

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a wooden pier or breakwater extending into a turbulent sea. The sky is filled with dramatic, orange and yellow clouds from a setting or rising sun. The water is dark and choppy, with white foam from waves crashing against the wooden pilings of the pier.

# THE BREAKTHROUGH INTERCESSOR

SUMMER  
2009

- When all help for her daughter ran out, God was her abundant supply | p. 10
- In a life and death situation, he yielded to the Holy Spirit's intercession through him | p. 19

THE MAGAZINE ABOUT PRAYER



# A Prayer From Prison

by Roy A. Borges

**M**ay the peace, love, joy and happiness of life be with us today. May all our suspicious doubts and fears be erased so that Your light, God, may shine forth in us all.

Give us the strength to stop blaming other people for our problems and the wisdom to check ourselves out first. For then we will discover that a majority of our problems, suspicions, and wrong deeds are our own fault.

Lord, teach us to remember that we pay a price for the lessons that we learn in this life and that no matter how smart or tough we think we are, we can be had. The race of life is not won by the swift and greedy. Let me be able to be the same whether I have abundance or poverty.

No one owes us anything, and

no one in our life is going to be totally true and faithful to us. So let us stop looking for it and recognize that no one is perfect, that people are human and make mistakes. Add forgiveness to our ways and rid us of all bitterness.

Replace in our hearts a desire to know You and a longing to please You, for we know the rewards shall be great.

May we always be grateful for being alive and realize that no matter what the problems or circumstances may be, You will carry us through them.

Life is too short to waste time on the things we can't change. Let us think positively about today, for tomorrow is not guaranteed to anyone. **Amen.**

# 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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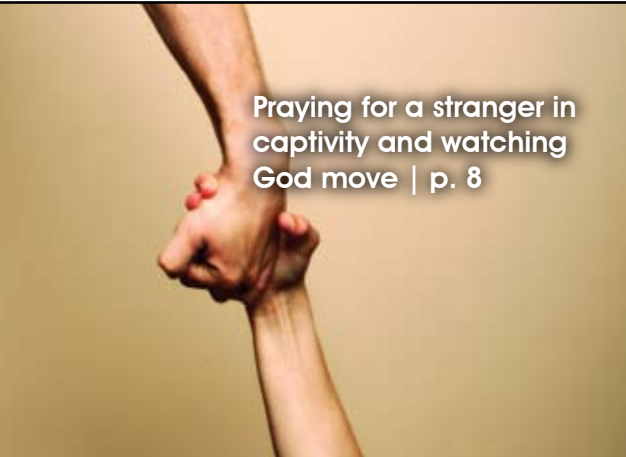
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# our mission

**B**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 report they feel a sense of peace during the prayer period. As you read this magazine, you will learn about many prayers that are answered.

Catherine Marshall was given the inspiration for Breakthrough over 25 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 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 to the staff their answers to

prayer, 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.



# nurturing prayer

**B**reakthrough is blessed with the most mature and dedicated volunteer prayer warriors to be found anywhere. The intercessors who pray for your needs take their prayer assignments very seriously.

We pray for our intercessors regularly, but even our most seasoned prayer associates can experience dry periods. In such times, it is more important than ever that our hearts remain prayer-ready. The suggestions presented below are designed to encourage and revitalize your prayer walk:

1) Pray about your commitment to pray. Ask the Lord to increase your faith and zeal for prayer.

2) Cleanse your way. Pray Psalm 139:23-24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." By asking the Lord to examine our hearts and motives, we can remove unforgiveness, resentment, and other barriers to answered prayer.

3) Ask the Lord to help you love others more. God is love, and we connect with Him on that basis. Jesus wrote in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one for another." Love for others is an indispensable element to a vibrant prayer life.

4) Nurture your own soul. "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11). Our time in God's word builds us up spiritually and gives biblical understanding to our prayers. Additionally, praying God's word is one of the most effective ways to pray.

5) Have a prayer partner. Paul teaches about the interdependence of Christians through the gifts of the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12. God has designed us to work together in our spiritual endeavors. Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them." Having a prayer partner establishes unity and agreement and provides someone to walk with us and pray for our deepest needs.

6) Offer yourself to God. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1-2). Presenting ourselves to God on a daily basis keeps us in the best position for divine guidance as we pray.



*Elizabeth Smith*

Elizabeth Smith,  
Board Vice-Chairman

# PRAY FOR THE TROOPS

Remember to pray for our men and women in uniform: that they be safe and have reliable equipment. Pray that the commanding officers have good judgment and wisdom to handle hostile situations and also that family members back home have health and safety.

## letters to the editor

*We love hearing from you!*  
E-mail the editor at:  
[editor@intercessors.org](mailto:editor@intercessors.org)

## Midnight Encouragement

*How you bless me. A God-moment two nights ago: I couldn't sleep. I arose around midnight, shuffling through the darkened house. I pulled on a light and opened a drawer to get something to read. There was the December Intercessor crammed in with other magazines I hadn't been able to get to. I opened and saw a letter to the editor I had forgotten I had written, plus someone saying that my account of seeing angels in West Palm Beach was one of his two all time favorite articles in the Intercessor. It just warmed me. It reminded me that our Lord is there despite all in the way of personal or international roarings of the evil one. And His eye is on the sparrow. I read the whole magazine, and sent it on to young friends with one baby in Anchorage -- hoping they'll be encouraged by the lovely young couple whose baby was so challenged. I love you. God loves you. Keep on keeping on (Psalm 37).*

Chris J.

# Breakthrough

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY  
of INTERCESSORY PRAYER

[www.intercessors.org](http://www.intercessors.org)

## Visit our new WEB-SITE

- Sign up to become an intercessor.
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- Subscribe to *The Breakthrough Intercessor*.
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**Q** How can Breakthrough maintain a network of nearly 4,000 intercessors who pray faithfully and individually for each request they receive?

