word. There are many instances in the Bible where God instantly changes a situation because a man or woman was not moved by circumstances but rather decided to pause and pray. There are many examples that I can give from my life; and, hopefully, there are examples in your own life you can remember. Pausing and praying and then praising God are simple ways for you to begin to increase in God and increase your knowledge and understanding of your role in God's Kingdom.

Say to yourself throughout the

day, "I'm going to stay in God's corner; and while I'm in God's corner, when circumstances arise, whether personal or impersonal, I will pause and pray." As you pray, call forth God's will in the situation simply praying for God's kingdom to come and for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Doing so, you are allowing God to make the decision. The primary reason to pray is to establish God's will. So no matter what we think we see or know, we should always ask ourselves, "Is this God's will?" And if God's will is not evident, just say a simple prayer for His will in the matter, allowing Him to make the difference.

By staying in God's corner, we can have peace in our lives no matter what happens. ■

Barbara is a writer, publisher and speaker. She has written and published four books: Dwelling in the Secret Place, God's Blueprint for Revival, Church Blessing: The Tabernacle of God and Sudoku Made Simple. She develops games and publishes articles on varying topics relating to her faith. She can be contacted at prayingbarb@gmail.com.





School Smiles

by Sammi Abbott as told to Priscilla Tate Gilmore

Have you ever been assigned a major school project and had no clue how to handle it? Well that happened to me. The word “frustration” replaced my middle name. I had no clear plan of what to do or even how to go about such a project. The project was announced at the beginning of my sophomore year. We were supposed to do a service project that would benefit the community—and it was a graduation requirement.



It needed to include a proposal, a time log, and a scholarly paper. If that wasn't enough, we needed to deliver a 15-minute presentation about it to the Board of Directors before graduation.

"Great!" I thought, "Just when I am excited about graduating from high school." Scared stiff, I prayed, "Please God, I'm going to need help with this one."

I didn't actually start work on the project until the summer of my junior year. My church was going down to La Paz, Mexico, for a mission trip and I thought I could satisfy the require-

ment by taking school supplies down to the children in that area. I proposed this idea to the school board and received approval but I had no clear direction and eventually dropped it. But I still wanted something that would bring smiles to children's faces and help them "keep doing school" like I had been encouraged to do.

After seeing my frustration for several months, my mom suggested that I call our church to see if they had any service project ideas.

I called the Compassion Coordinator and set up a meeting for the next day. At the meeting, I learned that there were kids at the church and in the area with a huge need for school supplies. So kids and school would be connected. I became excited and the Compassion committee gave me direction and helped me set my goals.

The plan was to collect money for school supplies through donations, purchase supplies for the children, and finally distribute them to the kids in need. The church helped me set up my own bank account and gave me credit cards to Office Depot and Wal-Mart.

The frustration that had prevented me from accomplishing my goal started to fly like a bird out the window. I rewrote my proposal for the new project and received approval by the school board.

Project "Back to School—Can Break the Bank!" was off and running. I went to Wal-Mart to get the school lists for the different elementary schools in the area and then compiled two general lists, one for Kindergarten through Second grade and another for Third through Fifth grade. The general lists were typed up and inserted in the church bulletins for Saturday



evening and Sunday morning services respectively along with money deposit envelopes. Then, I made myself available for two weekends at the Featured Ministry Booth to answer questions.

My goal was to collect \$2,000 for school supplies. After the first weekend of collecting donations, I had \$1,600. This more than doubled by the second weekend to \$4,000. Neither I nor the pastoral staff made announcements; people just saw and responded to the bulletin insert by giving. Bursting with excitement, I drove to Office Depot to purchase the supplies. I had originally planned on putting each child's school supplies into individual brown grocery bags to

disperse, but it turned out there was enough money to buy backpacks and pencil boxes too.

My dad and I went to Wal-Mart to buy 120 backpacks and pencil boxes. God worked out the numbers perfectly. Four grocery carts overflowed with the items. It was so much fun! As a kid, my favorite part of going back to school was opening up all of the school supplies. I really wanted to get kids excited about school like my parents had done for me.

