

The Breakthrough
INTERCESSOR

SPRING 2019

*A Season
for Everything*



The Magazine About Prayer

Trials and tribulations may prevail,
but our prayers are not to no avail | p. 11

Catherine shares her process of
resting in the Lord in hard times | p. 25



Almighty God

who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

-From the Book of Common Prayer



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

Our Mission

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.

Live Fervently

Hello Beloveds,

Fervency... it makes all the difference! It changes us and converts our prayers into great balls of fire heading into the enemy's camp!

James 5:16 says, "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much!" Do you want your prayers to avail much? Do you want to make a difference? I believe you do! Fervency is your key!

World class athletes know to be at the top of their game they must give it all their might when they compete. Do you give it all your might when you pray? Fervency is fanning a small ember until it is a giant white hot flame! Fervency is the secret to snatching the captives out of the enemy's hands.

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed with such fervency that His sweat was like great drops of blood. Is your prayer like this? Is your prayer ever like this?

Complacency and routine, these are the enemies of a prayer life. Methodically walking through your daily confessions is no longer good enough. You must have fervor in your confession! We win people to the Kingdom by getting hold of God, and deciding not to let Him go until we have God's assurance things have changed! We change circumstances through fervency! Fervency sets people free from demonic bondage. The enemy cannot withstand a fervent heart, making demands in the spirit, using the Blood of Jesus, and the Name of Jesus, refusing to give up or back down!

Get out of your easy chair and onto your knees where battles are waged and won. Stay up late, get up early, bathe your spirit in His presence and promises, and pray like a physical battle is being waged right outside your door, and your own family's survival depends upon it! Pray in faith! Go forth in the power of the Spirit! You are His warrior, called to such a time as this! Engage!

Brain K. Wells

Brain K. Wells, Chairman of the Board

Breakthrough's statement for financial accountability is available upon written request from the office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs:
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Editor's Note

Dear Breakthrough Intercessors,

I've really felt that God has been speaking to me and to others about having everything in its season. Ecclesiastes states that there is a time to live and a time to die and so on. I believe that living in God's fullness means patiently awaiting each new season and enjoying the ones we are currently in. There are times when I feel like I have a season of everything- joy, laughter, sorrow, and pain. But through it all, God is supreme, and He knows that this life is not easy for us. He carries us and walks with us. He has paved the paths for our feet to walk and if we follow Him, He will keep our feet from stumbling.

For this issue, I found that many of the submissions reflected this theme of everything in due season. As we look forward to remembering Christ's great sacrifice, we also have a time to celebrate His resurrection. Praise God the tomb is empty and all the sorrows we face on this Earth are healed in His name.

I hope this issue of Breakthrough finds you all well and refreshes your spirit.

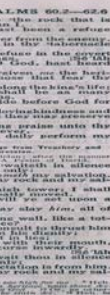
Many Blessings,

Victoria

Hey!

Did you know you can read *Breakthrough Intercessor* online? Check out our website, intercessors.org, for more!

Coming soon... ministry updates and encouragement at the Breakthrough Intercessor page on Facebook!!



They've walked in your place and mine
Paths have been hard and stony
They have never wearied when paths were lonely

They've been tormented and scarred
They've been pound with nails
And hung on a tree
They were there for you and me

They've walked on the waters of the sea
They've walked with crowds and alone
They've walked along the shores of the Galilee

They were washed with perfume so sweet
And dried with someone's hair
If only we could see the beauty
Of being at Jesus' feet

If we just fall on our knees
And just give to Him our sins and fears
Just give to Him our hearts
And wash His feet with tears
From his feet, He'll lift us up
And wipe our tears away
He'll fill us with His peace
And come into our hearts to stay

No place can bring such peace
No place can be so sweet
There is no place so holy
As at Jesus' feet



Sheila began writing in her teens to fill an empty place in her life. At first, she wrote to express her feelings and pain, but now her current writings are inspired by the Holy Spirit.



Ask

By Jean Roach

Excerpt from her book *Live Your Inheritance: 12 Life Lessons From My Father*

“You sure get a lot of answers to prayer! How do you pray?” My friend wanted to know.

I laughed as I revealed my secret, “I ASK a lot!”

My Dad taught me the most important lesson for my prayer life when I was about fourteen. It happened in my first year of high school when I decided I wanted to be a cheerleader. I prayed and begged God to please let me be chosen. After tryouts and having made the squad, I was given a list of the items I was required to have. The cost of these

was something had not considered.

I come from a large family, and I knew that this was no small amount and that my allowance was not enough to cover it. I gave the list to my parents.

To my surprise, they bought everything required and didn’t seem to mind the cost. Nor did they appear to object to the cost of time. At home games, I would scan the crowd in the stands and always find my father’s smiling eyes looking right at me. When we drove in from away games, he was there waiting for me no matter how late. And he never left until he was sure all the cheerleaders had a ride home.

It was such a fun experience, and it didn’t end with the school year. Our



sponsor informed me of the State Cheerleading Camp to be held during the summer and said that, as a co-captain, I was expected to attend. It sounded wonderful until she mentioned the cost. I stated quietly that I wouldn't be able to go and asked that she choose someone to take my place.

One day, weeks later, when my Dad came home for lunch, he wanted to talk to me. He had heard about the camp from the father of one of my friends. He asked, "Why didn't you go?"

"Daddy," I started, hardly able to get the words out. "It cost a lot of money. You've already given me so much. I didn't think I could ask for one more thing."