**A** Answer:

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IF YOU CHOOSE to make a donation of securities by any means, please notify Breakthrough of your intentions so your gift can be tracked and properly receipted.

## Leave your Legacy

PLEASE 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 LANGUAGE in your will: "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."



# a shared burden

by Manuel Rodriguez

On a cold day in February 1982, I sensed the Lord calling me to prayer. So I prayed as I walked home from my job in Kingman, Arizona.

Later that evening, after putting my daughters to bed, I did a little channel surfing and settled on a Christian television station. Two rabbis in colorful robes told a story about a Russian Jewish man who was imprisoned as a spy for the United States and for activities as a dissident. He had been in prison for several years. After the program ended, I again sensed the Lord calling me to prayer.

As soon as I yielded, He spoke to my spirit and said, "I want you to pray for someone. I know you have trouble remembering names so I will just give you his first name."

"Okay Lord, what is it?"

"An-a-to-ly."

I repeated it several times until I felt I could remember this unusual name. "Lord, who is this?" I prayed.

"He is the man those rabbis spoke about who is in prison in Russia," came the answer.

I felt like I was there with Anatoly in his cell. I felt his depression, the darkness of the oppression and, most of all, his sense of hopelessness.

“How do I pray for him, Lord?”

“Pray for him like you do for the men and women you minister to in the county jail, except I want you to pray for him like a member of your family—daily.”

The leadings to prayer came very strong at times, often leaving me feeling like I was there with Anatoly in his cell. I felt his depression, the darkness of the oppression and, most of all, his sense of hopelessness. The fact that I ministered in the county jail kept me in an attitude of compassion. I prayed in praise and worship to our Lord and would sense a lifting of the heaviness and an impartation of joy and strength.

After a few months the Lord spoke to me again and said, “I want you to know Anatoly’s last name. It’s Sharansky.”

I prayed using his full name when coming boldly before the throne of grace with my petition for his needs. I used just his first name when praying for family.

As sand through an hour glass, the years rolled on.

One night in February 1986, I happened to be watching the evening news when a man was shown hurrying up a ramp onto an airplane. The announcer said, “Today Soviet dissident Anatoly Sharansky, after serving nine years in prison, has been granted

freedom and flown to Israel.” I could not believe what I heard. Tears filled my eyes and the presence of the Lord was like a heavy blanket of comfort.

I thanked our Lord for the sharing of His heart’s desire and the privilege of praying for Anatoly. I related this experience to my wife and daughters to demonstrate how perseverance teaches wonderful truths. All prayers are answered. The most important aspect, though, is that it brings intimacy with our Heavenly Father. It builds a solid trust that prayers can change nations as well as people.

Three days later I found a newspaper account of Anatoly’s release. It read: “Early on a cold and windy morning, a Soviet official spoke to political prisoner Anatoly Sharansky and said, ‘Walk straight to freedom!’”

A man of deep moral courage and integrity, Sharansky smiled from ear to ear and took his first step in nine years as a free man. ■

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*Intercessor Manuel is a retired equipment mechanic. He has ministered in prisons and jails in Arizona and also participated in missions and out-reaches there and abroad. He enjoys sharing the adventures our Lord has given him as a disciple.*





# THE SUPPLY THAT NEVER

AS I washed the dishes, I stared out my kitchen window. It was a bitter, cold, and rainy day. The bleakness matched my mood.

I shivered as I thought, “We don’t have enough money to buy our daughter’s medicine—definitely not enough to get her through the next few days.”

I felt helpless and alone as fear

reared its ugly head. Interrupting these depressing thoughts, I heard my daughter Melanie calling me from her bedroom.

As I approached, I could hear her wheezing and struggling to breathe. I glanced at my watch and realized it was time for her next breathing treatment. I went back to the kitchen, fumbling as I measured out the dose. With the



# RAN DRY

BY LINDA MAYNARD

nebulizer filled, I rushed back to her bedroom. She was struggling to get air into her lungs. Her big brown eyes held the panic they always did before her breathing treatment.

I started the breathing machine and handed her the canister with the liquid medicine inside. Slowly, she got the relief she needed. When she was breathing with greater ease, I left the room with a sinking heart. I mindlessly returned to my dishwashing. “What was I going to do about getting more medicine?”

I estimated that she had enough medicine for maybe one or two more treatments. It wasn’t even enough to last through the day.

I had already depleted our emergency fund and there was not enough money to last until payday which was still three days away. I did not know what to do.

Slowly, my thoughts turned to a book that I had recently read—*The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom. My heart settled on the portion of Corrie’s story when her sister Betsie and she were sent to a concentration camp because they hid Jewish people in their home in Holland during WWII. Betsie and Corrie found the conditions in their barracks deplorable. They were packed in together with many other women prisoners, some of whom were very sick.

Betsie had snuck a bottle of medicine into the camp. When she saw the need for the medicine, she started to distribute some to her fellow prisoners. Corrie, being dismayed, questioned Betsie’s wisdom. After all, she reasoned, Betsie herself needed the medicine.

*My daughter couldn't breathe, her medicine was gone, and I had no way to help her... my faith was not equal to this situation. Only God could provide.*



AS A NEW CHRISTIAN, I DIDN'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT THE PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION, BUT I WHISPERED TO GOD, "IF YOU COULD DO THIS FOR THESE GIRLS, WHY CAN'T YOU DO THIS FOR ME?"

Betsie quieted Corrie's fears by telling her that the Lord would provide all that was needed.

Even though Betsie knew she had a limited supply of medicine, she offered it freely to others and trusted God to provide. And He kept increasing and replenishing the supply—just enough for everyone in need. There was always enough.

As a new Christian, I didn't know a lot about the prayer of supplication, but I whispered to God, "If you could do this for these girls, why can't you do this for me?"

Later that afternoon, it came time to give Melanie another treatment. As I administered it, my worrying seemed to increase. I held up the vial of medicine. There was one more dose left in the bottle. I remembered again the story and the miracle God performed for Betsie and Corrie. Again I asked, "Why not for us?"