I organized an assembly line of friends to load each backpack with school supplies. We knew that the teachers would supply each child with daily material, but we wanted to give

enough paper and pencils for the whole school year.

Next we passed out the backpacks. It didn't matter if the children receiving the supplies were regular church goers or if they were only attending for the days when supplies were distributed. We believed that Christ would bring the right people to us. On August 26 and 27, parents filled out information cards about their kids to claim a backpack. The number of returned cards was less than the number of backpacks we'd purchased which meant that every child would get one.

The kids' faces were amazing. I have never seen so many happy children. The comments were, "This is so cool. I have never had anything like this. I go to church and go home with a gift." Later I dropped off the remaining backpacks at elementary schools within the district.

The project had a great ending and I had fun doing it. I'd been scared, but Jesus showed me that He was right there holding my hand and walking me through it. I also learned more about Jesus' love. In the end, He helped me share that love with kids as well as my love for school.

Frustration had turned to contentment through prayer, by seeking help from others, by giving, and by trusting Jesus for His direction. ■

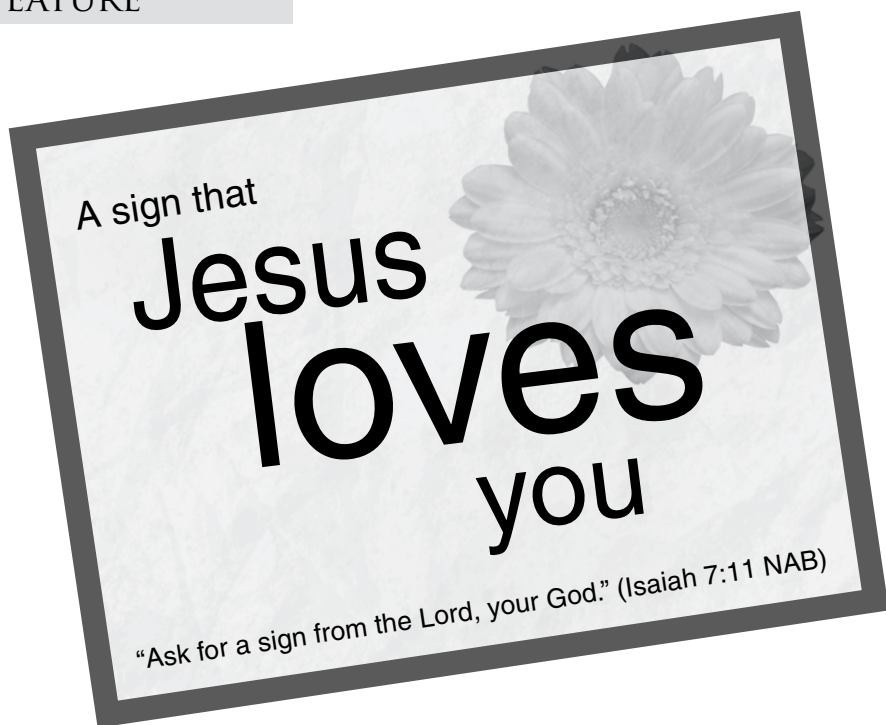
Priscilla, a chosen pseudonym meaning "cheerful follower," resides in the state of Washington where she writes fiction and non-fiction. Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of all her work.



TIPS FOR YOUR PROJECT

A few tips to help you with the frustration, panic, and stomach turmoil of a graduation requirement or other major project:

- Pray, pray, pray. Surrender the problem to God, remembering that He promises to take care of His child and show the way. Proverbs 20:24.
- Make a list of things that you are passionate about. Ask, "How can I practically meet that need? Is fund raising involved? If so, will people be inspired to give?"
- Call a brainstorming meeting to get close friends and family to help. Best ideas come from a group setting. Make a list of all possibilities. Keep it simple. Remember that bigger is not necessarily better.
- Organize an outline from beginning to ending. Those helping you need to see that there will be a conclusion. Aim for a specified date on the calendar and make this known to all.
- Watch the skeleton (basic) plan unfold one step at a time.
- See the hand of God work. Don't limit God.



by Jean Roach

Once, when I was going through a very dry spiritual time in my life and feeling very far from God, I needed assurance that He still loved me. My prayer was very direct, “Jesus, today I need a little sign that You love me.”