His expression indicated that he wasn't happy. He stepped closer to me, put his index finger right in my face and said sternly, "I want you to know that the only reason you didn't go on this trip is because you didn't ask."

His words pierced my entire being. I was so disappointed that I hadn't expressed to my parents my desire to go to camp. I decided right then that I would never again miss out on something simply because I hadn't asked.

Now, as an adult, I apply this very important lesson to my intercessory prayer. God tells us the same thing My Dad told me: "You have not because you ask not."

I never know how God will answer,

but I don't know that I must ask if I don't want the people who submit their prayer requests to me for intercession to miss out on their blessing.

Jesus said, "Ask and it shall be given to you."

"And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it."

I've learned to go confidently to the throne of God.

"So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help."

I always begin with THANK YOU!!! whether I feel like it or not.

"Let them thank the Lord for such kindness, such wondrous deeds for mere mortals. Let them offer a sacri-

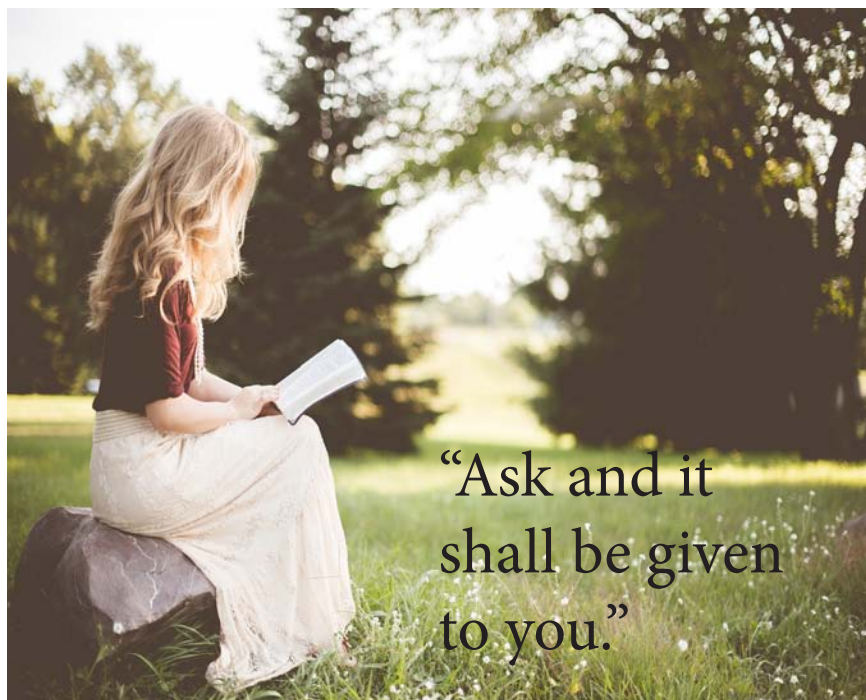
fice in thanks, declare his works with shouts of joy."

With the boldness of the Holy Spirit, I ask LARGELY!

"Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."



*Jean lives in Florida and has five grandchildren. She has been involved in intercessory prayer groups for 41 years. Her book *Live your Inheritance* was published in January 2013.*



Jesus is Victor

By Marilyn Nelson

Jesus is victor over sin and death,
I count on His grace 'til I take my last breath.
His promise is clear in Psalm twenty-three,
Goodness and mercy are following me.
All the days of my life and you can know, too;
The Creator's faithfulness in all that you do.
Stay close to the Vine, that's the main catch;
As Corrie Ten Boom would say, "Not good if detached."
Stay in the Word, and don't forget prayer,
Jesus helps solve – EVERY CARE!
Sometimes it's rough, sometimes a smooth road,
But Jesus carries the bulk of the load.



Marilyn delights in sharing God's precious Word through her many poems. The Holy Spirit has taught her the Bible in-depth during years of enduring fiery trials. God gifted her with the ability of poetry and prose, much published.



A Moment of Joy

By Kathleen Fessler

The sun shone brightly on that beautiful morning, but there was no sunshine in my heart.

I was driving to the group home where my husband, Dick, was wasting away due to dementia and a stroke. If only I could see his bright smile again. He always knew me and was happy to see me, but other cognitive ability was gone. Physically, his body was also wasting away. I thought of the early years of our marriage when he was so eager to stay in shape, exercising and lifting weights to maintain muscular firmness. As a young man, he entered a weight lifting contest in an Illinois YMCA and was awarded a metal for lifting 235 pounds. I still have his medal. Now he lived in a shell of a body, confined to a wheel chair or bed.

As I walked into the group home the familiar scent of the foods being prepared in the kitchen greeted me. My eager eyes searched for my husband as other patients were already at the dining table. Dick was absent. "He's asleep", one of the attendants said. "But he'll be awake soon."

Entering Dick's room, I noticed the blinds were closed, giving an appearance of eerie darkness and gloom. I opened them a bit so I could see. My eyes searched for the familiar face that I woke up with for sixty years. He was sound asleep, so I pulled up a chair and just sat there next to him and prayed for strength and endurance.

Then I had an idea. What if I crawled into bed with him, so that he would be surprised to see me when he awoke. It was a sudden desire to be next to him. The side rails

on the bed would be a problem, but I could get into bed from the lower area where the rails didn't hinder my plan.