After giving my daughter her next dose, I prayed again. I came into the kitchen and was ready to throw away the bottle. Before I did so, I felt a nudge to look at it. Holding it up to the light I could see there was enough for one

more dose. That seemed impossible. I had just given her all that was left.

The sky drew dark as evening approached. My husband would soon be home. Somehow, someway, we had to come up with some money for more medicine. As a last ditch effort, I counted our loose change. There was not enough.

As my husband walked through the door, I saw the weary look on his face. He was burdened that he was not able to provide for his family.

Soon after, I gave Melanie what was really going to be her last dose. Walking out of her room, I felt a similar nudge to hold the bottle up to the

light. To my amazement, there was still enough medicine for one more treatment. I wanted to believe that this was real, but I still felt doubt in my heart. God again brought Betsie and Corrie's story to mind. Suddenly, I felt a blanket of peace wash over me.

I told my husband that it was going to be all right. God must be performing a miracle. I just knew there would be enough medicine for Melanie.

Each subsequent time I gave her a dose, there was still enough for one more. This continued for a couple of days. The day my husband got paid, the supply ran dry. I was so grateful to God—He was willing to supply just enough for what we needed.

Throughout the years, I have learned more about the power of prayer. I stand in awe of God. I have seen miracles and changes happen in people's lives as a result of prayer.

I have learned to stand firm, relying only on His goodness and His provision. He is our only hope and His supply never runs dry.

*"My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches and glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). ■*

---

*Linda is a long-time Intercessor for Breakthrough. Her life is filled with the love of her husband, Marcell, her two grown children and two grandchildren. She has a passion for writing, creative endeavors and visiting the elderly.*



*Her grandson has recently struggled with respiratory problems, which prompted the memory of the miraculous events penned in this story.*





# He Carried me

by Miriam Zeuli

*Through a long, painful  
health battle, God remained  
faithful and present.*

Shortly after Christmas 2007, the nurses where I had outpatient dialysis noticed my skin was yellow. I was admitted to the hospital with a diagnosis of painless jaundice.

At about 2 a.m. the next morning, the Lord woke me and spoke to my heart about the faith of Noah and Abraham. The Lord told me I would go through something that would

serve a purpose in my generation. The next day I received a card from a missionary in Paraguay that summed up what the Lord had just said to me.

Later, my doctor told me that there was a mass on my pancreas. That, along with the painless jaundice and high tumor index, made him believe I had pancreatic cancer.

My husband Bob and I cried brief-

ly and then realized there was nothing we could do about this but pray. My kidneys could not stand chemo—only God could help us. After having an MRI on December 31, I was sent home because there was nothing they could do for me.

On January 2, however, the doctor called and said, “Miriam, the mass is gone! We have looked everywhere for it!” I dropped to my knees and wept in thanksgiving to the Lord. Three hospitals later confirmed the mass was gone and the pancreas clean.

However, the jaundice increased and my body became very swollen. I was transferred from one hospital to another and finally sent home while they researched what could be wrong. I was very weak and one day while at dialysis I threw up a lot of blood. The doctor attending me said, “Blood pressure 80 over 50. You’ll be gone by the end of the day. I am taking you off of the resuscitate list.”

I gritted my teeth and repeated the promise the Lord had given me: “You shall not die, you shall surely live and declare my wondrous works” (Psalm 118:17).

The nurse called an ambulance and I was taken to the hospital but the Lord revived me. I was released from ICU and a few days later they sent me home. “We can’t do anything else for you,” I was told.

I felt the Lord leading me to go to Yale New Haven Hospital. Both a nurse friend and my doctor also advised me to go. On the way there I saw a bumper sticker that read: “Keep the Faith.” The phrase stuck with me as I walked into the ER at 9:30 a.m. The doctors started working

on me immediately and didn’t finish until 2:30 a.m. the next morning. As I underwent the battery of tests, the doctor said I was the sickest person in the hospital.

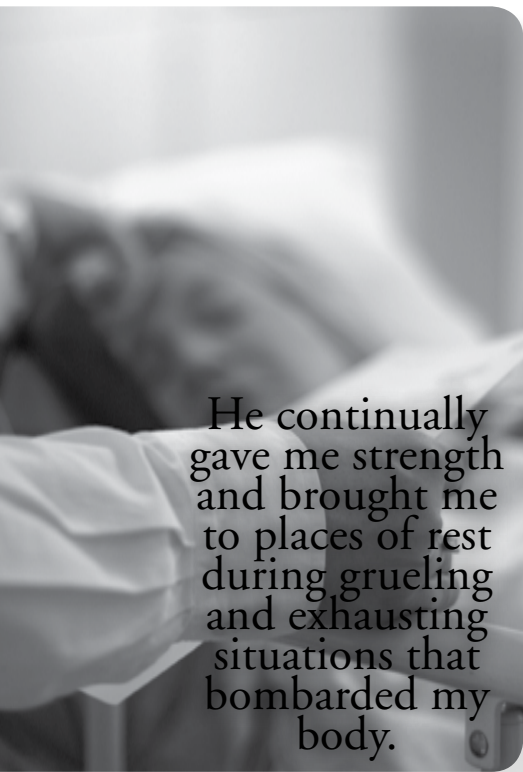
The Lord was constantly with me, encouraging me and bringing me hope. He gave me Joshua 1:9. “I command you – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” No sooner had I closed my Bible then two physicians walked in and told me that I needed a double (liver and kidney) transplant. The Lord prepared me!

The Lord was working miracles. I completed many tests in a short time. When I failed the first series of pulmonary test—I had no strength—I cried out to God. I needed to pass this test in order to have the transplant.

Unannounced, the aids came to take me down to the pulmonary department again. Much to everyone’s amazement (my own included), I got an “excellent” in all divisions of the test. As I waited for the transplant, it was one setback after another, but the Lord overcame each one.