Later, I went to the Post Office to pick up my mail and I found a large manila envelope in my box. When I opened it, there was a note from a woman I had met at a Christian women’s meeting. It said, “Dear Jean, Jesus asked me to send this to you.”

Next, I unfolded the enclosed six-foot-long, computer-made sign that read, “Jean, Jesus loves you!”

I stood staring at the sign and wondering why this woman I hardly knew would take so much time to make it and send it to me. Then I heard the Lord speak in my heart, “Didn’t you ask for a little sign that I love you?” ■

Intercessor Jean has been active in the Charismatic Renewal since 1974. She currently serves as a Pastoral Leader to the People of Praise Prayer Group in Gainesville, Fl. She is a conference speaker and has led an intercessory prayer group for the past 25+ years. Jean believes the Holy Spirit is calling her to lift up the name of Jesus through her publications.



Q How can Breakthrough maintain a network of nearly 4,000 intercessors who pray faithfully and individually for each request they receive?

A Answer:

Only through your partnership.

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a fast on Criticalness

by Catherine Marshall

The Lord continues to deal with me about my critical spirit, convicting me that I have been wrong to judge any person or situation.

Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. – Matthew 7:1-2 NIV

One morning last week He gave me an assignment: for one day, I was to go on a “fast” from criticism. I was not to criticize anybody about anything.

Into my mind crowded all the usual objections. “But then what happens to value judgments? You Yourself, Lord, spoke of ‘righteous judgment.’ How could society operate without standards and limits?”

All such resistance was brushed aside. “Just obey Me without questioning: an absolute fast on any critical statements for this day.”

As I pondered this assignment, I realized that there was an even humorous side to this kind of fast. What did the Lord want to show me?

For the first half of the day, I simply felt a void, almost as if I had been wiped out as a person. This was especially true at lunch with my husband, Len, my mother, son Jeff, and my secretary, Jeanne Svigney, present. Several topics came up (school prayer, abortion, the ERA amendment) about which I had definite opinions. I listened to the others and kept silent. Barbed comments on the tip of my tongue about certain world leaders were suppressed. In our talkative fam-



ily, no one seemed to notice.

Bemused, I noticed that my comments were not missed. The federal government, the judicial system, and the institutional church could apparently get along fine without my penetrating observations. But still I didn't see what this fast on criticism was accomplishing – until mid-afternoon.

For several years, I had been praying for one talented young man whose life had gotten sidetracked. Perhaps my prayers for him had been

too negative. That afternoon, a specific, positive vision for this life was dropped into my mind with God's unmistakable hallmark on it – joy.

Ideas began to flow in a way I had not experienced in years. Now it was apparent what the Lord wanted me to see. My critical nature had not corrected a single one of the multitudinous things I found fault with. What it had done was to stifle my own creativity – in prayer, in relationships, perhaps even in writing – ideas that He wanted to give me.

Last Sunday night in a Bible study group, I told my day's fast experiment. The response was startling. Many admitted that criticalness was the chief problem in their offices, or in their marriages, or with their teenage children.

My own character flaw here is not going to be corrected overnight. But in thinking this problem through the past few days, I find the most solid scriptural basis for dealing with it. (The Greek word translated "judge" in King James, becomes "criticize" in Moffatt). All through the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus sets Himself squarely against our seeing other people and life situations through this negative lens.