It wasn't easy, but I was soon in bed with him, moving slowly and carefully so as not to wake him. I felt the Foley catheter on my leg and some leaking seeped onto my clothes, but I didn't care. I lay there with him, his breathing slow and steady.

After a while Dick awoke. His beautiful brown eyes met mine and a big smile was on his face. He was filled with joy and contentment. It was like old times. We were together, side by side. His right arm embraced me. The paralyzed arm lay still. My own heart swelled with joy as I could feel Dick's happiness. My decision was a good one. It gave us both a moment of joy.

The sun shone brightly as I left the group home. The brightness entered into my heart. Everything looked clearer and concerns seemed to fade. The Lord would be with me through this valley.

A short time later my husband went home to be with the Lord. I will always treasure our moments of joy.



Kathleen is a member of the Christian Writers Group in Arizona. She enjoys writing articles to encourage Christians in their faith. She loves ministering to others through serving meals and stories.

Cast Your Cares

By Sterling Jamison

O, the privilege and power of prayer:
To come to God with every care
Before the throne of Christ alone
And leave our worries there.

O, the stresses of tomorrow
Which the fretful heart may borrow;
Take heed to pray to keep at bay
The weight of doubt and sorrow.

O, the sins of troubled past.
The list of those we've hurt, so vast.
Leave thy dross before the cross
Of Christ where cares are cast.

O, what blessed absolution,
Freed from torment and confusion.
To walk with Thee in liberty –
My vow and resolution.

O, the merciful God we serve,
Who spares us from what we deserve.
My heart and soul, Lord, make them whole,
And keep my spirit in reserve.



Sterling is a current inmate at the Virginia Department of Corrections, where God humbled and saved him. Sterling writes poems, short stories, and essays about biblical insights and hopes to go into ministry one day.

Mom's 4-H Prayer

Happiness

Health

Humor

Heaven

By Denise Irvine



“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”

Matthew 21:22 – KJV

I learned a lot about prayer from Mom. She’s in heaven now with the Lord, but her lessons remain ingrained in my spirit. She prayed faithfully and quietly, prayers undergirded by simple, sweet, childlike faith.

After Dad passed away, I got into the habit of calling Mom at 9 a.m. every morning. She had always been a good sleeper, but with Dad gone she often had trouble falling asleep at night. Her remedy for sleeplessness was simple. She prayed for her entire family, one by one. That list included 44 people, just in her immediate family! Now that’s perseverance.

One morning she answered the phone excitedly. “I made up a new prayer last night,” she said. “It’s called the 4-H prayer!”

“What does 4-H stand for?” I asked.

“Happiness, health, humor, and heaven,” she explained.

“That covers it all,” I said. “What were they again?”

“Happiness, health, humor, and heaven,” she repeated, while I quickly jotted them down so I wouldn’t forget.

Ever since Mom passed away four years ago, I’ve often thought about

her 4-H prayer. It’s so simple yet so profound. Sometimes, when I get overwhelmed with prayer requests, I go back to the simple 4-H prayer. It does cover it all.

One day I decided to do a little research on Mom’s 4-H prayer. I started with happiness. The definition of happiness is, “a state of well-being and contentment.” Mom knew the secret of happiness. She was the most



contented person I’ve ever known... and she always wore a smile that lit up a room. I’m sure that’s why happiness was the first H in her prayer. Here are a few scriptures that sum it up:

Proverbs 15:13a (NIV) – “A happy heart makes the face cheerful.”

1 Timothy 6:6 (NIV) – “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

James 5:13 (NIV) – “Is anyone of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.”

Health was my next topic of research. The definition of health is, “the condition of being sound in body, mind, or spirit.” Health is a



Jessica, Denise's mother

blessing from God and does, indeed, encompass the whole being. Mom took care of her body by riding her exercise bike three miles a day, even when she was in her 80's. She exercised her mind by doing a crossword puzzle every morning and playing Scrabble frequently. She kept her

spirit sound by reading the Bible, the Hymnal, and inspirational readings every day. Some scriptures on health include:

3 John 2 (NIV) - “Dear Friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.”

Proverbs 3:7, 8 (NIV) - “Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.”

Jeremiah 33:6 (KJV) – “Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.”

I think Mom picked humor as the third H because she always found humor in the situations around her. She loved to laugh! One definition of humor is, “something that is or is designed to be comical or amusing.” I remember one day she and I took the paddle boat out. We had to wade through muck to get to deeper water. Mom slipped and went under water. When I pulled her up, she was covered in muck but laughing! That was Mom. Humor brings joy, and joy is a fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22, 23 (NIV) – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

Proverbs 15:30 (NIV) – “A cheerful

look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.”

John 15:11 (NIV) – [Jesus speaking] “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 (NIV) – “Be joyful always; pray continually.”

The last H, heaven, needs no explanation. We all look forward to the day when we can be with the Lord eternally, where there will be no more sorrow, pain, or suffering, where the Presence of the Lord will shine brighter than the sun, where our earthly pilgrimage will be culminated in joy beyond measure. What better prayer could we pray? We all want to see our loved ones in heav-

en, so salvation is the most important of all our prayers. Jesus himself said, “However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20 – NIV).

So, there you have it – Mom’s 4-H Prayer: happiness, health, humor, heaven. If, like me, you sometimes get overwhelmed with prayer requests, try Mom’s 4-H Prayer. It covers it all!



Denise lives in Grand Blanc, MI, with her husband, Alan. They have six children, ten grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Denise is a freelance writer and a Breakthrough intercessor.

