The Breakthrough INTERCESSOR

Summer 2018

When God's Answer is Unexpected

The Magazine About Prayer

God's unexpected answer to her prayers redirected Linda's calling in a newly developed prison ministry | p. 12 When God called a dear friend home to heaven, forgiveness brought life-giving peace and healing | p. 16



With my spiritual eyes I see the old rugged cross lying on the ground.

I look around but don't see any friendly faces in the crowd.

The Roman soldiers seize me. I struggle and struggle, but they force me down.

A soldier comes toward me with a mallet and pegs in his hand.

"No! No," a voice rings out.

"Let ____(your name)___go," shouts Jesus.

"Put me on the cross instead."

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Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.

Isaiah 43:1-2 (ESV)

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



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

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

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



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

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

From the Chairman

Crowns! God's just rewards!

The rewards for faithfulness are tremendous! The scripture says it is appointed unto men once to die, and then the judgment. (Hebrews 9:27) And the judgement for believers is going to be awesome and wonderful-no eye has seen nor ear heard the wonderful things God has prepared for those who love him. (1 Corinthians 2:9).

On judgement day, the faithful in Christ will receive crowns from The Lord. The Scriptures speak of five distinct crowns that will be presented.

They are:

- A Crown of Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8), 1.
 - given to those who desire and press in for intimacy with God, those who love His appearing.
- 2. A Crown of Life (James 1:12), for those who successfully endure temptation, and also for those who are faithful unto death.
- 3. A Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20), for soul winners.
- 4. A Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4), for faithful leaders.
- 5. An Incorruptible Crown (1 Corinthians 9:25), for those who master their old sin nature.



Somewhere in all of this are rewards for interceding for others, giving of your time and giving of your money, and for any sacrifices you have made for the love of God and His Kingdom. Jesus loves you so, so very much. And He desires to express in tangible ways how pleased He was with you, and with your life of daily sacrifice to Him. He will not forget your labor of love. (Hebrews 6:10). He has promised crowns to

those who qualify, and unimaginable rewards, too cool for Him to describe to us while we are still on this side of the grave.

Beloveds, stay faithful!

The best is yet to come! It is not how you start this race, but how you finish! God loves you! And He most definitely is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Be faithful, and expecting...

Anin K. Wells

Breakthrough's financial statement is available upon your written request to the Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs, P.O. Box 526, Richmond, VA 23218.



Our True NCHOR

By Arlene Lila

Come on, Grandma, let's take the ski boat out and swim Off the boat," Brandon called. "The water's great. I'll round up the kids to get ready."

It was a hot, humid day at the lake. A swim would refresh all of us.

"As long as you drive," I answered. "I just want to sit back and relax today."

Before long we were out in the middle of the lake. I checked to make sure every child had a life jacket on and threw the swim sticks out on the calm water. I enjoyed watching the children jump off the boat and start to splash one another.

"Stay near the boat," I called to them. "Don't swim too far from the boat."

I began to relax with the waves gently rocking me from side to side. I was enjoying the ride so much that I didn't notice the boat drifting away from the swimmers. As I watched, they appeared to be farther and farther away. Where was this current taking me?

Panic set in. How would I get the boat back to the kids? My driver, Brandon, was in the water with them. Would I remember how to drive this big craft to get them? I looked at the dashboard to see if the ignition key was there. My hands were shaking, so I waited a moment to calm down. I scanned the horizon to see if another boat was in the area. I could blow the horn and get help. I saw no other boat. I almost lost my balance when the boat suddenly stopped. I was confused for a moment. Then, relieved, I screamed, "Anchor!"

Brandon had remembered to put down the anchor before he jumped overboard. All I had to do now was pull on our long anchor chain, and I would be back to the group. I was surprised to see that no one had even noticed I had drifted.

I thought about the Lord being our anchor (Hebrews 6:19). When we neglect to spend time with Him in prayer or get too busy to read the Bible, we begin to drift away from Him. At times, the Holy Spirit gives us a little tug to bring us back. We can ignore the hint or humbly return to a close relationship with our Savior. It is up to each individual.

It's comforting to know that Jesus told us that He would never leave us or forsake us. He is the Anchor that holds us.

Arlene lives in Fountain Hills, AZ, and enjoys writing articles and devotionals to encourage Christians in their faith. She loves meeting regulary with her Christian writer's group in town.