I clung to Ephesians 1:19-20, which says the same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in me. God is creating something beautiful out of our lives – but we have to let Him. He creates something out of nothing, like He did in creation.

God continued to encourage me in surprising ways. Once at midnight I was transported by stretcher to an ultrasound. The attendant sang a beautiful song to me about crying out to the Lord and how He knows when we are weary. It was a hug from Jesus. Later



He continually  
gave me strength  
and brought me  
to places of rest  
during grueling  
and exhausting  
situations that  
bombarded my  
body.

when I was feeling weak, Jesus said, “Look at Me.” Then I was strengthened. I prayed, “Lord, help people to pray believing.” He responded: “You pray believing.”

In early February, brilliant sunlight streamed into my room. It helped the jaundice tremendously and took away the terrible itching. The rooms on either side of me (same design) did not get this brilliant light. The Lord knew that I needed it. He provided everything that I needed—amazing even the staff. He continually gave me strength and brought me to places of rest during grueling and exhausting situations that bombarded my body.

I needed board approval before I could get the transplant. We prayed

about this hurdle and the Lord showed me favor on every point. I was placed at the top of the waiting list. God gave me Psalm 27:14, “Wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” I believe He was telling me to trust Him for the right kidney and liver.

On March 30, I had a 12 hour double transplant operation in which they removed a 10 pound diseased liver (usual size is three pounds).

Our Lord is truly awesome. Some of the lessons I learned from this experience are don’t look at your symptoms or circumstances—focus on the Lord! We believe in God, yes, but do we believe God? In God’s economy, we believe first and then we see. There are facts and then there is truth. The fact was that I was dying. The truth is that God can do anything! He gets every bit of the credit and glory.

A strong warning the Lord gave me while in the hospital was “do not become lukewarm.” He was very firm about my sharing this with others. Pray to have a heart for God and keep close to Him. He is calling your name. With Him as your Lord and Savior and guide, you will experience life in an entirely new way. ■

---

*Miriam and her husband Bob are parents, grandparents of six, and great-grandparents*



*of seven. Miriam enjoys writing, reading, music, and gardening and desires to declare our Lord's wondrous works and encourage others.*

# PRAYER SCHOOL

## CD OFFER

**- Disc I - How God Answers Prayer by Claudette Ammons**

Recently widowed Pastor's wife and Breakthrough board member, Claudette shares her prayer journey through personal crisis and the care of her invalid husband over the past 11 years. 1 hour (Inspirational)

**- Disc II - Unlocking the Mysteries of Prayer by Rev. Joseph Trollinger**

Breakthrough Chaplain and board member, Father Joe teaches about commonly asked questions about prayer, including: Why doesn't God answer some prayers? And how should we pray? 1 hour (Deep Insights)

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Breakthrough board member Elizabeth Smith shares from her experiences in hospital ministry. Topics include: The Link Between Healing and Forgiveness; Laying on of Hands; and How Acts of Faith Release God's Power. 1 hour (Spiritual Teaching)

**-Disc IV - Praying With Power by Delouis Pace**

Breakthrough Director of Ministry, Delouis Pace shares the biblical basis for the power (and authority) God has given to each of us through His Spirit and the promises of His Word to enable us to pray with confidence. 1 hour (Spiritual Encouragement)

## TO ORDER

Fill out and mail/fax us the order form on the back of this page, or go to our website and download and fill out the order form: [www.intercessors.org](http://www.intercessors.org).

# Breakthrough Prayer School CD Order Form

Individual Compact Discs (CD) @ \$10.00 plus shipping/handling  
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*Unlocking the Mysteries of Prayer -- Rev. Joseph Trollinger*

Item 2 -- CD \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 ea.

*Insights into Healing Prayer -- Elizabeth Smith*

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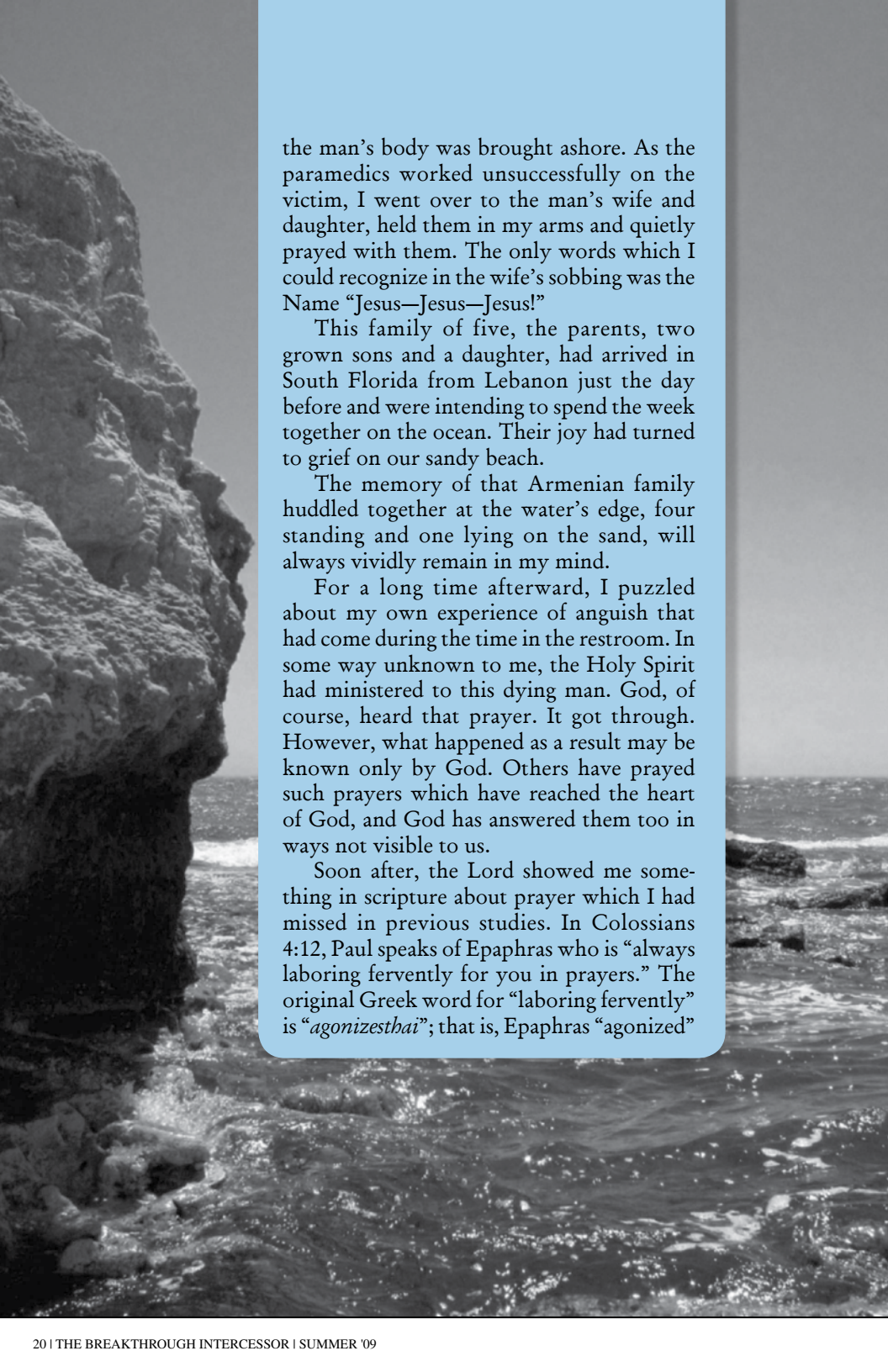
# When the Holy Spirit Prays through You