Lord,

I thank you for what you have done in my life and others and the blessings you have given me. I pray that you give me the grace and contentment to walk in your ways each day. Grant me the health to do your good works and provide me with a light and unburdened heart as I rest in you. Bring me closer to heaven, Lord, so that I may bring it closer to those around me. Thank you, thank you, Father. You are good and worthy to be praised.

Amen

Bible Prayers

By Loretta Wadsworth

I use Isaiah 43:1-2 as one form of prayer for my grandchildren. Of course, other verses could be used. "But now, thus says the LORD, who created _____, and who formed _____: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed _____. I have called _____ and she has answered me. _____ is mine. I have called _____ and she has answered me. _____ is mine. When _____ passes through the waters, I will be with her and through the rivers, they shall not overflow her. When _____ walks through the fire, she shall not be burned, nor shall the flames scorch _____."

The Tootsie Roll Answer

The women at the retreat had been divided into tables of four with a leader to study the speeches which were presented to us. It had been an emotionally draining four days.

Candy was always on the table. Since I was on a diet, I made a compromise. I wouldn't eat any candy until I reached the end of my rope or any kind, but tootsie rolls. Most baskets had 3-4 pieces.

I had controlled my eating tootsie rolls, but I finally, emotionally hit bottom and needed a lift. "O, God, just one tootsie roll, please."

I picked out 3; then 4; then 5. I couldn't believe it. This basket had 10 tootsie rolls. Doesn't His

Word say he will give us beyond our imagination?

Ephesians 3:20 confirms this. It says, "Now unto him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

Thank you, Lord, for supplying my emotional needs.



Loretta has been writing about her experiences with the Lord for many years and enjoys writing poetry as well as stories. She hopes to write and share more as the Lord allows her.

F.A.I.N.T.

By Barbara Gordon

“Unsaved loved ones!” Janet sat on the edge of her pew, her voice boomed above all the other prayer requests. Heads nodded and smiles appeared in unison. Janet’s petition was always the same.

Striving in prayer for the unsaved, while a privilege, frequently discourages even the most seasoned prayer warrior. Galatians 6:9 offers this encouragement: “And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” (KJV).

If we faint not. The word “faint” provides an acrostic to guide our prayers for the salvation of loved ones.

- Faith

- According to God’s will
- Insight
- Never give up
- Trust

The Bible emphasizes the necessity of praying with faith. Hebrews 11:1 tells us “faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” (NIV) Years ago, I prayed for my daddy to give his life to Jesus. I imagined him in church with our family on Sunday mornings. I visualized him reading the Bible and praying. My father accepted the Lord in his late fifties. My imaginings nourished my faith and eventually became reality.

Praying according to the will of God involves knowing the desire



No More

of God. Often His plan is not clear. Should I take this job or that one? Is this the one I should marry? Luke 19:10 assures us Jesus “came to seek and save the lost.” (NIV) We can pray with confidence for the unredeemed; they represent the very reason our Savior came.

Praying with insight involves interceding with discernment. Ask God to provide insight into specific prayers for the one you love. Call upon Him to send faithful witnesses to clearly present the plan of salvation. Pray for conviction that leads to repentance. Ask for spiritually blinded eyes to open and understand God’s plan of redemption. Pray whatever else the Holy Spirit

places on your heart.

Never give up. One of Satan’s favorite tactics is discouragement. Praying for loved ones to come to Jesus takes perseverance. Many nights as a sleepy little girl, I heard my grandma’s whispered prayers over me. Her example encourages me to pray for the salvation of my own grandchildren. When you are tempted to quit, remember who prayed for you. Where might you be today without their prayers?

Trust fuels our prayer journey. We acknowledge our inability to save anyone, but trust the Holy Spirit to woo our loved one to God.

It’s okay for others, but it’s not for me,” was Uncle Alvin’s response

to the gospel message. My husband and I prayed for our relative for years, but our elderly uncle suffered a stroke and never recovered. To our knowledge, he died without the Lord. In our grief, we struggled with what felt like betrayal from God.

Prayer and time brought insight. First, we cannot be certain what transpired in the final hours or minutes of our loved one's life. Maybe, like the thief on the cross, Uncle Alvin had a last minute conversation with the Lord, leading to salvation. When we get to heaven, we may discover our prayers were indeed answered.

Secondly, we are thankful for the opportunity to have loved Uncle Alvin and the chance to pray for his salvation. We are stronger in our faith and closer to our Savior

because of our conversations with Him about our uncle.

My friend Janet now presents her petitions to the Lord face to face, while I echo her plea here, "Unsaved loved ones." I carry on my friend's legacy as I pray in faith. According to God's will, and with insight, I determine to never give up trusting him.