Rejuvenate **By Shirley Brosius**

Loving God and loving His people begins with prayer. Imagine your excitement if invited to share your opinions and concerns with the head of your country. In prayer we enjoy the privilege of telling the Creator of the universe of your love for Him and your concerns for others.

Yet we sometimes get bored with prayer. Our requests to the Lord sound like a grocery list of wants. If that happens, ask God's forgiveness and make changes. Here are innovative ways to pray each day of the week.

Mondays: Pray through your Sunday bulletin.

Pray and thank God for those who so faithfully serve on your church staff. Pray for insight into God's Word and the ability to communicate their findings. Pray they experience personal devotion to Christ that overflows in joyful worship and inner peace. Ask God to give them wisdom and discernment in handling the affairs of the church and interacting with its people.

Pray through the week's schedule. Pray God helps leaders serve as examples to others. Ask for a cooperative spirit among committee members. Pray church activities bring glory to God.

Pray for volunteers. Thank God for those who faithfully serve in mundane positions week after week—teachers, nursery workers, ushers, etc. Pray their



hearts are blessed by their service and their families are drawn to God by their faithful testimony.

Pray God's healing hand touches those who are ill. Pray they experience a sense of God's Presence, develop patience, and are drawn to the Great Physician in their pain and distress.

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16b *NIV*)

Tuesdays: Pray for Family. Make a photo album with individual photos of family members.

Look into their faces as you pray for their salvation, a desire to grow in Christ, and a desire to serve God. Ask God to keep husbands and wives faithful, to protect children and keep them well. Pray for wisdom and discernment for parents in childrearing. Pray that all maintain moral purity and that even pleasurable activities are pleasing to God.

Ask God to bless family members in their work or their studies and to help them show patience and generosity to others. Pray that any conflicts that arise be resolved and that family members lead lives of integrity that honor Christ. Ask God to draw them and give them joy in worship.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanks giving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6-7 NIV)

Wednesdays: Pray for neighbors. Draw a map of your neighborhood to guide you.

Pray that God's grace and peace rests upon each home. If you know of specific conflicts, lift them to God. Thank God for law enforcement offiMondays: Pray through the church bulletin. Tuesdays: Pray for your family. Wednesdays: Pray for your neighborhood. Thursdays: Pray through the newspaper. Fridays: Pray through your church directory. Saturdays: Examine yourself. Sundays: Pray as a congregation.

cers, emergency volunteers, and other community servants. Pray for God's protection and blessing upon them. Ask God to bless the interactions among those who live near you.

Pray that business owners conduct affairs with honesty and that God blesses businesses. Ask Him to prick consciences if dishonest activities are taking place. Ask for direction in reaching those around you with the gospel of Christ.

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." (Matthew 6:12 *NIV*)

Thursdays: Pray through a newspaper or television news program.

Pray that journalists report news with unbiased viewpoints. Pray for events on the world scene: wisdom for heads of countries, relief for famine and natural disasters, peace in regions of war. Pray for worldwide protection in cyber space. Ask God to build community among world leaders. Pray that people in your local, state, and federal governments not abuse their power but rather act responsibly toward those who placed them in office.

Ask God to raise up Christians to stand against violence in communities yet reach out to those who perpetuate violence–so they may come to know God. Pray for those experiencing the loss of homes by fire or foreclosure, the loss of property, or the loss of loved ones. Pray that those who need assistance may find it.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV)

Fridays: Pray through your church directory, a page at a time.

Thank God for the church and ask Him to use your congregation to build His kingdom. Pray that your church and other churches stand as lighthouses in the community and draw unbelievers. Pray that the Holy Spirit fills each member of your church with love for God and for one another so that as a group you are a witness to the community. Pray for discernment in outreach and a spirit of cooperation in meeting the needs of the community, both within the church and beyond. Pray that any who are lonely come to know the love of Christ and be drawn to the fellowship of His people.

"The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; he is their stronghold in time of trouble." (Psalm 37:39 *NIV*)

Saturdays: Examine yourself.

Think back over the week, and ask God to point out any activities that make Him sad. Ask God to show you any restoration that needs to be made, any promises you may have broken, any opportunities you may have missed to speak a good word for Him. Ask forgiveness for times you've been prideful or acted selfishly. Confess wrong attitudes and impure thoughts. Rejoice in the forgiveness that we have in Christ.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9 *NIV*)

Sundays: Worship with and enjoy praying as a community of saints. Request prayer that your congregation's love for God grow in knowledge and depth of insight.