by Charles C. Carrin

At an Oceanside dining room my wife and I recently witnessed a frightening scene. A man was being swept out to sea by a riptide and was fighting frantically for his life. Others were running along the beach's edge while another swimmer with a life preserver was trying to get to him. The waves were so high, however, that the rescuer in the water could not see the victim.

"Stay here and pray," I said to my wife, and rushed to the cashier's desk to have her call the rescue squad. With that, I went into the men's room and began to pray; I knew that I could be of no help with the rescue itself. No sooner had I stepped into the privacy of the restroom than a deep, involuntary intercession suddenly welled up inside me. This was prayer, not in words, but an in-depth agonizing as the Spirit itself "made intercession with groanings which could not be uttered" (Romans 8:26). It was as if I too was being pulled by a strong tide into a deep spiritual grieving. Fortunately, no one came to distract me.

After a ten-minute period, the intercession abruptly ended and I emerged from the restroom just as



the man's body was brought ashore. As the paramedics worked unsuccessfully on the victim, I went over to the man's wife and daughter, held them in my arms and quietly prayed with them. The only words which I could recognize in the wife's sobbing was the Name "Jesus—Jesus—Jesus!"

This family of five, the parents, two grown sons and a daughter, had arrived in South Florida from Lebanon just the day before and were intending to spend the week together on the ocean. Their joy had turned to grief on our sandy beach.

The memory of that Armenian family huddled together at the water's edge, four standing and one lying on the sand, will always vividly remain in my mind.

For a long time afterward, I puzzled about my own experience of anguish that had come during the time in the restroom. In some way unknown to me, the Holy Spirit had ministered to this dying man. God, of course, heard that prayer. It got through. However, what happened as a result may be known only by God. Others have prayed such prayers which have reached the heart of God, and God has answered them too in ways not visible to us.

Soon after, the Lord showed me something in scripture about prayer which I had missed in previous studies. In Colossians 4:12, Paul speaks of Epaphras who is "always laboring fervently for you in prayers." The original Greek word for "laboring fervently" is "*agonizesthai*"; that is, Epaphras "agonized"

in prayer. To agonize means to be in “extreme pain or to suffer great anguish; to make a great or convulsive effort.” This aptly describes true intercession such as Epaphras experienced.

In such intercession the human mind is not doing the praying; rather, prayer is coming directly from the human spirit. As such, it does not need to speak in its acquired human tongue. Obviously, there is a difference in our spirit’s direct communication that comes from our learned English language. Few pray in the agonized fashion mentioned in the Colossian letter; apparently Epaphras was the only one whom Paul felt impressed to mention in this regard.

Is this kind of agonized prayer necessary? Is God that hard to convince? I believe that God is eager to hear and respond to every cry of His people. He needs no further convincing. But I see this form of deep, deep prayer as battlefield prayer; it is spiritual warfare that occurs when the believer has been drawn deep inside enemy lines to pray *against the foe*. The one engaged in this battle is not merely seeking the favor of God. Instead he/she is assisting in the attack on Satan’s stronghold. In the spirit realm, this is open war.

Paul wrote the Thessalonians that he would have come to them “once again; but Satan hindered us.” Satan’s reason for hindering Paul was to prevent the Thessalonian believers from having their faith perfected. Satan fears faith; he fears prayer. Thus the “prayer of faith”

is the battering-ram that pounds the devil’s stronghold and breaks through.

In James 5:16 we read “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” “Effectual fervent” is translated from “*energeo*,” a word of power and dynamics, likened to the energy released through a hydro-electric or nuclear plant. When we pray, a kind of divine energy is released by God through our human spirit.

The prayer by which intercessors agonize and energize is usually very private—and rightly so. The physical effect is similar to a woman in labor and childbirth. In fact, in the spirit realm, this is exactly what is happening. Birthing is taking place. There is a “rending of the temple veil” between the mortal and immortal realm. The wonder of it all is that while one is in “*agonizesthai*” prayer, a thousand miles away or even around the world a battle is being won for the Kingdom of God.