Barbara began freelance writing when she retired from teaching and school administration. She writes monthly for the Christian Writers' Fellowship of the Four States newsletter and has been published in LIVE, THE SECRET PLACE, KEYS FOR KIDS and PRAY magazines.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost..."
Luke 19:10 (NIV)

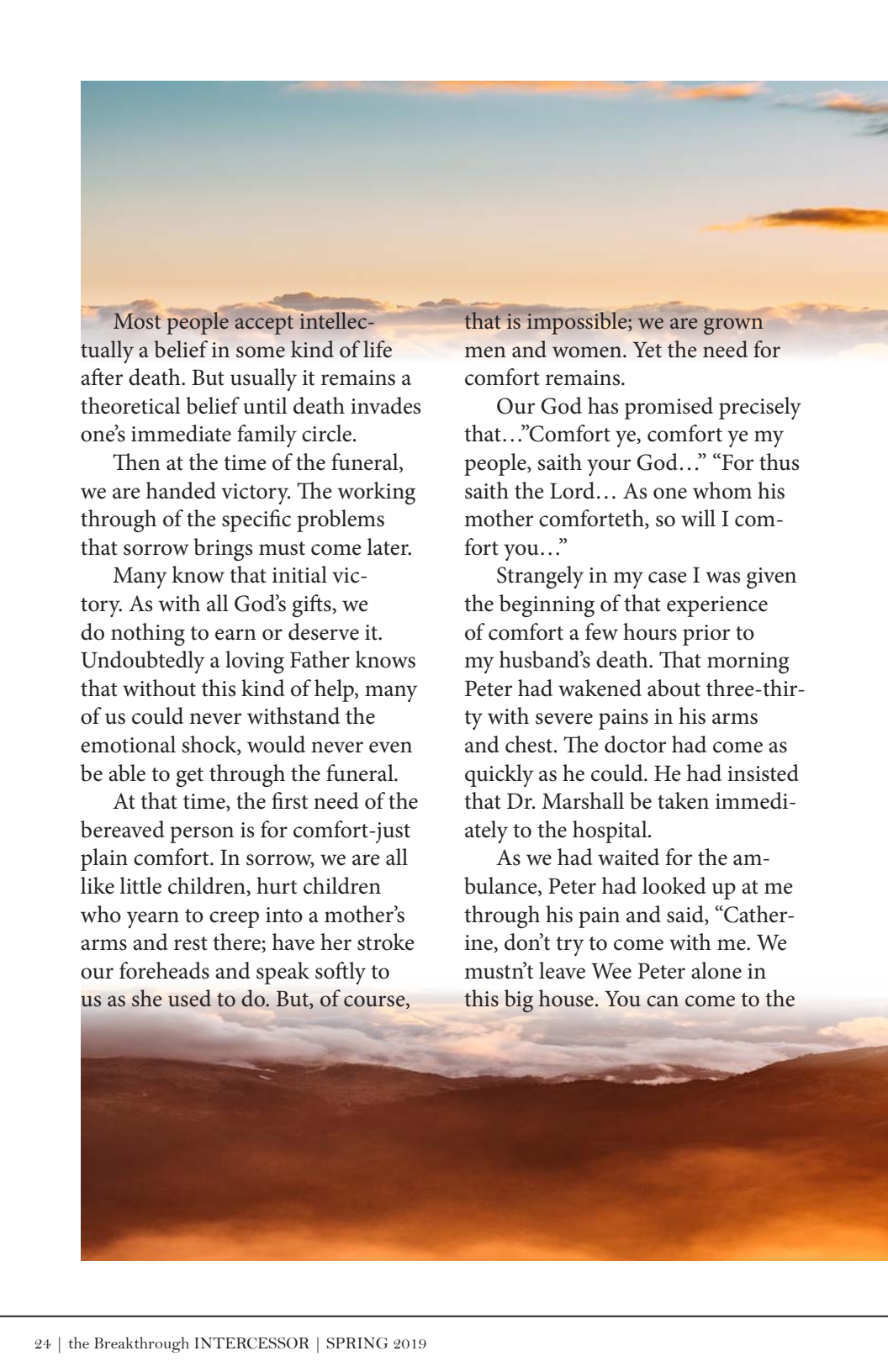
Thoughts:

Jesus Christ came to fix that which was broken, not just us, but our world, our humanity, and all that goes with it! Jesus came so that the last could be first, the sick could be healed, the sinners could be saved, and the lost could be found. How can we wear the name of Jesus and not live with his passion and purpose toward what we see in a world full of darkness? We must deeply study the word of God to get a better understanding of God's great love. Understanding God's love may help you establish an intimate relationship with Him.

To Comfort All That Mourn

By Catherine Marshall





Most people accept intellectually a belief in some kind of life after death. But usually it remains a theoretical belief until death invades one's immediate family circle.

Then at the time of the funeral, we are handed victory. The working through of the specific problems that sorrow brings must come later.

Many know that initial victory. As with all God's gifts, we do nothing to earn or deserve it. Undoubtedly a loving Father knows that without this kind of help, many of us could never withstand the emotional shock, would never even be able to get through the funeral.