"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness." (Psalm 29:2 NIV)

Shirley is the author of Sisterhood of Faith and a coauthor of Turning Guilt Trips into Joy Rides. She lives in PA, and speaks with Friends of the Heart, three women who share God's love



through messages, skits, and music. She loves books, walks and her five grandkids.



As a Christian, I have been told many times that God answers our prayers in one of three ways—yes, no, or wait. That has always made sense to me.

Of course, everyone wants a "yes" answer. No one wants a "no," and it is excruciating sometimes to "wait" on the Lord. Sometimes we can't tell if "wait" is in fact "no."

While waiting on one very fervent prayer request I had sent up to God over almost a decade--that of founding a Christian school--I finally learned a new biblical principle to add to the three answers to prayer.

Sometimes "no" is answered by God with, "I have something entirely

different in mind for you. Trust Me."

My dream school would be no ordinary Christian school. It would be known as one with rigorous academics, serious students, and one that maintained strong Christian standards.

The seeds for my dream were planted early when I became a young mother. I discovered I had a proclivity to really push my children hard in academics. I taught all four to read well before kindergarten, which I credit to God's guidance and bless-

"I learned that it is the painful times, not the easy times, that teach us to lean upon and trust in the Lord."

ings, and through simple phonics lessons. Because they read early, they were all placed in our district's "gifted programs." I was gratified about this, as I believed at the time that these advanced programs must be excellent!

When our oldest was 11, my husband died from a rare cancer. It was the end of a difficult three-year battle, but I was thankful that my church and family supported us in prayer and encouragement through the long months. I learned that it is the painful times, not the easy times, that teach us to lean upon and trust in the Lord. I experienced the Holy Spirit's comfort and insights as I prayed about what to do next. I had not worked outside my home for years, and I was afraid. Finally, I decided I should go back to the public schools as a teacher.

I soon found myself in constant disagreement with the curriculum my kids were using in their schools. It was at odds with our beliefs as Christians, and I felt they were also missing the basics. Amazingly, God dropped into my lap a job working with homeschool families through a private school program, and I was able to teach from my home.

I began offering classes and field trips to a range of grades, teaming up with homeschool parents. Soon I made a determined decision to also homeschool my own children.

As we home educated year after year, and seeing that it was going well, I started thinking of founding a rigorous Christian day school. I wanted to put my own curriculum ideas to work, and I believed I was qualified to do so, having completed a Master's degree in education. Each year, I sent for a private school application from the state superintendent and poured over the contents. "Lord," I prayed in earnest, "please help me start this Christian school!" But each year the application was set aside. Life was too busy as a single parent who was working, involved in church, and homeschooling.

My children earned scholarships to college. Three went on to become lawyers, and one started his own small business.

Then God started answering my fervent prayer, but not in the way I had expected.

My church asked for volunteers to go into the local county jail. I dutifully started serving the Lord by going to teach the Bible to individuals. I figured I could spare a couple of hours on Saturday mornings.

To my great surprise, I discovered I actually liked jail ministry. True, the women I talked to were not educated, by and large. Most had not finished high school. Many had learning disabilities. Reading comprehension was low. But I was amazed to find eager students when it came to understanding what God's Word had to say to them! They needed answers to life. Does God love me? Will He forgive me? What does He want from me? Can I trust Him? I saw immediately that God's wonderful help and direction



was available to them, as it was for me as a widow and single parent.

As I continued to minister in the jail, I met the head chaplain, a widower and a man with a passion for bringing the Gospel to inmates. A year later, we married. I became an assistant chaplain to the women and began spending many hours each week "in jail." My plans to start a Christian school were put on hold–permanently.

I would never have guessed I would be happy to go to jail!

What is funny is that I use all of my teaching skills in the jail. I have written many Bible study homework units for the women–corrected with my teacher's red pen! I am a stickler for the right answers! Of course, I add numerous encouraging comments in the margins. As of this date, I have had hundreds of women complete the homework for certificates, and through the prodding of the Holy Spirit, many have accepted Christ as their Savior.

The Lord has given me the opportunity to prepare and teach Bible

classes and chapel messages to the women through the years. I share insights as to how God worked in my life during trying times, and how He was faithful, and is faithful, to His many promises in the Word. I can honestly say this latest time in my life has been the most fulfilling.

