

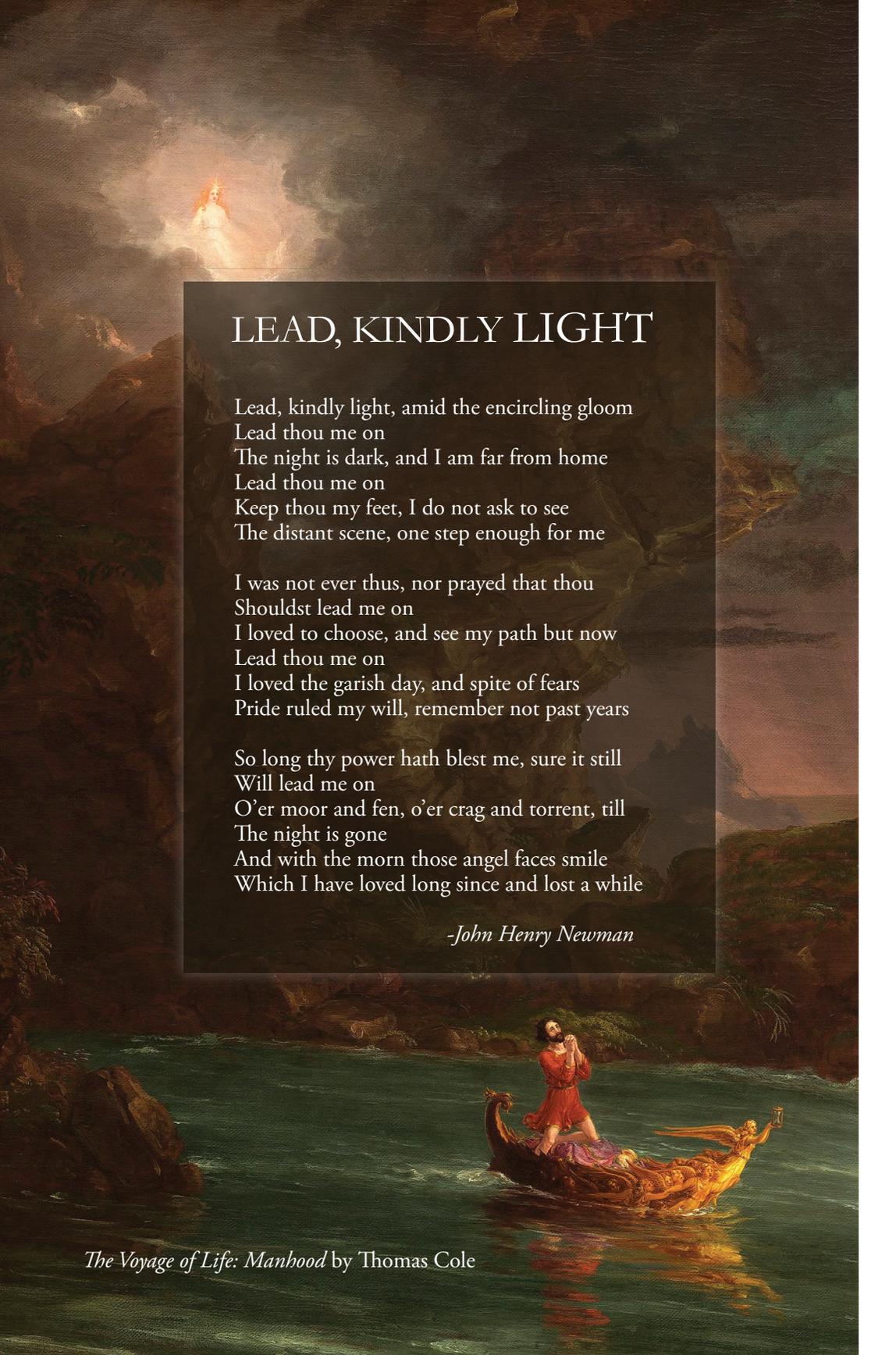
The Breakthrough
INTERCESSOR
Fall 2022

LEAD,
KINDLY

Light



The Magazine About Prayer



LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT

Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom
Lead thou me on
The night is dark, and I am far from home
Lead thou me on
Keep thou my feet, I do not ask to see
The distant scene, one step enough for me

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou
Shouldst lead me on
I loved to choose, and see my path but now
Lead thou me on
I loved the garish day, and spite of fears
Pride ruled my will, remember not past years

So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still
Will lead me on
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone
And with the morn those angel faces smile
Which I have loved long since and lost a while

-John Henry Newman

The Breakthrough
INTERCESSOR

FALL 2022

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Leonard LeSourd

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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. (Prayer requests are identified by first name only, and are never sent to intercessors in the same geographic location as the prayer requester.) 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 over 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.

The 21-day prayer period was chosen based on the story in Daniel 10. Daniel prayed 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 greatly 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 and joy to pray for you.



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



Nehemiah: A Study in Leadership

Jesus, the greatest leader of all time, taught that the key to leadership is servanthood. Prayer was also an integral part of His ministry. A phenomenally successful Old Testament leader who demonstrated many of these same character traits was Nehemiah. It is evident that prayer was the key to his success.

We learn of Nehemiah in the book of the Bible that carries his name. Nehemiah wrote most of the book, and it was a continuation of the book of Ezra. Except for Malachi, it's the last book written in the Old Testament. Nehemiah's name means "God comforts."

He was born in Babylon (which later became Persia) where he served as the cupbearer to the Persian King Artaxerxes. His brother communicated to him that Jerusalem was in turmoil. Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Babylonians in 588 BC, and most Jews had been exiled to Babylon. Although King Cyrus had allowed the Jews to return to Judah and Jerusalem in 537 BC when his Persian empire conquered Babylon, the walls of Jerusalem had not been rebuilt. The Jews that were in Jerusalem were few and far between, and were under pressure from the surrounding pagan nations.

Nehemiah was very disturbed when he heard this news. He mourned for days, fasted, and prayed day and night to the God of heaven for direction. His prayer is found in the first chapter of the book.

- He first recognized the sovereignty of God, then he reminded God of his mercy and promise to bless the Jews. Then the communication turned to his spiritual condition.
- He asked that God help him keep his commandments and love God.
- He confessed his sins and the sins of his ancestors. The Jews were not keeping their part of the Covenant they had made with God during the time of Moses. They had worshipped idols, they failed to keep the Sabbath, and they had intermarried with the pagan nations around them.