When my car is going up a steep grade and I can’t make it in the ordinary gear, I drop down into a low gear. Wonderfully, God has provided the same kind of help in praying. When our usual method can’t make the grade, He lets us drop back into a low gear and puts our hands on the bell-rope of Heaven which we then ring with a power that vibrates the very walls of hell. ■

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# The Only Necessary Thing

*Living a Prayerful Life*



Henri J. M. Nouwen

Compiled and Edited by Wendy Wilson Greer



*Author Henri Nouwen*

Reviewed by Dave & Jami Dittmeier

Our couples' prayer group recently finished reading *The Only Necessary Thing*, a compilation of the writings of Henri Nouwen.

For those who may not be aware, Henri J. M. Nouwen was the author of more than 40 books and is considered to be one of the great spiritual writers of modern times. He taught at the University of Notre Dame, Harvard, and Yale, but shared the last ten years of his life with people with mental handicaps as pastor of the l'Arche Daybreak community in Toronto, Canada.

Wendy Wilson Greer compiled and edited the writings of Henri

Nouwen into this book. It is, with little doubt on our part, one of the best books on prayer we have ever read and its subtitle "Living a Prayerful Life" speaks volumes in the way it addresses various aspects of our faith walk. The book is full of tremendous words of wisdom. In the words of Sue Mosteller who wrote the forward to the book "[Nouwen's] writings about prayer spring not from his mind but from his experience of longing for God, of sometimes experiencing the 'Presence' and of often being challenged to hope in the darkness."

Ms. Greer has captured the essence of Nouwen's extensive writings on

prayer and distilled them down to this 200-page book. "The invitation to a life of prayer is the invitation to live in the midst of this world without being caught in the net of wounds and needs.... Prayer is the center of the Christian life. It is the only necessary thing" (from "Prayer and Peacemaking" by Nouwen).

*The Only Necessary Thing* leads the reader through Henri Nouwen's thoughts on various aspects of prayer including "Desire," "What is Prayer?" "Solitude," "Listening," "Unceasing Prayer," "Forgiveness," and "Hindrances." The final chapter of the book contains various prayers penned by Nouwen.

Our favorite passage of the book came at the end of the chapter titled "Death and Eternal Life." Nouwen recounts a conversation he had with one of the Flying Rodleighs, a trapeze artists group who performed with the German circus. Nouwen was talking about flying with the head of the group, who said, "I must have complete trust in my catcher. The flyer does nothing and the catcher does everything.... The worst thing the flyer can do is try to catch the catcher...the flyer must trust, with outstretched arms, that his catcher will be there for him." Nouwen pondered this analogy and the thought flashed through his mind of, "Father, into Your hands I commend my Spirit." Dying is trusting in the catcher.... Don't be afraid. You are a beloved child of God. He will be there when you make your long jump. Don't try to grab Him; He will grab you. Just stretch out your arms and hands and trust, trust, trust."

"God is timeless, immortal, eternal, and prayer lifts us up into this divine life." (Pg.39)

"Praying pervades every aspect of our lives. It is the unceasing recognition that God is wherever we are, always inviting us to come closer and to celebrate the divine gift of being alive." (Pg. 40)

"As long as we are afraid of God we cannot love God. The greatest block in the spiritual life is fear." (Pg. 167)

"Love - deep, human love - does not know death....Real love says, 'Forever.' Love will always reach out toward the eternal." (Pp. 187-188)

This book is a great read for all who desire to "Live a Prayerful Life." ■

*Dave, Chairman of the Board, and his wife Jami are long-time friends of Breakthrough, both serving on the Board of Directors.*

## Memorials

An L. Ang in memory of  
**Amelia L. Ang**

\*

Thomas Flick in memory of  
**John Milliron**

\*

Elizabeth Smith in honor of  
**Carol Stone**

\*

Karen Wintrey in memory of  
**Isaac**

*We welcome memorial gifts in honor of departed loved ones.*

# Pray without Ceasing

by Leonard LeSourd

Paul challenged his followers with the above three words (I Thess. 5:17). Our response today: “Come on now, Paul, who can do this and fulfill daily responsibilities?”

Yet as an intercessor those three words sit there before us as a reminder—as a challenge—that we’re not doing what we should do nor being what we should be. Or is there something here we’re missing?

Andrew Murray gives us a clue. “How can I breathe and feel and hear without ceasing? Because they are the functions of a healthy, natural life. And so, if the spiritual life be healthy, under the full power of the Holy Spirit, praying without ceasing will be natural.

The key here is the “full power of the Holy Spirit.” Once we invite the Holy Spirit into our lives, we are saying to God, in effect: “Lord, I am helpless and inadequate without You. I am now getting myself out of the way so that Your Spirit can operate freely inside me.”

The day begins with, “Good morning, Lord, Thank You for a good night’s sleep. Thank You for the opportunity to serve You today. I ask Your Spirit to take over now.”

Believe that He is doing just that as you read His Word, then intercede for those people and situations He has given you. In your spirit you pray without ceasing as you dress, eat, travel to work, deal with problems, go all out in recreation. During intervals, as you eat, or walk, or drive, or stop to think, it will be natural to say, “Lord give me the words to say to \_\_\_\_\_. Bless that man over there on crutches. Help me with this phone call.”

Thus prayer flows constantly in your spirit all day long. Andrew Murray sums it up this way:

“The death of Jesus Christ brought Him to the place of everlasting intercession. Your death with Him to sin and self sets you free from the care of self and elevates you to the dignity of intercessor, one who can get life and blessing from God for others. Let your faith rest boldly on His finished work. Know that your calling is intercession. Give yourself wholly to it and ere you know, you will find something of this ‘praying always’ with you.” ■

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# The Waiting Prayer

by Catherine Marshall

Over the years, Catherine learned a lot about patience in prayer, particularly with her son, grandchildren and three step-children. Here is a prayer she offered up regularly:

**L**ord Jesus, You want honest words on my lips; no thought of mine is hidden from You anyway... I am puzzled about the Father's timing.