What He is showing me so far can be summed up as follows:

1. A critical spirit focuses us on ourselves and makes us unhappy. We lose perspective and humor.
2. A critical spirit blocks the positive creative thoughts God longs to give us.
3. A critical spirit can prevent


good relationships between individuals, and often produces retaliatory criticalness.

4. Criticalness blocks the work of the Spirit of God: love, good will, and mercy.

5. Whenever we see something genuinely wrong in another person's behavior, rather than criticize him or her directly, or – far worse – gripe about him behind his back, we should ask the Spirit of God to do the correction needed.

Convicted of the true destructiveness of a critical mind-set, on my knees I am repeating this prayer: "Lord, I repent of this sin of judgment. I am deeply sorry for having committed so gross an offense against You and against myself so continually. I claim Your promise of forgiveness and seek a new beginning." ■

From "A Closer Walk" by Catherine Marshall (Chosen Books © 1983), used by permission of Marshall-LeSourd LLC.



All through the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus sets Himself squarely against our seeing other people and life situations through this negative lens.

how could it be

by Jeanne Creager

How could it be that so many blessings happen in such a short period of time?

Three years ago my husband was forced from a job he loved. The recession made it difficult to procure work in his field, especially since he is in his 60's. A short time later, I was fired from my job for unfair reasons. Never had either of us been forced out or fired in 50 years but always praised in any position we ever held.

Did God use this time to strengthen our faith and relationship with Him and each other and others in ways we could not imagine? Did He provide for us in unimaginable ways? Did the manifestation of His power astonish us? Did He use this and us to strengthen the faith of our family members and anyone with whom we came into contact? Does He bless far and above what we can think or ask? Were we provided for in every way?

Oh my, yes, yes yes! And His love just keeps coming and coming. We know Him in ways we never have experienced before: a closeness previously beyond our imaginations.

My former boss called, apologized for firing me and offered me a new

job. My husband is experiencing a surge of new business and in the last three years he has received awards for work he previously designed. Family members have accepted the Lord. Family members are enjoying closer relationships with each other and prospering financially. Healings are too numerous to count. And a special Christmas gift to my husband and me: some of our grandchildren are coming for Christmas after three years.

Has he answered my prayer from last year for explosive blessings? In ways I never imagined!

Thank you, Breakthrough, for your ministry and faithfulness to remind us and teach us how to enjoy our Father's love and faithfulness. And we do indeed live and enjoy the "Secret Place of the Most High." ■

Jeanne, an intercessor since 1990, has been married to her loving husband, John, for 21 years. They have a blended family of seven children and 15 grandchildren and love watching God work in all their lives. They met doing weddings, she as a bridal consultant and he as a florist and event planner.





Grocery Store Encounter

by Andrea Doudera

Jesus often gives commands such as, “Come,” “Listen,” “Ask,” or “Pray.” He directs us to action. Yet in my search of Scripture, I can’t find any commands that fit my life style of “Hurry,” “Rush,” “Do,” or “Speed.” In fact, in my quiet time, I hear just the opposite message from God who calls me to abide.

Bear with me, I’m going to

give you a snapshot of a recent day in my life. For many of you, it will sound depressingly familiar. The day’s plan was to drive five hours to the Outer Banks of North Carolina for a weekend vacation with my family. I didn’t want to miss my Bible study group so I went there first. It was late morning by the time I got home and packed.

Next I went to the grocery store and filled a cooler full of some hard to find items. Nearly out of town, I suddenly remembered my sister's birthday; detoured to the mall and then the post office. Finally I settled in for the drive. My plan was to stop by Virginia Beach to have a quick visit with relatives. Traffic was heavy so I was over an hour late getting to my 90 year old father-in-law's house. Our visit was cut short as I had promised my daughter I would pick up my six month old granddaughter from the sitter and be back at her house when she got home from work. I was late and she beat us home. We visited a bit and eventually I fixed dinner for us to stash in my cooler. It was after 9:30 pm when I left to drive the final two hours to the Outer Banks, arriving quite late.

Are you exhausted yet? I certainly was.