It was in the year 445 B.C., Nehemiah was in the Persian capital, about eight hundred miles from Jerusalem. Nehemiah was before King Artaxerxes and the queen as the cupbearer. The King recognized that Nehemiah was sad. When the King asked him why, Nehemiah was afraid because he could have had his head chopped off for not being positive. He said a quick prayer to the Lord.

Nehemiah praised the King, then shared the bad report from Jerusalem. The King was moved and asked him what he wanted.

Nehemiah requested that the king send him to Jerusalem so he could repair the city. He also asked for a letter of authorization from the king, since he would be travelling through hostile territories, and for wood to repair the gates, walls, and houses.

The King granted every request. Nehemiah now had the authority of the King to travel and do the work necessary to revive Jerusalem.

The governors in the surrounding areas were upset that Nehemiah was going to do something positive for the Jews. Sanballat the Horonite and Tobias the Ammonite were two of the leaders. Both were descendants of Lot and his two daughters. The peoples they led were adjacent to Israel.

Upon arriving in Jerusalem, Nehemiah did a surveillance of the city in secret. Then he reported to the crowd and challenged them to join with him to rebuild the walls. He then testified all God had done to make it possible for him to be there with the complete support of Artaxerxes. The people responded, "Let's do it!" They were met with scorn from Tobias and Sanballat, who claimed that the king did not approve (WRONG). Nehemiah told them, "God is on our side; we are going to rebuild this city."

Nehemiah started the building with all volunteer help, and none were builders or carpenters. Sanballat and Tobias continued to try to frustrate the building. They threatened to tell Artaxerxes that Nehemiah was going to set himself up as king of Judah. They also threatened warfare. Each time, Nehemiah prayed for God's help and the two did not follow through on their threat.

Nehemiah demonstrated the administrative skills and gifts of organization that God had given him when the wall was completed in 52 days. Then they hung the gates as well. Jerusalem was secured against her enemies. Through God's grace and sovereignty, he has accomplished the impossible.

Nehemiah reminds us of what one person, operating in the power of God, can do. The observable key to his success was his prayer life. It didn't hurt that he had compassion, righteous anger, wisdom in how to appeal to authority, and lived a life of integrity and excellence. Through these principles, we can gain favor with God as well, but if we don't ask for what we want, we won't have it. "Ye have not because ye ask not" (James 4:2).

Thank you for faithfully supporting our ministry!

J. Michael Smith, Esq

Chairman of the Board





Precious Prayers

BY LORETTA WADSWORTH

Two years ago I decided to obey Jeremiah 29:12 (NKJV), which directs us to pray: “Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.” I did a fairly faithful job of praying every day, but I wasn’t satisfied with my dull routine. I questioned the value of my prayers.

Why did I feel so alone when I prayed? I thought praying would bring me closer to God. Wasn’t He there, too? I was even willing to be silent and let Him do the talking.

One day I heard George Hodges say that if a person kept on trying, they will eventually have a “consciousness of the divine presence.” I was reassured by 1 Peter 3:12 that the Lord’s ears were open to my prayers, but why didn’t I feel any emotion during my prayer time? I felt only indifference.

A beeping heart monitor shows peaks and valleys, but there were none in my prayer life. It was as flat as a highway through Kansas. I feel a warm rush of love when I see my grandchildren. Why didn’t I feel anything when I was talking to God?

In my discouragement I casually picked up a book which had a short passage by Arthur F. Ingram. He called prayer a “noble and necessary work” even if a person felt dry and cold. It must be carried on regardless of emotions. He promised that anyone who continued in prayer would be refreshed by the Holy Spirit. I considered the book valueless, but how wrong I was.

Later, the biggest blessing came when God used my granddaughter to help me understand visually that He values prayers regardless of how we feel about them.

I received a blue-green crayon mark on a tiny card from two-year-old Holly in California. It was the first written communication I had ever received from her. To anyone else it was a meaningless mark, but to me it was the most precious picture in the world. I looked at it repeatedly and told anyone who would listen about it. Finally I filed it away with other treasured family keepsakes.

Several days later when I was praying, my reaction to Holly's simple greeting came to mind. It seemed God was saying that although I considered my prayers worthless, to Him they were valuable. I was His child and I was doing my best to communicate with Him. He was as pleased with my prayers as I was with Holly's first communication.

1 Timothy 2:1-3 (KJV) says that our prayers, supplications, intercessions, and giving of thanks are "good and acceptable in the sight of God."

Thank you, God, for showing how precious my prayers are to you.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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.



WAYS TO GIVE

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

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What A Mighty God We Serve

BY ROY BORGES



Life is filled with disappointments, but in reality they are one of the purposes by which our lives are ordained. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). He knows everything about everything.

God sees my tears and my sorrows. He holds today and all my tomorrows in His hand. He hears my voice, and on Him I call. He loves me with a love I cannot express with words. It goes beyond my understanding. It goes deeper than anything I’ve ever known. Everything that concerns me concerns Him. I am precious in His eyes. “Whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye” (Zechariah 2:8). That is why He takes special interest in my life.

God is omnipotent. He is undeniably powerful. We must respect this great truth and respect whatever He chooses for us. For a long time I could not understand why God let me stay in prison so long, but then I realized that He was the God of circumstances. Nothing happens by chance. God placed me where He could teach me to be the person He can use. It is by my surroundings that I learn the lessons He wants me to learn. God makes no mistakes.

In perfect time God came into my life like the morning sun. Now I pray every day for His Spirit to guide me through all the tribulations that I will have to face in the future.

Paul, the disciple of Christ, wrote, “When I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10). Paul was speaking of spiritual strength, but he knew that God’s power was “made perfect in weakness” (verse 9). “The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak” (Isaiah 40:29). Abiding in Jesus is the way to such strength. “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). “Apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). We can release our dependence on our own illusory strength, asking God for His strong and prevailing help. When you depend

on God's strength, the outcome will be as Isaiah says: "But they who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

God has done some mighty things for me that I will always remember and cherish. One of the most amazing things He has done since I was released from prison is that He gave me the joy of my life—Patty, the woman I plan to marry on August 27, 2022. She is more than I ever thought I would find and more than I ever dreamed would want to share her life with me. Together we plan to serve the Lord in whatever capacity He chooses. We both love Jesus and want to serve Him.

