


The Breakthrough  
INTERCESSOR  
Winter 2022

*We have seen His*  
GLORY

The Magazine About Prayer



A festive winter arrangement of various greenery and red berries on a light background. The composition includes several types of plants: eucalyptus with its characteristic rounded, silvery-green leaves; holly with its dark, glossy leaves and clusters of small, bright red berries; and various types of evergreen branches, including spruce and pine, with their characteristic needle-covered branches. The plants are artfully arranged around the central text, creating a natural, organic frame. The background is a light, neutral color, possibly a textured surface like paper or fabric, which makes the colors of the plants stand out. The overall mood is serene and celebratory, typical of a Christmas-themed decorative element.

*“And the Word became  
flesh and dwelt among  
us, and we have seen His  
glory, glory as of the only  
Son from the Father,  
full of grace and truth.”*

*-John 1:14, ESV*

The Breakthrough  
**INTERCESSOR**

**WINTER 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





## Make Your Battle God's Battle

King Jehoshaphat is not a well-known Biblical figure, but his actions are instructive for anyone who struggles with fear and believes in prayer. King Jehoshaphat was the fourth King of Judah, who succeeded his father, Asa. The account of his life is found in 2 Chronicles 17-22. He was 35 years old when his reign began and he reigned 25 years. His rule was a mixed bag. However, we will focus on the positive: how he was blessed by God because of prayer.

Jehoshaphat joined in an alliance with the Israel and its evil king, Ahab. They suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the Assyrians. Upon returning home, Jehoshaphat was reprimanded by the prophet of the Lord because of the unholy alliance he made. ("Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers," 1 Corinthians 6:14, ESV).

Jehoshaphat repented and the Lord blessed him for his obedience. Jehoshaphat made significant efforts to make Judah a righteous nation by following the precepts of God. Then the great challenge came.

An alliance of nations formed to destroy and take over Judah. Their combined forces were much more powerful than Judah. Jehoshaphat's actions to defend Judah and God's supernatural intervention is recorded in 2 Chronicles 20. What did Jehoshaphat do that moved God to action? First, we note that when he heard of the impending attack, he feared, a natural reaction to the likely outcome of Judah being overrun, defeated, and destroyed.

Fear is a common emotion, but the Bible tells us not to fear. In fact, fear is a sin because it demonstrates a lack of trust in God. 2 Timothy 1:7 says that God has not given us a spirit of fear; rather he gives power, love, and a sound mind. We are told what to do if we are afraid: "I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4, ESV). David says here that if we are afraid, then we should pray.

In Jehoshaphat's story, the Lord gave Judah a supernatural victory without the Judeans even having to fight. What did Jehoshaphat do to cause God to act?

He immediately sought the Lord's help and proclaimed a fast throughout the entire country. We know that fasting is not mandated by scripture,

but it's assumed by what Jesus taught his disciples when he said: "And when you fast, do not look gloomy . . ." (Matthew 6:16, ESV) We know Jesus, our model for living, fasted 40 days in the wilderness before he started his formal ministry (Matthew 4:2).

To empower his prayer, King Jehoshaphat gathered all the people together to the Temple in Jerusalem to seek the Lord in prayer. He opened his prayer by recognizing the sovereign majesty and power of God. He reminded God of the His covenant with Judah, and of His promise to preserve it when asked by his people. He humbled himself by admitting that Judah was powerless to defend against the formidable army and asked the Lord to execute judgment on their enemy.

In response, the prophet Jahaziel spoke on behalf of God and told the assembly not to be afraid, "for the battle is not yours but God's" (2 Chronicles 20:15, ESV). He told them how to conduct the battle the next day, but they would not need to fight if they would do what they were told. They worshipped the Lord, and the next day did what they were told. The Lord caused the enemy soldiers to start killing each other until not one survived. The people returned to the Temple to give praise to God, and the fear of the Lord came upon all kingdoms and countries when the story was told.