The next morning, I went out to shop at the local grocery store for the rest of the supplies needed to feed ten people for a weekend. I was fairly focused on my task – in other words, I was a woman on a mission. Parking my laden grocery cart to the side of an aisle, I ducked around the corner to grab some shaving cream I would probably not use anyway because

who has time to shave their legs? When I got back I realized that there was an older woman waiting patiently to get around my cart.

"I'm so sorry," I apologized as I quickly maneuvered my heavy cart aside. "I thought I had parked this with enough room for people to get past me."

"I'm not in a hurry," the woman said calmly, looking me right in the eye.

I pushed my cart to the next aisle but her words reeled in my head. Do I ever say that? Was it possible to live a life where I could? Jesus was never in a hurry, even when His beloved friend, Lazarus, died. Jesus was purposeful, but not rushed.

I knew God had sent me a message. For some time, I have been hearing God say to me, "Come abide in Me. Fellowship with Me. Listen for My still small voice." In fact, earlier this year, one of my New Year's resolutions was to slow down, be on time, and learn to not over schedule. Sadly, I wasn't succeeding very well as my frantic activity the day before showed.

Rick Warren wrote the best seller, *The Purpose Driven Life*. Although I read that book last year and found it helpful, God continued to talk to me about

living a “Presence Filled Life.”

Still unable to get the woman’s words out of my mind, I prayed the next morning, “Dear Father, help me slow down and delight in the present instead of using it as a vehicle to reach an unreachable future. Work in me, Lord God.”

I use a prayer journal during my quiet time and for some years have been writing out my prayers to God then switching to red ink what I believe I hear God saying to me. On this morning, God’s answer was as follows:

Dear Rushed, anxious child of Mine, I hold the future in My hands. All your anxious, frantic activity does not impact My plan at all; it only changes the quality of your life. If you allow Me to be Lord of your every moment; if you are able to focus on Me instead of yourself, you will find that life is a gift... all your moments have been squandered in your rushing bid for tomorrow. Yet I am Lord of tomorrow just as I am Lord of today. Can you slow down? Can you enjoy each gift; each breath; each new thing? I will help you. Do not be afraid. I am Lord even of this. “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