The Lord described David as "a man after My heart who will do My will" (Acts 13:22). I would love to have Him say that about me. Like me, David was not perfect. Like me, he committed crimes. But like me, he loved the Lord and desired to obey Him. What set him apart was his relationship with his heavenly Father. He cried out to Him often and whatever his circumstances he viewed them from a God-centered perspective. The only way to be a person after God's heart is to receive a new heart. A new heart must have three things.

1. **Obedience.** Although David lived imperfectly, his desire was to do what the Lord wanted him to do. We see from Jesus's words that obedience should be the top thing on our mind. He said "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

2. **Humility.** Humility taught a lowly shepherd boy how to be a king. David could have taken the throne from Saul, but instead he humbly waited until the Lord gave it to him. Even as king, he knew that any greatness came from God's grace (2 Samuel 7:18).

3. **Service.** Whether a shepherd boy or a king, the many psalms David wrote testify that he served the Lord with all his heart.

Today, I know the Lord had a purpose and a reason for me staying in prison so long. He was calling the shots. Now my life is centered on His will. Nothing is left to chance when the Lord is in charge of your life. No detail is so small that the Almighty doesn't care enough to concern Himself with it. We have a mighty God and He wants to help us do the things He created us for. So fulfill His will for your life and accomplish what He created you for. Nothing will give you more joy and fulfillment.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After over 30 years in prison, Roy's prayers were answered and he was released in 2021. "God got me out of prison so I could be used out here. I am writing stories and articles. I plan to go to many churches and tell them about the things He did for me in prison and what He is doing now."

From Duty to Desire

BY CINDY ARORA

As a young believer, I struggled to keep the spiritual disciplines. I knew I was “supposed to” read the Word every morning and pray. Yet, even fifteen minutes of time seemed impossibly long.

Today, years later, I spend an hour each morning and long for more time to spend in quiet pursuit of the Lord. When did that happen? What changed my heart from duty to desire? Well, it happened gradually – the slow bloom of love. The more I learned about the Lord through His Word and experience with Him, the more I loved Him. The more I loved Him, the more I desired to spend time with Him.

Every season has looked different, of course. When I had children in the home, I could snatch only moments in the mornings. I found it necessary to get out of the house to spend alone time with my Jesus. I retreated to my church or a park one morning a week. I spent that time reading and praying, writing, and worshipping.

A contented sigh fills my chest as I reflect on those peaceful and restorative times. I’m encouraged as I recall many heartrending situations that God carried me through. I smile at the sweet memories of His tender love and care.

Yes, my God and I have endured some struggles together. We have carried others in prayer. Worship and wonder have knit our hearts together. And our “together” story is just beginning.

My season of raising children is over. I have ample time with the Lord in the quiet of my own home. Still, I love taking advantage of worship and prayer opportunities with other believers; it encourages my spirit to be among others who love Him as much as I do.

Maybe you are in that busy season of life when even 15 minutes seems impossible. Let me encourage you to persist. Even a few moments alone with the Lover of your soul can be the rendezvous you need. Each clandestine meeting fuels your desire for the next. Soon, you will find creative and clever ways to be alone with your God and King... and long for more.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cindy Arora is the author of *Chosen: Understanding Identity and Authority from Ephesians*. Visit her website at www.reflectionsonbeauty.com



HOLY
BIBLE

An Unexpected Ministry

BY LAURIE GLASS

It's funny how it all started. I browsed the Christian bookstore, looking for a plaque for my home. I found some that said "Our Home," "A Marriage Prayer," and others with similar themes. But I couldn't find anything appropriate for someone living alone. I'd written poems on and off since childhood, so I decided to write one about God's presence in my home. Then I prettied it up, framed it, and hung it on my living room wall. As far as I knew, that was that. Except it wasn't.

I was suddenly flooded with more ideas accompanied by an urgency to write more and more poems until I'd written thirty of them in five weeks. All the while, I sensed that God brought those thoughts to mind, filling my heart with His message, and then it flowed through my fingertips onto paper. It was a profound experience, but it was even more than that.

Later that year, God did amazing work in my heart and life, helping me to break free of some significant personal issues. And again, he filled my mind with ideas and my heart with inspiration. I had to write...and write...and write. It was clear that He had a message of hope and healing to speak through me.

I felt a nudge to share my poems with others. I was surprised at their responses, sharing how much these simple writings meant to them. One woman said she'd get up and read them when she couldn't sleep. Others said they didn't usually like poetry, but they enjoyed reading mine. I had a strong sense that I was supposed to share my words with a wider audience, but I wasn't sure where to start.

Meanwhile, I prayed repeatedly, asking for God's leading in my writing. I was certain He had some kind of plan for all of this, but I didn't know what. I wanted to follow His lead, but I had no idea where He was taking me.

At one point, I took a three-ring binder of my writings to a Bible study group and asked them to pray over it. I remember one older gentleman praying, "Dear God, if this isn't of you, nothing will come of it. If it is of you, nothing will stop it."

God answered, and continues to answer, those prayers. Fortunately, I found FaithWriters, where I learned more about writing, was introduced to other helpful resources, honed my skills, and learned how to submit writings for publication.

Over time, I've had many poems and articles published in both print and online publications, from anthologies to online ministries to church take-home papers to websites, and more. I also ran a website for fourteen years. It's been amazing to think of so many people from all over the world being touched by words I have written. Sometimes I've pictured people sitting in church pews or looking at screens, reading and experiencing the stirring of the Holy Spirit. That's where the power is. And I've had the privilege of shar-



ing God's message of hope and healing. I'm so grateful God chose to express a bit of His love through me. It's been an honor.

And to think, it all started when I searched for one simple item—a plaque for my home. I couldn't find it, and yet I found so much more. An unexpected ministry awaited me. In this life, I'll never know all that God has been up to as He has spoken through me. I don't have to know. It's His work. I'm just grateful He's invited me to be a part of it.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Laurie Glass has a heart for encouraging others through her writing. She has had many poems and articles published in both print and online publications. Laurie is a contributing writer for *Chronic Joy*, a ministry for those affected by chronic illness and other health issues.

When Six Women Prayed

BY JEWELL JOHNSON

There weren't many of us, just six ladies who agreed to meet for prayer. It wasn't that we had much experience praying or that any of us could say we really knew how to pray. But we were desperate. Most of us had looked in other directions for help but found none. Now we would look to God—together. If God couldn't help—well, we were sunk.