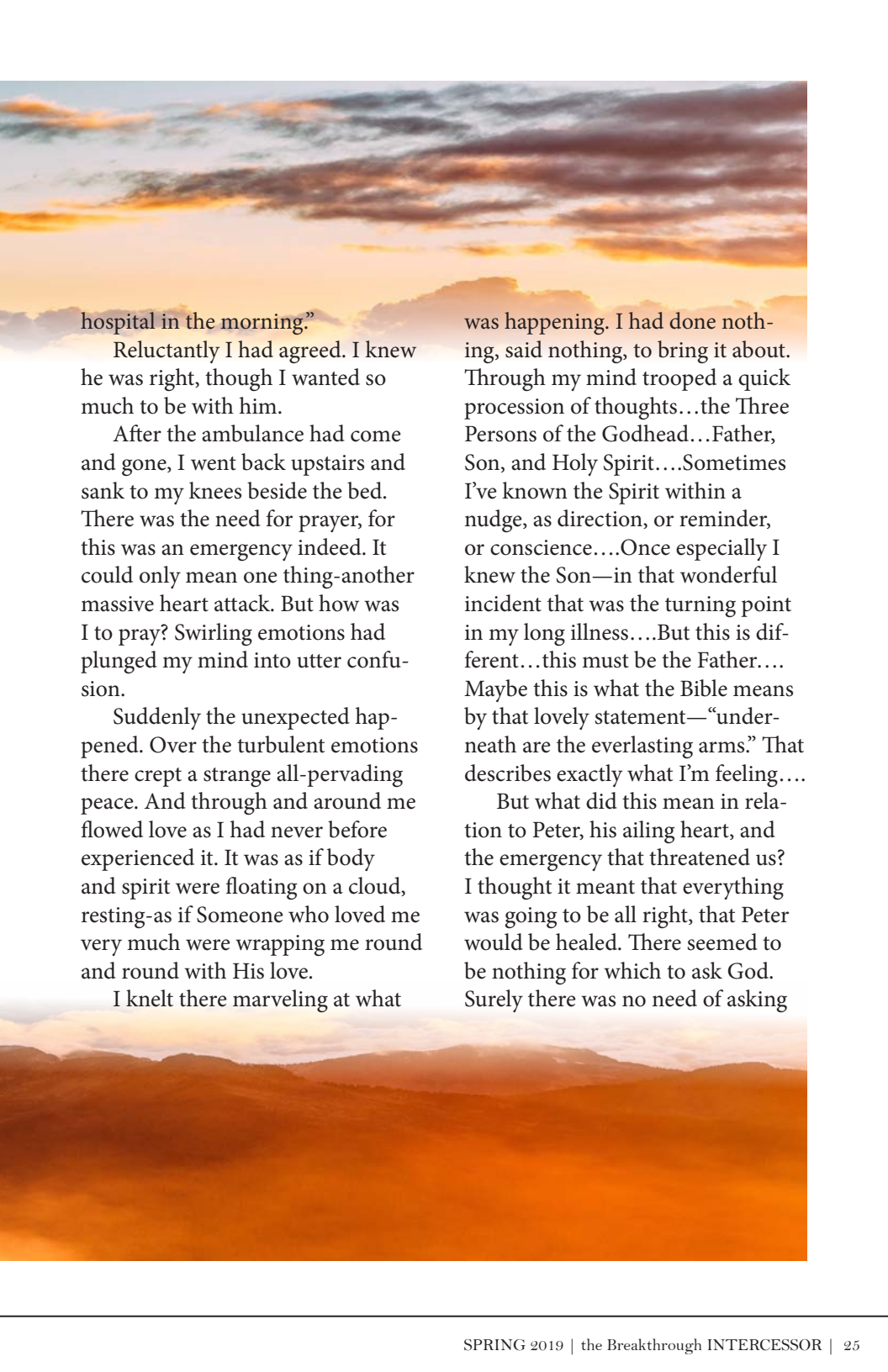
At that time, the first need of the bereaved person is for comfort—just plain comfort. In sorrow, we are all like little children, hurt children who yearn to creep into a mother's arms and rest there; have her stroke our foreheads and speak softly to us as she used to do. But, of course,

that is impossible; we are grown men and women. Yet the need for comfort remains.

Our God has promised precisely that... "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God..." "For thus saith the Lord... As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you..."

Strangely in my case I was given the beginning of that experience of comfort a few hours prior to my husband's death. That morning Peter had wakened about three-thirty with severe pains in his arms and chest. The doctor had come as quickly as he could. He had insisted that Dr. Marshall be taken immediately to the hospital.

As we had waited for the ambulance, Peter had looked up at me through his pain and said, "Catherine, don't try to come with me. We mustn't leave Wee Peter alone in this big house. You can come to the



hospital in the morning.”

Reluctantly I had agreed. I knew he was right, though I wanted so much to be with him.


After the ambulance had come and gone, I went back upstairs and sank to my knees beside the bed. There was the need for prayer, for this was an emergency indeed. It could only mean one thing—another massive heart attack. But how was I to pray? Swirling emotions had plunged my mind into utter confusion.

Suddenly the unexpected happened. Over the turbulent emotions there crept a strange all-pervading peace. And through and around me flowed love as I had never before experienced it. It was as if body and spirit were floating on a cloud, resting—as if Someone who loved me very much were wrapping me round and round with His love.

I knelt there marveling at what

was happening. I had done nothing, said nothing, to bring it about. Through my mind trooped a quick procession of thoughts...the Three Persons of the Godhead...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit....Sometimes I’ve known the Spirit within a nudge, as direction, or reminder, or conscience....Once especially I knew the Son—in that wonderful incident that was the turning point in my long illness....But this is different...this must be the Father.... Maybe this is what the Bible means by that lovely statement—“underneath are the everlasting arms.” That describes exactly what I’m feeling....

But what did this mean in relation to Peter, his ailing heart, and the emergency that threatened us? I thought it meant that everything was going to be all right, that Peter would be healed. There seemed to be nothing for which to ask God. Surely there was no need of asking



for His Presence; that Presence was all around me. So my prayer took the form simply of thanking Him for the miracle that His love could be such a personal love; for His tender care of Peter and Wee Peter and me.

At 8:15 that same morning, Peter stepped across the boundary that divides this life from the next. Then I knew that the experience of the night before had meant something far different. I had been granted it so that when the blow fell, I might have the certainty that a loving Father had not deserted me.