Isaiah 61:1 tells us that, in Jesus' name, we are to "heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound." (NKJV) I know that I am where I should be--and doing what God wants me to do.

Thank You, Lord, for answering, "No, but"

Linda Jinkens is an assistant chaplain who has ministered to women at a county jail for over 12 years. She is also a freelance writer whose articles and stories have been published in various periodicals. She enjoys riding her bicycle in the great Northwest, knitting, and teaching Sunday School.

Prayer Walk

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.



Into the Father's Hands

By Rachell Hoogbaard

I was 6 o'clock on a Friday evening. I was tired and worn out from the work and challenges that I had faced in the week. I got news that a friend of my mum's, Annebelle*, was very sick. I made a u-turn, picked up my sister and went to visit Annebelle, who was seventy-nine years old. I gathered from the message that she might be dying.

We found all her family gathered in the house, making sure that they kept her comfortable and that they watched over her in the event that something should happen.

We bathed and fed her and made sure that she was comfortable. At 9 o'clock that same evening when I wanted to leave, I was called back to say a prayer.

I had a strong sense of her complaints of pains in her arms, legs and joints. My strongest sense was of that she had something on her mind that she wanted to discuss.

I was led to Psalm 92:1-4 (ESV) where the Psalmist says, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; For You, O Lord, have made me glad by what You have done, I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands." When I read this I recalled how Annebelle spent her Sunday afternoons singing at grave sites during funeral services. She did not have a very impressive voice but this was her ministry.

Her singing confirms the joy that she finds in her Lord her maker (Psalm 33:1-3). When in doubt, trouble, or facing the enemy, she declared through her singing that she trusts the Lord who is her refuge and her strength (Psalm 5:11). She would sing herself happy. Singing was her way of declaring praises to her living God—a God who takes care of all her needs.

We prayed for her and spoke healing to her whole body. We rebuked the fever and asked the Lord to recall her life and her works. We followed Hezekiah example in 2 Kings 20 *(ESV)* where he prayed to the Lord, "Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." We asked for extending her life in the same fashion like He did with Hezekiah. We trusted the Lord of miracles and wonders to perform this miracle of healing for Annebelle.

After the prayer, Annebelle, who did not have the strength to sit, asked for assistance to sit. "I want to be at peace with everyone. I am asking for forgiveness if I have done something wrong to anybody. I am sorry." Annebelle expressed her sincere regret as she asked for forgiveness from all whom she might have wronged. She expressed her wishes to her family. "I would like to see my husband and kids drawing near to God. This will give me peace."

You could sense that Annebelle was ready to leave this world to go to



her maker. I asked her for her favourite song and we sung for her "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow." We continued singing a few more songs and shared the peace.

Her request for forgiveness was a very profound action. Forgiveness brings healing (2 Chron 7:14) and restoration of relationships. Forgiveness helps to restore our inner peace and breaks the chains that bind us and keep us from dying. The Lord teaches us to pray for forgiveness of sins as well as to forgive others (Matt 6:12).

To forgive others or ask for forgiveness is not an easy task, but it is a small sacrifice if we compare it to what the Lord did for us on the cross (Matt 26:28). We know that if we repent and are sincere in our hearts that God is faithful and just to forgive us. What a lovely feeling to have a clean slate. Annebelle looked more lighthearted after asking for forgiveness and sharing the peace of the Lord with family and friends.

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sins and helps us to do what is necessary.

Annebelle was able to continue singing in a sweet voice, "How Great Though Art." Her pain and fever had subsided, and she was able to exhale without so much discomfort. Her physical and spiritual comfort had increased. Exhaling for her meant trusting God for her healing; she trusted God to remove her pain and discomfort and allow her to rest comfortably. Exhaling also meant that she could be at peace with her Maker, her family and had allowed God to be at work in the hearts of family members whom He called. This meant that she was now ready to receive the words of her Jesus: "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46 ESV)

Annebelle*- not real name

Rachell is from South Africa. She is actively involved with Christian education and lay ministry, and is passionate about being of service to the Lord.



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

Only through *your* partnership.

Gifts of Stock.

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

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

Has God taught you about prayer? Has He answered prayer and you want to share? Do you write prayer poetry?

The Intercessor's editors welcome submissions!