There was Dorothy. Her husband didn't share her faith nor did he come to church with her, and that made her sad. She also had health problems.

Reba's younger son was in prison. What might happen to him? Would he be safe?

Another sad situation: Reba's older son had disappeared three years ago and the family had had no word from him.

Holly's teenage daughter, Roxanne, was pregnant and unmarried—and rebellious. If she kept the child, would she be a fit mother, or should she give the baby up for adoption?

Jennifer, my daughter, suffered from an eating disorder that had kept our family in mayhem for thirteen years. I'd read about girls dying from bulimia and anorexia. Why didn't Jenny stop this destructive behavior? Could she stop even if she wanted to?

Then there was sweet Esther who suffered with severe asthma that limited her activities. She also had osteoporosis. The doctor said her bones were like a lace curtain—full of holes. The slightest bump could cause a bone fracture.

Arlene was the only person in the group that didn't have serious family problems. How we needed her! She had memorized over 200 Scripture verses and when we ran into a faith roadblock she encouraged us by quoting an answer from the Bible.

We prayed—simple words, desperate pleas week after week, for one year then two, three, then six. Yet nothing much happened. We encouraged each other by saying, "God doesn't work on our timetable, but He promises to answer prayer." That much we knew. We prayed on.

I'd like to say our prayers were answered just the way we asked. But that's not what happened.

Dorothy's husband never came with her to church. Yet as we prayed, she remained steadfast in her faith in spite of her husband's decision.

Reba's son eventually got out of prison, but after ten years of incarceration, he did not do well in the real world. We continued praying. Her older son's body was found after three years, a suicide victim. Our group prayed for Reba and her family as they leaned on the Lord for comfort.

Holly's daughter, Roxanne, kept her baby. We prayed for this single mother to raise her son to trust God. There was not a dry eye in the congregation the Sunday Roxanne, with her baby, walked to the front of the church to dedicate his life to God.



Our daughter struggled for years with not only the eating disorder but also with a drinking problem. At one point, despair set in and I gave up praying for her. Yet the other five women kept on believing for her healing. Gradually God freed her from both problems and she became an active believer.

Esther continued to struggle with physical needs. But one day when we met, Arlene said, “I received a Scripture promise for you, Esther. It’s Isaiah 58:11. ‘The Lord shall guide thee continually . . . and make fat (strong) thy bones.’” Together our faith soared as we claimed the verse for Esther’s bones. Although not entirely free of problems, Esther didn’t have any more fractures and her effervescent faith encouraged all of us.

Beyond receiving answers to our prayers, it was what happened to the six of us as we came together and prayed. Like soldiers become adept after fighting many battles, as we met year after year, we developed a seasoned warrior mentality. Hold on, persevere in battle, don’t retreat, get a firmer grip on your weapon. If one strategy doesn’t produce results, intensify your prayers, claim another Bible verse, and search the Bible for yet another example of faith to model your prayers after.

Some prayers were answered and we saw the results. Others did not receive an immediate answer, but these, I know, are in the process of being answered. Only in eternity will we read the final chapter of the book, and see at last what happens when six women lay claim to God’s promises and agree together in prayer.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jewell Johnson lives in Arizona and is mother to six children and grandmother to nine. Besides writing, she enjoys reading, playing the piano, and quilting.

The Home School Legal Defense Association



IN HONOR OF
Elizabeth Smith



Finding the Misplaced

BY CHARLEEN BURGHARDT

Do you get annoyed or angry when you lose a significant item? I admit, prayer is not my first response.

The weekend blurred with activity surrounding my husband's retirement, with festivities, family, and friends. On Monday morning, our son packed to catch his plane, but misplaced his passport, which was his necessary form of identification. Frantically, he searched his belongings and rifled through the bedroom. We ransacked the car, but to no avail. No blue ID document. While all three of us were looking, I prayed silently. I reassured myself documents can be replaced with money and effort; however, concerns whirled in my head about it being stolen or used illegally. Our bewildered and frustrated son boarded the plane with other ID and arrived at his destination. An image from Jesus's parable in Luke 15 came to mind. I pictured the woman sweeping her house in search of a lost coin. Continuing to pray, I hunted for the vanished identification and made inquiry calls to places visited.

Five months passed and our son found an old Facebook message; his ID had been recovered and turned into the gate at the Air Force base. Would it be there after months? At the gate, the inexperienced recruit rummaged through the drawers and retrieved the misplaced passport. We rejoiced in the answer to prayer, thanking God for His faithfulness. Just as the woman in the parable declared to others, "Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin" (Luke 15:9 NIV), we called and retold the story to our friends and neighbors.

Continued on page 20...



A year afterward, my husband and I vacationed in Washington State, exploring the rocky beach on the peninsula and snapping pictures of the magnificent coastline. Upon leaving, my husband detected his cell phone misplaced. His eyes filled with panic because it contained his contacts, his calendar, recent pictures, and essential business information. In this remote area, cell phone service did not exist, so calling my mobile did not pinpoint his. Uncovering a three by six inch T-Mobile electronic on a stone-strewn and driftwood-covered waterfront seemed impossible. Fervently praying and reminding ourselves of the misplaced passport, we combed the shore up and down three times and retraced our steps back to the trailhead. I remembered the verse, “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you” (Luke 9:11 NLT). Drained by feelings of despair, we walked toward the car and resigned ourselves to replacing the communication device. On our path, I passed a young couple with a dog, commenting to them of our quest.

“Oh, we found it!” They pointed to a rock structure. “We put it on the ledge.”

Checking the backside of a seven-foot boulder, we discovered the phone on an outcropping. We were gazing down in our search and not up. No wonder we did not uncover it.

God cares and hears our minor requests, such as our petitions, to locate passports and cell phones. God is always awaiting our prayers.

A different and more significant challenge arose when my husband was unable to locate his cousin, Junie, for more than six months. My husband, Junie’s only known relative, wanted to check on her since she was in her late 80s, vulnerable and in frail health. Multiple moves and no working phone impeded the possibility of finding her. Not knowing where she lived, how to reach her, or her condition distressed us. Even worse, we suspected elder abuse by a man and woman living with her. Stymied, my husband



became a sleuth on a mission, attempting to locate his aged relative. After three weeks of searching and calling, he exhausted all possible resources. Uncovering her location in another state was like searching for a small fish in an enormous lake. Powerless to find her, we requested our Bible study group to pray. A member of the study suggested filing a missing person's report, which we did. Within an hour, a sheriff called with Junie's whereabouts in a nursing home. Relief washed over us like water in a warm shower. My husband connected with her by the nursing home phone and then flew to Jacksonville to follow up with her face-to-face. Junie, dressed in colorful print pajamas, greeted him with a smile. He learned she was safe, in cheerful spirits, and in a respectable facility. Not only did we find her, but God watched over her by moving her to a place with high-quality attentive care. We celebrated the divine intervention and answer to our prayer, a precious life found whom God was watching over with lovingkindness.