You know how long I have been praying about \_\_\_\_\_.

And I have tried to be patient about the answer. I know that the seasons come and go in majestic sequence. The earth rotates on its axis in a pre-determined rhythm. No prayers of mine could change any of this. I know that Your ways are not my ways; Your timing is not my timing. But Lord, how do I, so earth-bound, come to terms with the peace of eternity?

I want to be teachable, Lord. Is there something you want to show me, some block You want removed, some change You want in me or my attitudes before You can answer my prayer? Give me the gift of eyes that see, of ears that hear what You are saying to me.

Come, Lord Jesus, and abide in my heart. How grateful I am to realize that the answer to my prayer does not depend on me at all.

As I quietly abide in You and let Your life flow in me, what freedom it is to know that the Father does not see my threadbare patience or insufficient trust, rather only Your patience, Lord, and Your confidence that the Father has everything in hand.

In Your faith I thank You right now for a more glorious answer to my prayer than I can imagine. Amen. ■

*Republished from The Breakthrough Intercessor vol. 11, no. 1, Jan/Feb 1991.*

**W**Years before my birth, God began weaving the fabric of my life with vibrant threads of prayer. Without those threads, I would not have been born.

In 1929, Nicolai Siemens was imprisoned in Moscow's dreaded Lubjanka Prison, awaiting deportation to Siberia because he was a minister of the gospel.

Meanwhile, in Chicago, Illinois, his older brother picked up the *Chicago Daily Tribune* and read, "Russia Departs 2,000 Germans to Siberia Camps." Sensing his brother Nicolai was among them, he felt burdened to

hold a prayer vigil entreating God for Nicolai's release. Sixty kneeling prayer warriors filled the Pilgrim's Mission Church interceding into the night until my uncle announced, "We can stop now. I have the conviction God has answered our prayers." Indeed God had answered and, during the same hour, the man who became my father was miraculously released and reunited with his wife and newborn son. Within days they exited Moscow's Red Gate on a train to freedom. My family later immigrated to Blaine, Washington. By 1944, the family had grown to five daughters and two sons.

# threads of prayer

by Lydia E. Harris



My mother, forty-four, was content with her large family and didn't want any surprise additions. But her daughters were praying for a baby sister. Soon used baby clothes were laundered and hung on the clothesline, announcing my mother's pregnancy.

As the birth approached, my brothers predicted, "It's going to be a boy," and then added, "We already have too many girls."

"Did you pray about it?" the girls questioned. The boys hung their heads sheepishly. "We did! And we prayed for a girl," my sisters exclaimed with confidence. I'm thankful to be the answer to their prayers.

My life was further woven by the fervent prayers of godly parents who interceded daily for my siblings and me. As a result, I accepted the Lord as a preschooler and learned the value of prayer through family devotions and my parents' example. I later married a Christian man and we raised a son and a daughter.

Then came 1988, a year of great change in my life. Within six months, both of my aging parents died and our firstborn left for college. I felt the loss of my parents' prayers and asked, "Who will pray for us now?" God answered through "Moms In Touch," an international organization of mothers who pray for their children and schools. I found kindred hearts to join me in prayer for my children.

In 2002, prayer became meaningful to me in a new way when I was diagnosed with incurable cancer. Through the prayers of many I recently celebrated five and a half years of remission. God blessed me during these years with two more grandchil-

dren for a total of four. When our youngest, Owen, faced open-heart surgery at 17 months, I organized a circle of prayer for him and people prayed for Owen around the clock. God answered these prayers with a successful surgery. Now Owen is an active, happy two-and-a-half-year-old who loves to pray, often exclaiming, "Pray Jesus, me."

As I look back on my life, I see the ripple effect of prayer. Not only did prayer change me, but it touched my entire family. My husband and I pray together regularly, and we have a heart for prayer. Our extended family (siblings and their families) meet regularly to pray for family needs. Although my extended family has faced struggles such as illness, alcoholism, and divorce, we've rejoiced in God's blessings of healing, godly marriages, and new births—both physical and spiritual. We continue to reap the fruit of my parents' faithful prayers. As we follow their example, our prayers become the lasting threads woven into the fabric of future generations.

*"I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations"* (Psalm 89:1). ■

*Lydia is a freelance writer who enjoys spending time with her retired husband, two adult children, and four grandchildren. She is involved in prayer ministry and organizes regular prayer times for her extended family.*





# Answers to Prayer

## GHANAIAAN PRAISE

I am Comfort, a Ghanaian young lady. I sent in prayer requests six years ago. God used your team to bless me mightily by answering all of them. I have recently completed a Teacher Training College. While there, I was in two majors, and was ordained as the Music Director in one, and the prayer secretary in the other. I also lead praise and worship. Any time I was called to lead, the power of God filled the room and touched every individual's life. God used me mightily to win many lost souls into His kingdom as a prayer secretary. Although I learned less by concentrating all my mind in doing God's work, He never failed me. I passed all my examinations. So I use this as a testimony for people to know what God can do for them when they focus on Him alone.

Comfort, Ghana

## EVANGELISM

I just want to thank you for interceding for last month's school of evangelization for young people. The Lord has manifested himself in a tender and intimate way and a lot of young people have committed themselves to Jesus in a deeper way. In a powerful release of the gifts of the Spirit, a lot of emotional healing and some physical healing have been manifested.

Noel, Australia

## TOKYO MINISTRY

We have been praying for about two years concerning purchasing a building and land to establish a counseling ministry center in west Tokyo. In about a week, the money and plans are coming together and we will be closing on the property. It is a large investment, but we praise God for leading us this far. Thank you for your prayers!

Edith, Japan

## MARRIAGE THANKS

There have been so many answered prayers for my marriage through the years as I sent in requests. Thank you forever. I am so confident when you pray.