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

• Topic must focus on prayer: an experience or teaching supported in Scripture

• Authors give Breakthrough permission to edit material for length and content

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

Tale of the Hummingbird

By S.T. Mann

Awhile back, I agreed to help my neighbor Sammy get his potato patch going, thinking three or four hours of hard labor would do it. After spending twice as long as expected, I finally returned home. As I stepped inside, I was startled to find a visitor frantically whizzing forwards, backwards, upside down, vertically—it was a hummingbird!

Hummingbirds are one of the many highlights of my summer – playfully darting around my yard, feeding, and hiding in their walnut-sized nests. Their hearts beat 21 times a second, powering wings that rotate up to 70 times a second. I love the marvelous little flying miracles–beautiful, mischievous in spirit, and incredible in workmanship!

"Fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works." (Psalm 139:14 NKJV)

As I approached, the hummingbird panicked to find an exit. Fatigued, he finally perched on the wire that runs to the hanging ceiling lamp. He would die if he stayed inside. Hummingbirds need to feed every couple hours!

I resorted to my only real solution: I whispered to the Creator of all things, "Father, what can we do to help this bird? I need Your wisdom; I need Your help."

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally. (James 1:5)

Right away, my heart knew what to do. I spoke softly and slowly to my visitor: "Hello little friend. You are welcome here, but you know you need to go back outside. I will help you if you let me."

Unbelievably, the hummingbird dove off his safe perch near the ceiling at once, landing in front of me on the grand piano and less than an arm's reach away!

Astonished, I took a half step forward. "I'm not gonna hurt you," I said. "But I will reach out and put you in my hand so I can take you outside."

I reached out and gently closed my hand around my new friend. The hummingbird offered no resistance. None! He didn't flutter his wings. He didn't peck at me. I carried him outside cradled in my hand, then set him on the deck railing.

A few seconds later, as if nothing much had happened, the hummingbird flew up to a branch in a tree about 10 feet above the deck. For several moments he looked at me as if in appreciation.

"In His hand is the life of every creature." (Job 12:10 *NKJV*) "Though the LORD is on high, yet He regards the lowly." (Psalm 138:6 *NKJV*)

My heart glowed warm and con-

tent, overwhelmed at what I had just seen. A moment, touched by our loving heavenly Father, transformed a forgettable day of toil and drudgery into a day of wonder and blessing.

Months later, the hummingbirds headed away for the season. But one morning, when I opened my bedroom



window to let in some fresh mountain air, a hummingbird hovered maybe six feet away. He gave me a long, long look, and seemed to say, "Good job my friend, see you next summer!"

"Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders..." (Psalm 105:5 *NKJV*)

S.T. Mann writes from a farm in the Canadian Rockies. He has written devotionals, articles, and short stories based on his own adventures. He is an ordained minister, founder of a prison ministry, and intercessor.



Please Stop the R

By Lynn Wallace

Can He send pianos without money? Can He pay rent when funds are exhausted? Can He give a child to a barren couple?

God Gives Pianos

The pastor surely sought the Lord's will. "What do you want me to do with this piano? We don't need it for our church."

In the meantime I had pleaded, "Lord, please give me a piano." I examined used pianos, but none measured up. I knew the Lord wanted me to teach piano. He would answer.

When I arrived at the pastor's office, he stated, "I have a surprise for you." He showed me a piano in one of the classrooms. "Could you use this piano?" he asked.

My heart rejoiced until I called the piano tuner. He examined my piano and said, "It isn't worth repairing, but here's the name of a piano repairman. He might pay you \$25 for your piano."

I called the repairman. As he looked at my piano, he asked, "Are you a Christian?" We shared our testimonies. Then he said, "Your piano won't sound like a concert grand, but I can fix it good enough for teaching piano." He gave me a special price, and agreed to buy my piano if it failed to satisfy me. When he finished the repairs and tuning, I enjoyed practicing as well as teaching my pupils!

Another lady prayed for a piano. She forgot to specify just one piano. She ended up with three pianos! I believe the Lord enjoys doing things to make us laugh.

Just Enough

When we left again to work with the Navajo people, the churches prayed for us. We had raised half our support and could not wait to work with our dear Navajo people. We obtained permission to park our home—a blue school bus—on the Navajo reservation. They made no charges for rent and utilities.

However, we failed to get our lease. We moved to a trailer park. Now our rent was \$80 per month which we did not have. "Oh Lord, help us," we prayed earnestly.

Bodine Baptist Church in Oklahoma City decided to take us on as their missionaries for the Daily Vacation Bible School. We had not heard from them since Leon had spoken there about two years previously. The offering amounted to \$80, just enough to pay our rent. "Thank you, Lord," we said in our hearts, as we paid our rent on time.