Lost-found or misplaced-restored, God answered our prayers and we rejoiced in the gift of restoration. "Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am, God, and there is none like me" (Isaiah 46:9 NIV).



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Charleen Burghardt works as a hospital chaplain and is the prayer coordinator in her church. She writes a blog at Charleen.burghardt.com and writes for periodicals. Charleen is a wife and mother of three sons.

Are you a writer?

*The Intercessor welcomes
submissions!*



**Has God taught you about prayer?
Do you want to share your
story of answered prayer?
Do you write poetry about prayer?**

Send in your submissions for
consideration!

Guidelines...

Articles should be 500 to 1,000 words. Poems should be at least 12 lines.

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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Coming Home

BY KATHLEEN FESSLER



She felt her quickened heartbeat,
Hands trembling at the wheel.
Her childhood home lies up ahead.
Would family help to heal?

Broken dreams and shattered life
Had family torn apart.
Regrets and shame invade her now.
She needs a brand-new start.

Would her father welcome her?
Calling her “my daughter”?
Open up his heart to her?
Accepting her no matter?

Driving up to the porch,
She sees Dad stand alone.
His arms are wide in greeting,
“My daughter has come home.”



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kathleen enjoys writing poems and articles to encourage Christians. Her ministry is conducting a chapel service once a month in a care facility along with wonderful volunteers. She is ninety years old.

Be Still!

BY PETER CALIGIURI

Be still and know that I am God
I hear my Savior say
But yet instead
Just like a child
I often run away

I run until my legs give out
And I hold my aching sides
With heaving breaths
And weary arms
I can't another stride

Then comes His gentle voice again
Inviting me to come
To learn His way
To take His yoke
And rest in Him alone

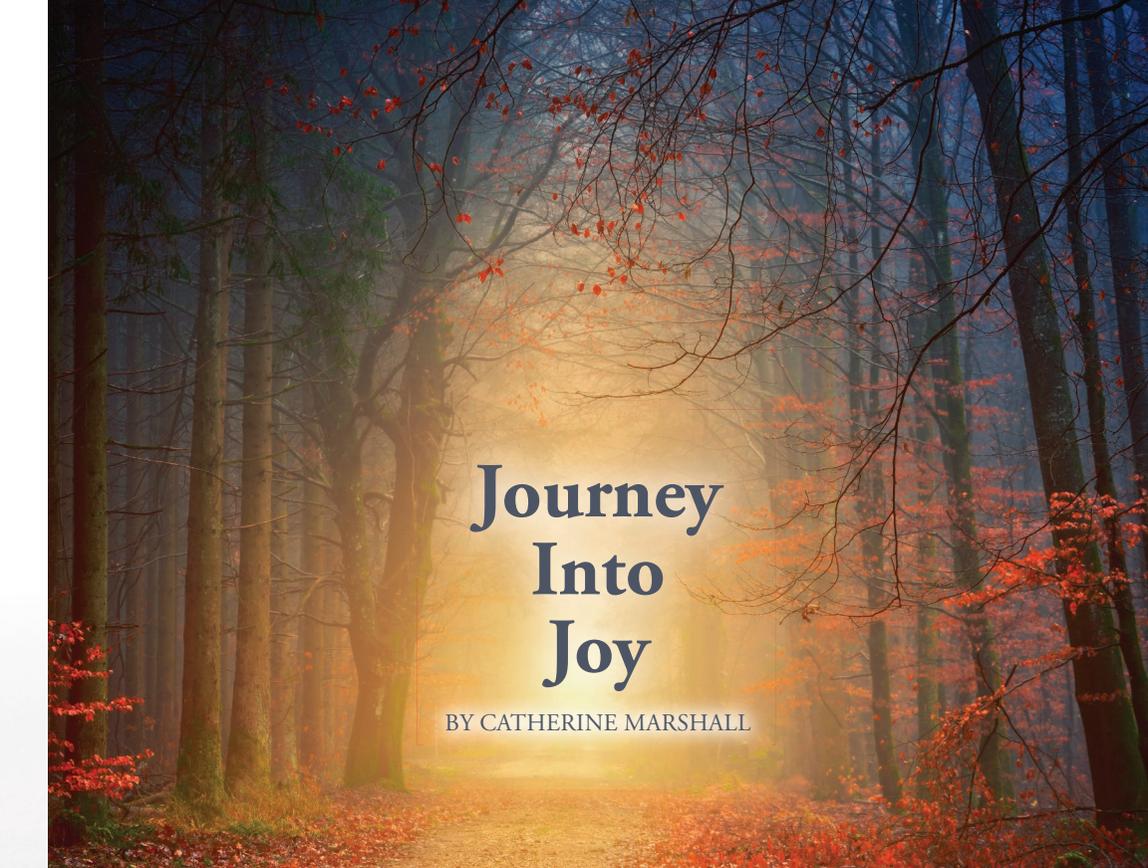


ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter and his wife Nancy have been married for 48 years and have two sons, six lively grandsons and one wonderful granddaughter. He loves to serve in nursing home ministry and write devotionals, poetry and songs.

Be still, and know that I am God. I
will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"

-Psalm 46:10 ESV



Journey Into Joy

BY CATHERINE MARSHALL

It was the Holy Spirit who opened Marianne Brown's eyes. Mrs. Brown is the wife of the Presbyterian minister in the small town of Parkesburg, Pennsylvania, mother of five children and mistress of an old-fashioned rambling eleven-room manse. The details of her story come directly from her.

Six years ago, if you had asked Marianne Brown what was the most basic truth about life, the last thing she would have answered would have been "joy!" She might have said "duty" or even, if she had been feeling brutally honest, "exhaustion."