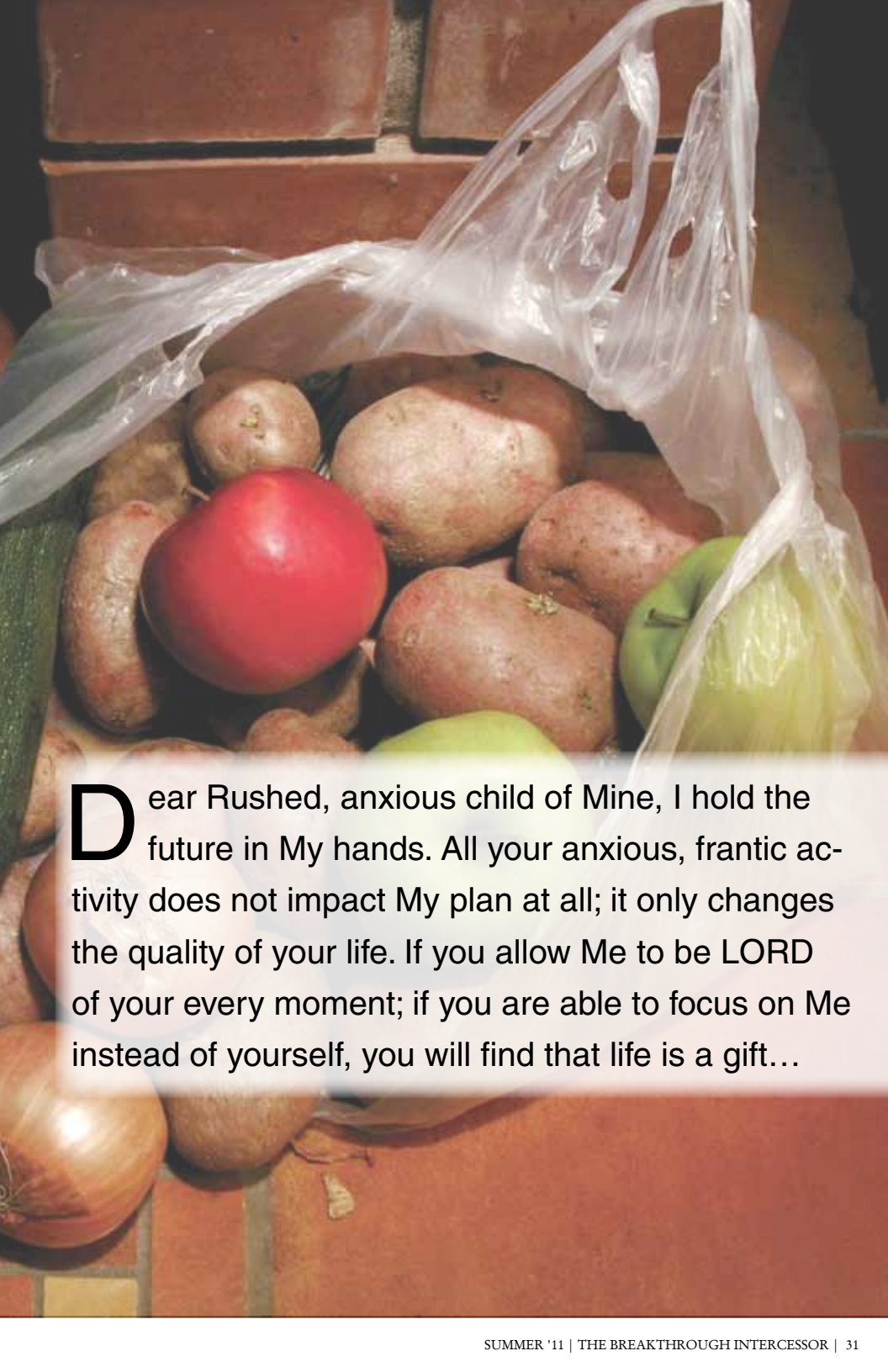
(John 14:27) ~ Abba

I hear loudly and clearly that God wants a relationship with me. He wants me to practice His presence as Brother Lawrence wrote about in his classic book.* He wants me to glorify Him with my every act, every thought. It’s hard to do that when you are living a day like I described earlier, when you can’t say “no” to anyone and when feel driven to do everything yourself. Yet God, in His great love, speaks to us even in times like that. He waits for us, His errant children, to turn towards home like the prodigal son.

I know he will answer my prayer for help overcoming a life long habit of hurry, busyness, and over scheduling. He is like that – always ready to meet us where we are when we confess our need for Him and desire to change our ways. He graciously put a woman – perhaps an angel – in my path to give me a one sentence wake up call, “I’m not in a hurry.” I am confident that soon I will be able to say that too.

**The Practice of the Presence of God, by Brother Lawrence. ■*

Reprinted from The Breakthrough Intercessor Vol 26. No.3, Summer 2005.



Dear Rushed, anxious child of Mine, I hold the future in My hands. All your anxious, frantic activity does not impact My plan at all; it only changes the quality of your life. If you allow Me to be LORD of your every moment; if you are able to focus on Me instead of yourself, you will find that life is a gift...

Answers to Prayer

FAMILY PROVISION

I wanted to thank all of the people who have been praying for my two daughters and their husbands. Kevin and Ryan just got new jobs and Martha and Kevin have been able to move back closer to their family. I just want to give a huge thank you to all of you and to our faithful Father – we have been so blessed! God bless all of you!

Karen

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the people... talk ye of all His wondrous works.

Psalm 105:1-2

BABY GRACE

We received word that when baby Grace returned for her cancer checkup, she was found to be cancer free! Praise God for His mercies!