Childless and Weeping

John and Susie prayed, "Lord, please give us children." They wept and longed for the laughter of children. Really, they were thinking of one child at a time.

The orphanage called, "We have a set of twins for you." They prayed again, and decided to accept this double blessing.



"Lord, please stop the rain so we can keep our promise. These children need Jesus."

Please Stop the Rain!

On one occasion Rose and I sought to win souls in Long Beach, California. We visited in the Carmelitos Housing Project there.

The children living in this low-income housing kept coming and coming. They continued coming up to our supper time. We could not keep our hostess waiting. About this time one small child asked, "Can I go get my twin?"

"We'll come back tomorrow," we promised. However, the next day the weather threatened to interfere with our plans. The rain descended in torrents. "Lord," we prayed with pounding hearts, "please stop the rain so that we can keep our promise. These children need Jesus."

The rains did not stop at once. We

waited. About 2:30 in the afternoon the rains stopped. God had heard and answered our prayers! We scurried back to Carmelitos and again the children kept coming and coming.

Though we certainly were not Elijahs, our God remains faithful. He will stop rains today to serve His purposes.

God not only sends rains, pianos, money, and children in answer to prayer, but a heap of other things. He always fits the answer to the need.

Lynn is the author of articles, curriculum, and book "Our Lifeship: A Study in Proverbs for Women." For a complete list of her work see her website: writingfrommyheart.com.



Prayer Partners

By Sandi Martin

We were as different as night and day. She dressed to the nines, I was comfortable in jeans. She was black, I was white. She was 89, I was 58. She called me, "Mrs. Martin." I called her "Mrs. Smith." But we had a bond like no other. We were prayer partners.



Who would pray for my husband, our two kids, and me, every day like she did?

We had comforted each other. First, when her husband passed from this earth, and then tragically, her son. Then, she had offered prayers and love when I lost my mom and then in February 2017, my dad.

In November 2017, I knew Mrs. Smith's days were numbered. I know all of ours are, but hers were numbered in terms of months, weeks, or perhaps days after the multiple myeloma was discovered. My own grandmother died from this same blood cancer when I was a young girl.

As I sat there in the days before her earthly departure singing, I have to admit I was a little jealous she would see Jesus before I would. She would get to gaze into His beautiful face with tears streaming down, and all the love she had ever felt would be unashamedly unleashed on the One who had chosen her, who had comforted her, who had fought every battle alongside her.

When I realized her life was about to end on this earth, I was filled with sudden fear. Who would pray for my husband, our two kids, and me, every day like she did? My husband was quick to say she would still be praying, in heaven that is.

Our favorite answered prayer had come years earlier. Our family had moved from living across the street from her to living 45 minutes away in Lynchburg. This particular night I had a burden to jump in my car and go to her. Halfway there, I stopped to get a soft drink and tried to dismiss the notion, but the Lord wouldn't have it. I kept on going until I drove into her driveway. When she came to the door I could tell she was crying. She told me how she had a bill she couldn't pay, and the creditors were hounding her for \$500. On bended knee, I looked her in the eye and told her that Jesus had never forsaken her and He wasn't about to begin now. As we prayed, we felt Jesus' presence as if He were sitting on the couch beside us.

I left encouraged, knowing somehow Jesus was going to meet that need and come through as always for my sweet friend.

The next morning was a busy one as our son Luke was about to start a new season with Dixie Youth Baseball. Every year we were given 20 raffle tickets to sell, and the drawing was held on opening day. My father-in-law, Jerry, usually bought them all but this particular year I had forgotten to tell him so I quickly started filling them all out before we headed out the door. As I was putting my name on them, I asked the Lord to let one of them be drawn. You see, the grand prize for the winning ticket was \$500, the very amount Mrs. Smith needed.

We loaded up the car and headed to the baseball field, where I turned over my tickets and money. When the draw-



ings were finally held, I found myself unable to do anything but pray. The third place drawing was announced, followed by the second. It was the moment for the grand prize winner to be announced. "Ok, God, here we go," I said. "It is time for YOU to shine!"

The announcer said, "The grand prize winner of the \$500 winning ticket is... Sandi Martin!" I stood up in front of everyone to accept a check that can only be described as a "God thing." My friend Tina, who was standing beside me, noted that I didn't seem surprised. To be honest, I wasn't. I totally trusted God to call my name and answer that prayer.