Like any other minister's wife, Mrs. Brown was trapped in a maelstrom of activity—church meetings, the presidency of the women's organization, constant entertaining, a neighborhood kindergarten, supervising the area recreation program. She had a merciless conscience that drove her and a concern about other people's opinions that made her unable to say no to any request. Like most minister's wives, she was not able to afford any household help.

Her one escape from exhaustion was to be ill at frequent intervals and go to bed for rest. This was not too difficult to manage, because the constantly overtired woman was an easy target for assorted viruses and disorders. Furthermore she had been born with a congenital heart defect, diagnosed by the doctor as mitral stenosis.

Marianne would lie in bed and brood. Why was her vitality so low? Why did black moods descend so often, periods of retreating within herself? Sometimes she would go for days, speaking grudgingly even to her family. She

introduced every other thought with the words, “The trouble is—” It was indicative of her joyless outlook on life.

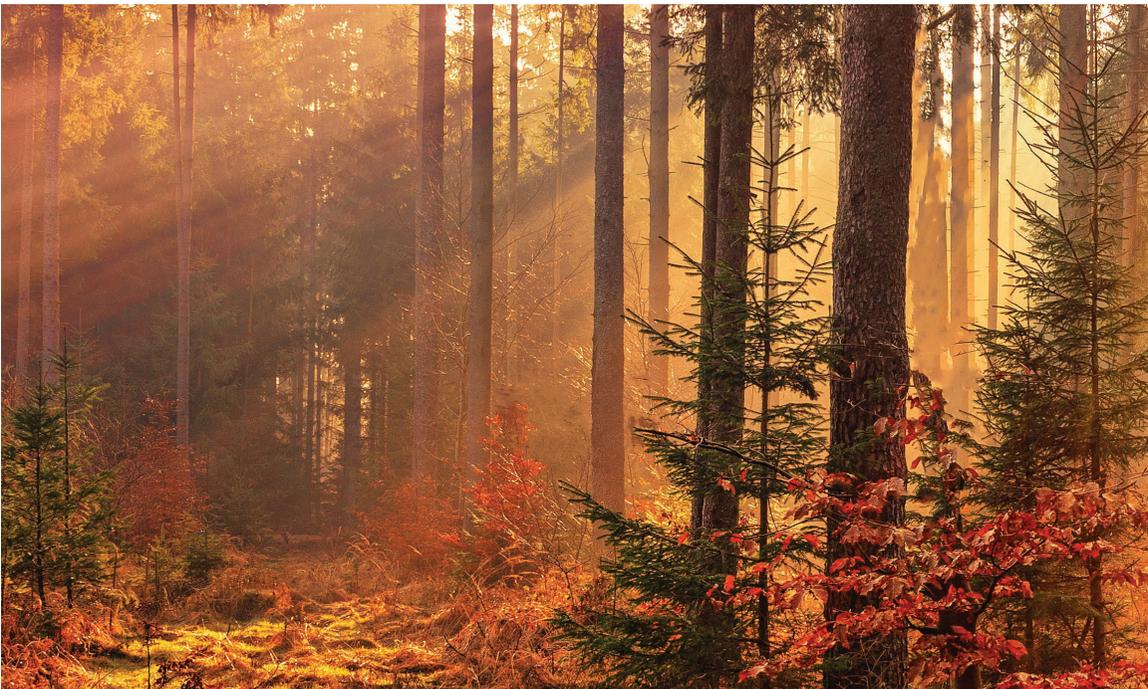
“Looking back now,” she told me, “it seems to me that all my life had been a search for the joy that had been denied me. I remember once seeing a ragged child standing at the great wrought-iron gates of an estate, his hands clasp- ing the bars. His eyes were glued wistfully on the winding walks among the great trees, the sweep of lawn in which he might have run and tumbled, the flower-beds, even a brook where a small boy might have gone wading and fishing. Well, I was like that little boy, hungrily staring at vistas of joy that seemed forever closed to me. That is, until six years ago.”

Then six years ago a new life began for Marianne—quietly enough. A neighbor dropped in one morning. Over a cup of coffee at the breakfast table, the harassed minister’s wife poured out her troubles. The friend admitted that she had no answers for Marianne but suggested they pray together.

They did. There was nothing unusual or dramatic about the prayer. Yet it seemed to relieve the pressures, so they prayed together again. Then, one by one, other friends joined them. Eventually there was a small group of husbands and wives who met in each other’s homes each Saturday evening.

A family crisis overtook the Browns soon afterward. Their high-school-age daughter suffered a nervous breakdown. The group that met in prayer gave them important support throughout the crisis. And once again prayer brought startling results.

Their daughter’s early recovery filled the Browns with gratitude to God



and to the friends who had shouldered their problems with them. On a certain Saturday night, as the meeting was being closed with a circle of prayer, Marianne found herself slipping to her knees as the deep feelings of thanksgiving to God for His nearness and goodness bubbled up and spilled over into words, words that came and kept coming in a torrent.

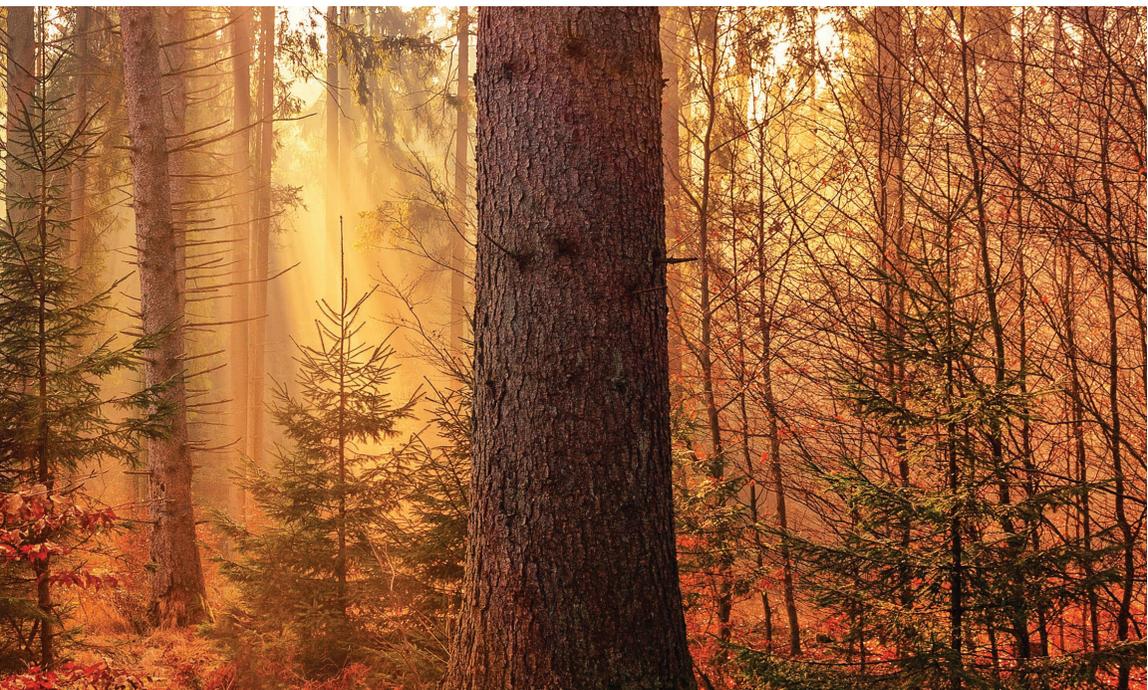
Then suddenly—to Marianne Brown in Parkesburg, Pennsylvania in 1955—the Holy Spirit came. She had done no studying or thinking about the Comforter, indeed, was scarcely aware of Him at all. Let Marianne tell it:

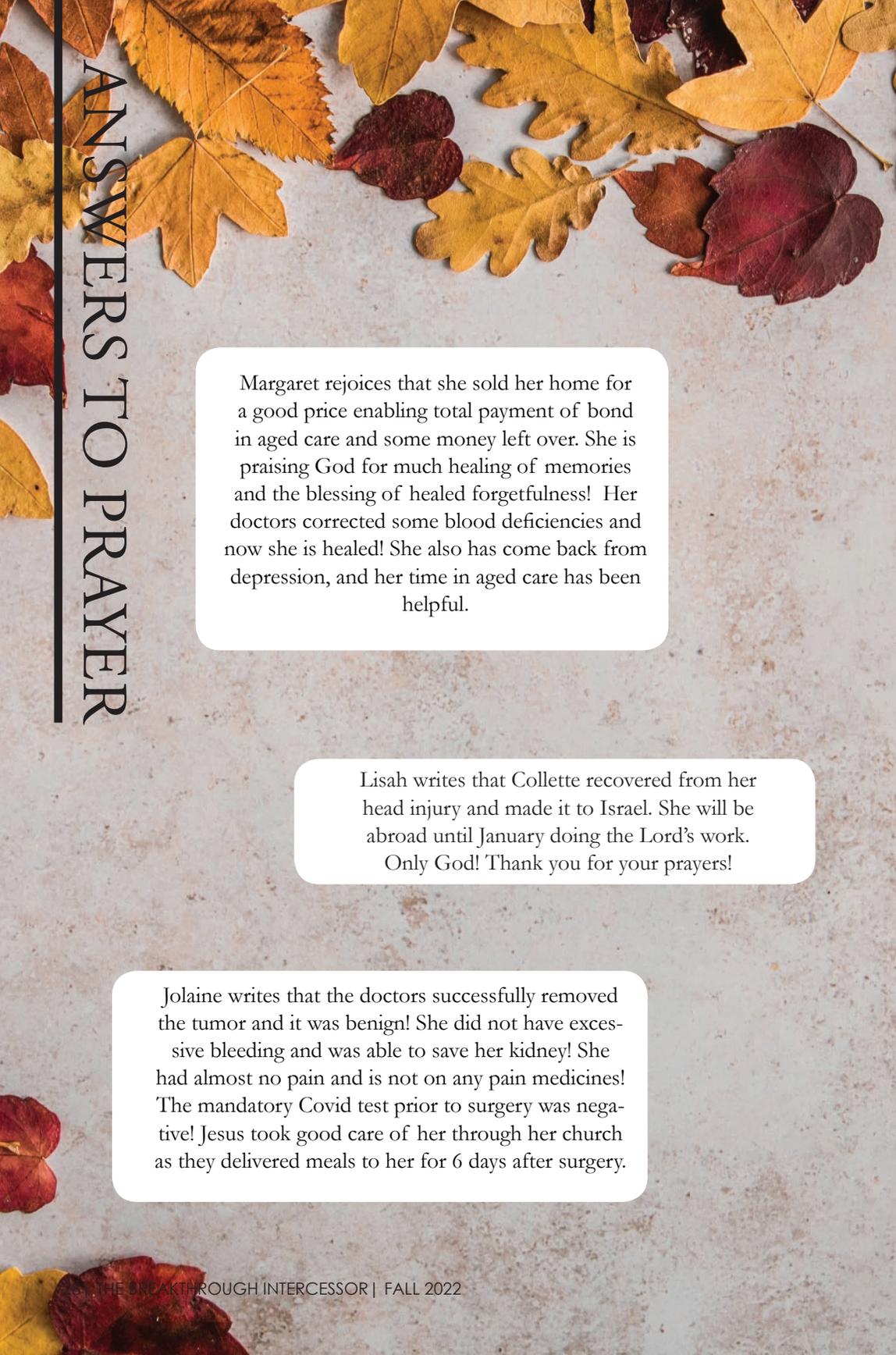
God's Spirit took over and seemed to immerse my whole being—body, mind, and spirit. The Spirit came like tidal waves of "Joy unspeakable and full of glory" and inundated me. Torrents of God's love swept over me for what seemed like only a few minutes but lasted a long time. More than once I wondered if my human body could bear the ecstasy, and I both begged God to stop and feared that he would!

That night my emotions found perfect expression. I know now that my emotions had been starved. I had only been half-living, because I had been only half-feeling.

In those minutes God revealed more to me than I had ever learned in books... I knew that for the remainder of my life Jesus Himself would be my first love. In Him every desire I had ever had was fulfilled. And I knew that such communion with God is His will for every human being!

Excerpt from *Beyond Our Selves* by Catherine Marshall. Used with permission.





ANSWERS TO PRAYER

Margaret rejoices that she sold her home for a good price enabling total payment of bond in aged care and some money left over. She is praising God for much healing of memories and the blessing of healed forgetfulness! Her doctors corrected some blood deficiencies and now she is healed! She also has come back from depression, and her time in aged care has been helpful.

Lisah writes that Collette recovered from her head injury and made it to Israel. She will be abroad until January doing the Lord's work. Only God! Thank you for your prayers!