An excerpt from Catherine's book "To Live Again"

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Do you write prayer poetry?

The Intercessor's editors welcome submissions!

Some Guidelines:

- Articles 500 to 1,000 words. Poems, 12 lines minimum
- Topic must focus on prayer: an experience or teaching supported in Scripture
- Authors give Breakthrough permission to edit material for length and content

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Praying Without Ceasing

By Dr. David W.T. Brattston

According to the four Gospels in the New Testament, Jesus spent much time in prayer, frequently withdrawing from His apostles for the purpose. His example should lead Christians to heed the Revised Standard Version of 1 Thessalonians 5:17, which exhorts readers to “pray constantly”. In the King James Version it is “pray without ceasing”. The Greek text has the same shade of meaning as the King James.

It is impossible to pray without ceasing and carry on the indispensable activities of daily life if we interpret “pray” to mean kneeling or standing motionless while talking to God and focusing only on Him. The same problem occurred to Origen, the most outstanding Bible scholar, teacher and preacher of the first half of the third century AD. He commented in his *Sermons on Samuel* that if this be the only meaning of

“prayer”, then anyone who tries to “pray without ceasing” will die of starvation or dehydration because eating and drinking would interrupt the prayer.

First Thessalonians 5:17 would likewise forbid sleep. How can anyone pray without stopping? Did the Apostle who urged constant prayer demand the impossible?

Origen formulated a solution in his *Treatise on Prayer* around AD 235, and in *Sermons on Samuel* five years later. The sermons inform us that a prayer is not interrupted by any action done in the service of God, nor by an act or word done or said in accordance with His will.

As long as we perform our daily activities to the glory of God, we are praying constantly. As proof, Origen cited the “Prayer of Hannah” in 1 Samuel 2:1-10. The Bible applies the term “prayer” to all that Hannah spoke, even though not all

of it is speaking to God. Sometimes she refers to God as “He” or by one of His titles, and otherwise in the third person. She even says “Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth”—something a human being would hardly say to the Almighty, particularly in a prayer. Yet during her discourse, said Origen, all her thoughts and words were for the glory of God, which indicates that the Bible must mean something other than solemnly speaking to the Lord while stock still.

Prayer consists of all words and deeds spoken or performed in justice and in obedience to God’s commandments—something Christians should never cease doing. As long as we speak and act in accordance with the divine will, said Origen, we

are praying. When we do or think unjustly or sin, we cease praying.

Origen expressed the same thought with fewer words at On Prayer 12: if we count all good works and all obedience to God as part of prayer, a good person never stops praying. The only way we can pray without ceasing is to constantly practice our Faith.



David is a retired lawyer and judge on minor tribunals. He resides in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, Canada, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where he taught Sunday school for ten years. His ten books and over 380 articles synthesize Christianity, and are published by many denominations in every major English-language country.



Remake Me Lord

By Roy Borges



Thirty years ago I came to prison for stealing a pair of jeans but because I'd been to prison twice before the Judge sentenced me to a very long sentence as an Habitual Offender.

My mistakes, however, don't define who I am. I've made a lot of mistakes in my life, but God is remaking me, and with God on my side I know I can conquer sin's power over me.

The Apostle Paul says: "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature: Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

It means God doesn't see me as an Habitual Offender. He sees me as a son created in His image, accepted and loved. I can leave the old me behind like old clothes to be thrown away. The Blood of Jesus Christ on the cross covers my sins, and I can put on the clothes of His righteousness which allows me to stand unashamed in the Father's presence.

But I'm not totally free from the ongoing struggles with sin. As long

as I am in this flesh I will always be tempted by it and must resist sin. The Apostle John writes: "If we confess our sins God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us of all our unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

Prison life is completely different from the life on the outside but the struggle with sin is the same. God can use our adversity wherever we are for His good.

For a long time I lied in the shadow of shame and regret believing that there was no way I could change. I had no hope for the future. I didn't understand how God could use prison for my good. But the One who is remaking me sees different. He is always there to hear my prayers and give me hope. So I never give up because He promise is to never forsake me.

Change is slow but like a snowball rolling down a hill it's growing. I didn't get this way overnight and I know He can change any one. My favorite Proverb says: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not

on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Jesus didn’t die just for good people. He said: “They that are whole have no need of a physician but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” (Mark 2:17)

When I invited Christ into my heart I discovered He didn’t come to condemn me. He came to forgive me and to become my Savior. He wants to remake me and help me put the mistakes and regret behind me. He gives me the strength to change and when I am at my weakest, He is my strength.

I’m blessed because He never gives up on me. The more willing I am to surrender my will to His will, the more He is able to fit me into His plan.

God is working with me ev-

eryday to make me into the image of Christ. Many times I have felt I spoiled God’s plans for my life, but God has more than one way to give me hope and a future. He says: “I know the thoughts that I think toward you... Thoughts of peace and not of evil to give you an expected end.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

“Jesus is all you need,” the Chaplain said one day when I went to see him.

“I know that Chap,” I smiled.

“You do?”

“Yeah! I found it out when He was all I had!”