Eileen

## NEW TEACHING JOB

Ron was laid off suddenly after 27 years of teaching. Where was a man, 58, going to find a job teaching after the school year already started?

The Lord confirmed three times that He would open a door (through prayer with a friend, scripture, and on a telephone prayer hotline). Ron not only found a job, but one that pays even more than what he was making before. Praise God. Even in this dreadful economy, He answered.

Barbara, MA

## COMPASSION

Esayas is a six year old boy from Ethiopia. The Compassion staff was amazed at how quickly a response was received regarding Esayas' medical treatment. He is already scheduled for a procedure to reduce the deformities he has been dealing with since birth! Considering the poverty-stricken area he lives in, this is a great answer to prayer.

Reba, PA

## EVANGELISM

At the end of November, the intercessors prayed for guidance and wisdom to cope with my chronically ill teenage daughter. Insomnia caused her to get sick, miss school, and frustrated her attempts to do things which require energy. In the past, my prayers for her recovery seemed unanswered. I was now praying for strength to cope. Within the last month, however, we have noticed a tremendous change in our daughter. From someone who was frustrated, anxious, depressed, and irritable, she is becoming cheerful, reasonable, helpful, and trying to problem-solve. I cannot tell you what a big change this is. Please know that I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Georgia, CA

## HEALING

God answered the prayer for my Aunt Linda. The doctors never expected her to recover from MRSA, a type of serious staff infection. Last week, they were going to amputate her legs just above the knee, but her brother got a second opinion. The doctor scraped her bones which had the MRSA. Yesterday they ran a blood test and all the MRSA is gone! The doctors and nurses say it is a miracle.

Loralei

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.

## SOULS REDEEMED

My friend's trip to Egypt was very fruitful. He said that 17 people made decisions for Christ. He prayed for many to be healed and God opened the door for him to meet some key leaders for future ministry.

Anonymous

## THANKS FOR PRAYER

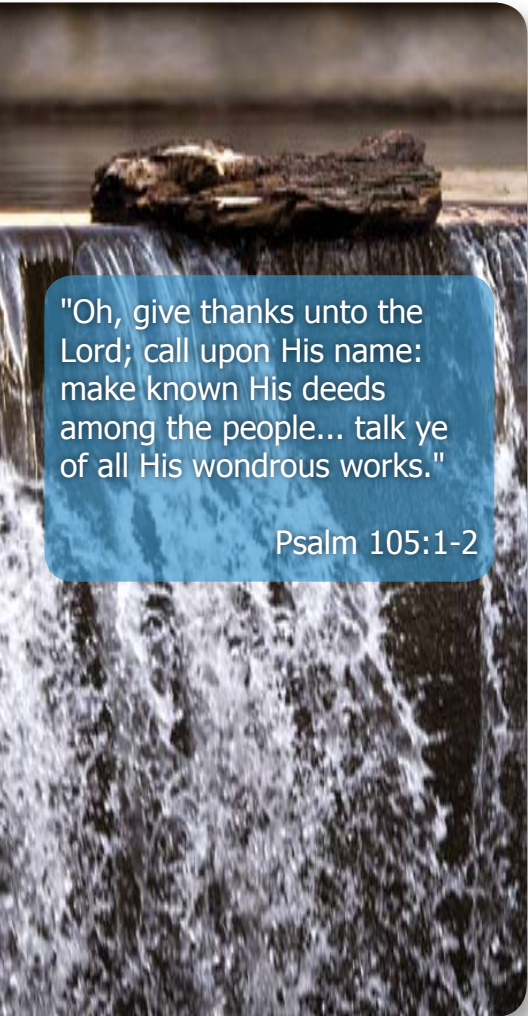
I want to say, "Thank you!" for your prayers. Praise the Lord on high that this last surgery was a success. There were no infections, nor even a hint of one. Nor were there any complications or anything that would cause any concern. I returned to my facility exactly three weeks after being taken to the hospital for surgery, just as I had told everyone and thanks to your prayers and those of my brothers here and God Almighty. I am in one piece again and with no problems for the first time in more than ten years!

Daniel J.S.

## RADICAL CHANGE

I am so impressed that y'all are praying for a perfect stranger, but sometimes that is the best! There has been change and all I can say is that I think I am free of something. I'm not exactly sure of what happened, but I was under a lot of pressure spiritually and mentally and just remember asking God to take it away...and He did. That was followed by emotional weariness and going to church mid-week helped. I awoke the next day with a much better attitude and feeling better. God reminded me of the good things about my brother and I found myself giving thanks for him and the things he has done. I think that may be the approach I need to continue to take in areas of submission, rebellion and stubbornness in my life. Thank you for your prayers and the difference the Lord makes.

Anonymous



"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

## HIS EVIDENT MERCIES

The Lord works in strange ways and what looks like a setback can be providential. The Lord has continued to look after Hazel, a woman with fetal alcohol syndrome who had been living at risk on skid row. My daughter has been able to assist through Government agencies to get housing for Hazel in the village. Hazel no longer poses a risk to herself or others and is close to being legally declared incompetent so that people to whom she willingly gives Power of Attorney can no longer abuse her. She was arrested and jailed briefly and the police moved her in a straitjacket from the village to a larger city where there are facilities to help her. She is staying on her medications and not using drugs, even though she still drinks sometimes. Hazel is in God's hands and He is looking after her. Praise the Lord for small mercies and thank you for the prayer support.

Joan



## PLACE IN THE WILDERNESS

As ever and always, God made a very real place in the wilderness for Mel. On February 12th, ten days after the request for prayer was sent and just three days into the prayer period, a real estate agent offered Mel a bedroom and shared bath for \$200/month rental. The room is located in a very safe neighborhood with easy access to public places. Please know and advise your praying saints that God has answered this request...fully!

Shirley

*Answers to Prayer are edited for publication.*

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Send us your articles  
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prayer or what He has  
taught you about prayer.

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