Jolaine writes that the doctors successfully removed the tumor and it was benign! She did not have excessive bleeding and was able to save her kidney! She had almost no pain and is not on any pain medicines! The mandatory Covid test prior to surgery was negative! Jesus took good care of her through her church as they delivered meals to her for 6 days after surgery.



Nancy writes that her husband Dave got the perfect job for his final career and is able to pay off many debts! She declares they are blessed!

You prayed for Troy, six years old, who couldn't speak. He is now speaking and learning to read!

Jean recovered from Covid while having Leukemia earlier this year! Then, God gave a financial breakthrough and sold their house a few months ago!

Shelly is excited and thankful that her son and her daughter are both following after the Lord and seeking His will for their lives! Her mother's heart is rejoicing in the Lord that the generations will know their God!

Lynn writes that Sean is home after 9 months in the hospital and rehab for Covid! They gave him only a 20% chance to live and at one point were ready to give up on him, but our Almighty Lord God is amazing, and pulled him through to Victory!



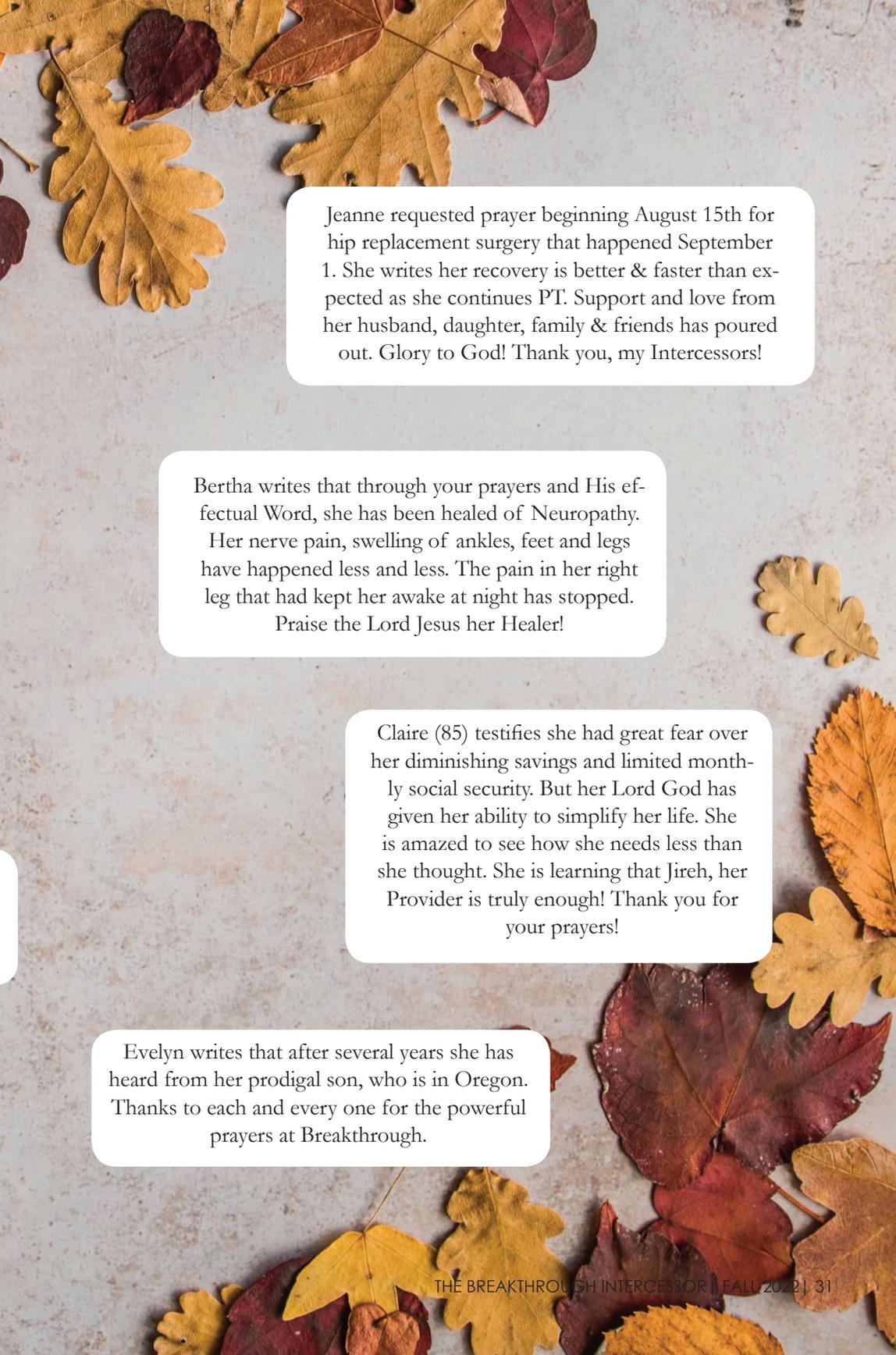
Ruth writes that by grace Sarah had a safe delivery and baby is fine. Her gratitude is profound to all who supported them in prayer.

Peter testifies that he has resolved his large debts, been healed of diabetes, lost weight, and found a new local church as well! Glory to God! Thank you for your prayers! Want to hear more of God's goodness? Just recently his prayers have been answered again and clients have returned to his school.

Nancy writes that her son got a good full-time job!

Barbara writes that she is able to pray with more sincerity, more discernment/insight as well as empathy in her prayer life. She knows it's only by Holy Spirit's grace.

Judy writes that she is making slow progress in her health and her granddaughter accepted Jesus. She is now attending church!



Jeanne requested prayer beginning August 15th for hip replacement surgery that happened September 1. She writes her recovery is better & faster than expected as she continues PT. Support and love from her husband, daughter, family & friends has poured out. Glory to God! Thank you, my Intercessors!

Bertha writes that through your prayers and His effectual Word, she has been healed of Neuropathy. Her nerve pain, swelling of ankles, feet and legs have happened less and less. The pain in her right leg that had kept her awake at night has stopped. Praise the Lord Jesus her Healer!

Claire (85) testifies she had great fear over her diminishing savings and limited monthly social security. But her Lord God has given her ability to simplify her life. She is amazed to see how she needs less than she thought. She is learning that Jireh, her Provider is truly enough! Thank you for your prayers!

Evelyn writes that after several years she has heard from her prodigal son, who is in Oregon. Thanks to each and every one for the powerful prayers at Breakthrough.

Fall 2022

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