I could hardly wait to get out my flip phone and call Mrs. Smith as I made my way back to the crowd. When she answered, I told her to sit down and explained what her Jesus had just done for her. She wept, unable to contain her joy and relief.

I know without any doubt that

my name was chosen because of that prayer the night before. God could have chosen many other ways to fulfill that need but he chose to reveal Himself through a raffle ticket.

My sweet friend has been with Jesus several months now. Life keeps going and I think of her often. I miss her dearly but I hear her words repeated over and over to me through the years: "Mrs. Martin, we didn't come here to stay."

She always told me she would save me a seat, and I take comfort knowing we will have a lot to talk about when I claim that seat beside her, in heaven.

Sandi lives in the Blue Ridge Mountains of VA along with her husband, Jerry, and children. She leads a local, weekly college prayer group for Moms In Prayer International.



Answers to Prayer

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SPINE SURGERY

"After a five-hour surgery on my spine, I walked to my bed from the stretcher after just two hours of recovery! I went home the day after the surgery and got a full night's sleep, and relieved some bipolar symptoms as well. For the next two weeks, I had in-home care with a physical therapist. She has had this job for nine years and said I'm the best back surgery patient she's ever had! I told her it was the prayers of lots of people for me. And, my right hip pain is gone, Praise the Lord!" -Judy

GLORIOUS RESULTS

"My dad was in ICU. His heart was failing and his kidneys were functioning at 20 percent, and his blood pressure was down to 40 at one point and then skyrocketed to 180. Now he's completely cleared on all counts, is out of the ICU and the hospital, and is in physical therapy! Glory to Jesus' Name forever and ever! Thank you for your diligence to pray!" -Jack

PEACEFUL BEGINNINGS

"I called and asked for prayer for my husband's job and his high blood pressure. God answered! He has a new job, much better than the previous one, and his Blood Pressure has returned to normal." -Heather

A FRESH START:

"My husband has gotten a job that he loves. Thank you for praying!" -Juli

HEALED HEEL

"I asked for prayer for my left heel which was hurting. A few nights later while I was in bed, I felt a slight tingling in my left leg and it felt like things being moved inside it. God has now healed it completely and removed the pain, and I've been walking on it normally again. I thank and praise Almighty God who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." -Henry

POWERFUL & PRICELESS

"Thank your for praying, intercessors. Barbara is cancer-free! I also passed all of my medical test from October through December 2017. Prayer is powerful and priceless!" -Joey

A SWIFT RECOVERY

"One of our elders had an aneurysm. He has beaten all the statistics and has had a best-case recovery. Thank you for praying for him! He is talking and walking and people can't tell that he ever had the aneurysm." -Jacquelyn

RIGHT ON TIME

"My husband and I bought some land and we had to come up with a substantial amount of money to close the deed, without knowing where it would come from. In faith we set up our appointment to close. The day before our appointment, my husband happily received a bonus at work for the amount above and beyond what we needed. We will be able to close the deal and become land owners."

SALVATION IN CAMBODIA

"God has led me step-by-step. He is gracious and good. He is saving many students and teachers in Cambodia." -Terry

MERCY

"God granted my motion to correct my 'second life sentence' March 28th 2018 and I will go back for re-sentencing!" -James

REDEEMED & THRIVING

"About 3 years I asked for prayer for my nephew Ethan to be delivered from drinking and drugs. Ethan is totally delivered now and getting married to a Christian girl on June 30. I see restoration!" -Nancy

A GIFT OF JOY

"For several years you lifted up prayers for my son and my daughter-in-law as they wanted to have a baby. You prayed with us time and again and on January 27th, they had a healthy baby girl. We are thrilled and very grateful to the Lord for granting this blessing and to you for being part of this miracle by supporting our need with faith and generosity." -Sonia

GOD'S DIRECTION

"I requested prayer for guidance. Several intercessors sent Scriptures such as Proverbs 3:5-6 and I have sensed God's direction." -Georgia

Answers to Prayer are edited for publication.

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Mary Louise Borello In Memory of <u>Her Husband Robert</u> <u>& Little pet dog "Norman"</u>

Lisa Tolli and Jerry Woods In Memory of <u>Rogers Pace</u>

Mark Crowley In Memory of <u>His Wife Donna Lee Crowley</u>



Summer 2018



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