Genie

SAVING GRACE

The Lord granted success to our sister who went to share the Gospel with a woman dying of cancer (Missy). Missy died Sunday morning, but she and her husband came to the Lord the day before! Hallelujah!

Rick of Alabama

BACK PAIN GONE

We have a praise report! Manny's back pain is much improved! The doctor said that surgery was not necessary. Thank you to all the intercessors for praying!

Ellie

FAMILY HEALING

Thank you all for your prayers! There has been a visible reduction in the strife in our home. Relationships are on the mend and peace is abounding. Thank you!

Mitzi of Texas

CANCER GONE

I wrote asking prayer for my husband, Carlton, who was having a CAT scan for colon cancer. At the follow up appointment, the test results showed NO CANCER! The doctor said this was "great news." We had been praying for good news, and received great news! Praise God!

Ann

KNEE SURGERY

Thank you so much for praying for my son, who had knee surgery yesterday. He did very well and is recuperating at home!

Diane

DAUGHTER SAVED

I am praising God that my daughter, after doing many other things, has recommitted her life to the Lord and is sharing about the way the Lord is working in her life.

Phyllis

MEMORIALS

Elizabeth Smith, Susan Newhall,
and Patricia Butler

in honor of

Carol Stone's birthday celebration

*

Martin Webb

in loving memory of his wife

Elizabeth Webb

We welcome gifts in honor of loved ones.

BABY PAIGE

I called the Emergency Prayer line in February for my granddaughter, Paige, who was admitted to the hospital with severe croup. Praise the Lord, she has recovered completely!

Elizabeth

FAITHFUL PRAYER

I would like to thank all of you for praying for the requests I have sent over the past few years. Every request for prayer has been answered. Not always how I thought they'd be answered, but of course it was the Lord's will. There is power in group prayer!

Joan

JOB RESTORED

After a 9 month struggle with the hospital, where I've worked as a RN for 25 years, I have just been allowed to keep my job! I was initially terminated because I wouldn't do abortions, but the administration has returned me to my position. Thank you for all your months of prayers and for all the Scriptures that were sent!

Robin

JOB PRAISES

My brother in law has been out of work for a long time. I asked for prayer that he be able to find a job, and within a month Chris secured a job!!! Praise the Lord!

Denise

FINANCIAL PRAISE

I just wanted to share that God heard and answered my request back in July regarding our mortgage. Praise God, we were approved for a modification and the threat of losing our home has passed. Thank you for standing with me in this!

Nicole

EYES HEALED

After undergoing four unsuccessful eye surgeries, I submitted a prayer request to Breakthrough for my sister, Beverly. God healed her completely and she is back at work!

Wardell

UNEXPECTED

I had not contacted you with a prayer request for quite some time. Then, out of the blue (not!), I received a post card saying that you were going to be praying for me. The scripture on the post card didn't mean much to me at first (Job 22:21), but I tucked it in my Bible to pray over. That weekend, I attended a local prayer retreat and the verse you sent tied in with the scripture I'd received that weekend. I also received a breakthrough with something I'd struggled with for years!

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers – even those not asked for! God is so good. Your faithfulness and your gifts of intercessory prayer are bearing fruit in His kingdom! Thank you so much for the blessing you have been to me.

Linda of South Carolina

MANY ANSWERS

I received a scripture from Breakthrough: Isaiah 58:11, "I have seen what they have done, but I will heal them." The Lord did! Praise Jesus, my husband does not need to have surgery, father is now able to live a normal, pain free life, and my son does not have eczema on his hands anymore. Thank you Breakthrough for your faithful prayers!

Judy

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in PRAYER, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. // Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in PRAYER. // Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by PRAYER and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. // Devote yourselves to PRAYER, being watchful and thankful. // I always thank my God as I remember you in my PRAYERS.

Find Breakthrough on
FACEBOOK

Prayer School CDS
See inside for a CD/MP3
offer of last fall's
Breakthrough Prayer
School messages | p. 14



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