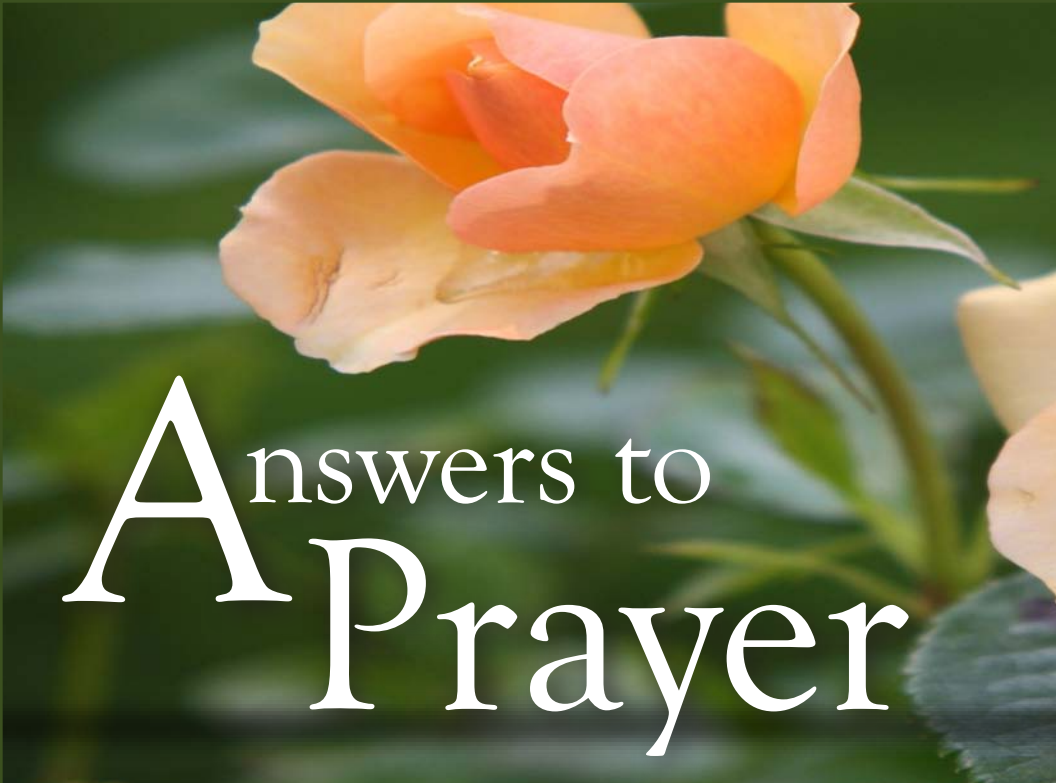


Roy Borge's stories have appeared in many Christian publications. He won AMY Foundation awards in 1998, 2002, and 2003. Roy's book "Faith and Love Behind Prison Fences" was published in 2002.

published in 2002.

If any man be in Christ, he
is a New Creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17a



Answers to Prayer

Son Restored

My son has been off and on with incarcerations for six years, but he is now in a Christian residential discipleship program. He is surrendering more and more to Christ daily. Thank you for praying!!!

Ginny

Encouraged

The past 3 years have been hard for me financially, physically, and emotionally. I did not ask for prayer, but the Lord had you pray for me. I can't tell you how that has strengthened and uplifted me. Thank you and God bless from the bottom of my heart.

Christine

Awake in the Spirit

I requested prayer for Pastor Samson, who was in a coma. The good report is he out of his coma and back on his feet preaching the Word. Glory to God! Thank you so much for your prayers on his behalf,

Marie

Marriage Restoration

God answered my prayer to restore my marriage and to break all soul ties between my husband and a woman he had an affair with. Now there is greater unity in my family.

Deborah



Family Visits

My wife and daughter visited me at prison, and we had a good visit. My wife and daughter threw me kisses good bye. The Lord is restoring my family back to me, and He is helping me work off my sentence.

Frank

Out of Depression

My brother-in-law suffered from deep depression. Praise God, he is now out of the hospital and doing great!! Two weeks ago, he had an encounter with the Lord that was life-changing! The precious Lord has given us the victory!

Kathy

God Provides

I had 2 job offers and the one I accepted gave me a pay raise. God not only promoted me but got me into a new clean building that doesn't affect my health. Thank you all so much for praying!!

Pam

A New Life

My daughter-in-law couldn't conceive because of her health. By the grace of God and with the prayer of the saints, what was medically impossible became possible. I am thankful to God for such a miracle!!

Laryea

Answers to Prayer are edited for publication.

No More Fires

I submitted a request for the California wild fires to be squelched by an outpouring of rain. HE DID IT!!! PRAISE GOD!!! The fires were officially contained after the outpouring. THANK GOD FOR ALL THE INTERCESSORS AROUND THE WORLD WHO JOINED IN THESE PRAYERS!!!

Jacqueline

Lord's Protection

Our son has autistic tendencies, and he has improved in his decision making and staying motivated. God has been so faithful to answer our prayers for him and to keep him safe.

Carolyn

Back to the Lord

Our son-in-law has been healed of guilt and shame and has returned to the Lord. His marriage is being healed, and his Bible study group has embraced him. He is thriving in his walk with the Lord!!

Bruce and Theresa

Job Redemption

I was given back my old position with a raise and as a full time employee with insurance benefits. God has given me His grace and mercy in restoring and giving me more than I had even when I didn't deserve it. I owe the Lord Jesus my gratitude and I thank you Intercessors as well for praying with me.

Christopher





MEMORIALS

Mike and Elizabeth Smith
In Memory of
Rogers Pace
&
Jerry Atkison



Delouis Pace
In Memory of
Russell Payne
&
Ann Moran



Nadia Dean
In Memory of
Dolores Shamsedin



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