Intercessors, what's our application? When we have fears, we should pray immediately, and trust the Lord for the victory. For in really scary situations, we may even want to fast. As we are praying for those who request prayer from us, we should pray fervently, empathizing with the fear that they are experiencing. Our goal is, through our prayers, to have the Lord make the requestor's battle His battle, as he did with Jehoshaphat.

Thanks for your prayer and financial support, which facilitates your ability to pray for the fears of so many of God's people. Remember—God answers prayer.

**J. Michael Smith, Esq**  
Chairman of the Board





# Prayer for the Day After Christmas

BY PETER MARSHALL

O Lord Jesus, we thank Thee for the joys of this season, for the divine love that was shed among men when Thou didst first come as a little child.

But may we not think of Thy coming as a distant event that took place once and has never been repeated. May we know that thou art still here walking among us, by our sides, whispering over our shoulders, tugging at our sleeves, smiling upon us when we need encouragement and help.

We thank Thee for thy spirit that moves at this season the hearts of men:

To be kindly and thoughtful—where before they were careless and indifferent,

To be generous—where before they had lived in selfishness,

To be gentle—where before they had been rough and unmindful of the weak,

To express their love—where before it had been taken for granted and assumed.

We are learning, O Lord, so slowly—life's true values. Surely Christmas would teach us the unforgettable lesson of the things that matter most—the ties that bind the structure of the family upon which our country and all the world rests; the love that we have for one another that binds Thy whole creation to Thy footstool, Thy throne. We are learning slowly, but, O God, we thank thee that we are learning.

So may Christmas linger with us, even as Thou art beside us the whole year through. Amen.

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From *The Prayers of Peter Marshall*. Used with permission.





# Pray Without Ceasing

BY LEONARD LESOURD

Paul challenged his followers with the above three words (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Our response today: “Come on now, Paul, who can do this and fulfill daily responsibilities?”

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

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

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

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

Believe that He is doing just that as you read His Word, then intercede for those people and situations that He has given you. In your spirit you pray without ceasing as you dress, eat, travel to work, deal with problems, go all out in recreation. During intervals, as you eat, or walk, or drive, or



stop to think, it will be natural to say, “Lord, give me the words to say to \_\_\_\_\_. Bless that man over there on crutches. Help me with this phone call.”

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

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

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*Republished from the The Breakthrough Intercessor vol. 11, no. 5, Sept/Oct 1991.*





# Testimony: The Faith of an Intercessor

BY TIMOTHY STEVENS

Hello Breakthrough Intercessors:

I am still an active prayer person, praying always for all the lists you send me. It's a great joy to do so. I am 82 but God is still so good to me. I am overwhelmed beyond expression. All my life since Jesus saved me on July 27, 1958, what a Savior, Lord God, and what a personal friend and Holy Father He has been to me. Yes, it has not been without sin on my part and that is why I marvel at His amazing grace in still loving me. Psalm 103:3-5 (ESV) is so real: "Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

This year in February I had Covid extremely seriously. It affected my heart and I had to go to the emergency room by ambulance, and then go a second time for other complications. Covid affected my back so that I couldn't walk and I was in severe pain, especially when lying down. It did get a bit better, but then it got worse. Yet again, the Lord came and helped me. When it got worse, I was watching a 30 second clip where a pastor was praying for healing for backs. I raised my hands and received, and since then my back has been better than before I had Covid. I can now bend down and tie my own shoes, which I couldn't do before. I couldn't even put on socks before. Now I can do my two-and-a-half mile walk every day and enjoy God's beautiful creation on the nearby trail. I am blessed and yet so unworthy. That is why I am so overwhelmed at His goodness. All this and many more testimonies I could give certainly give me faith and excitement to pray for others, as He will be just as good to them as He is to me.

All praise, honor and glory to the Lord Jesus, God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

-Timothy Stevens



# WAYS TO GIVE

Thank you for  
your support!

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

Your support.

## 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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If you would like to make a stock gift, please contact our office for directions.

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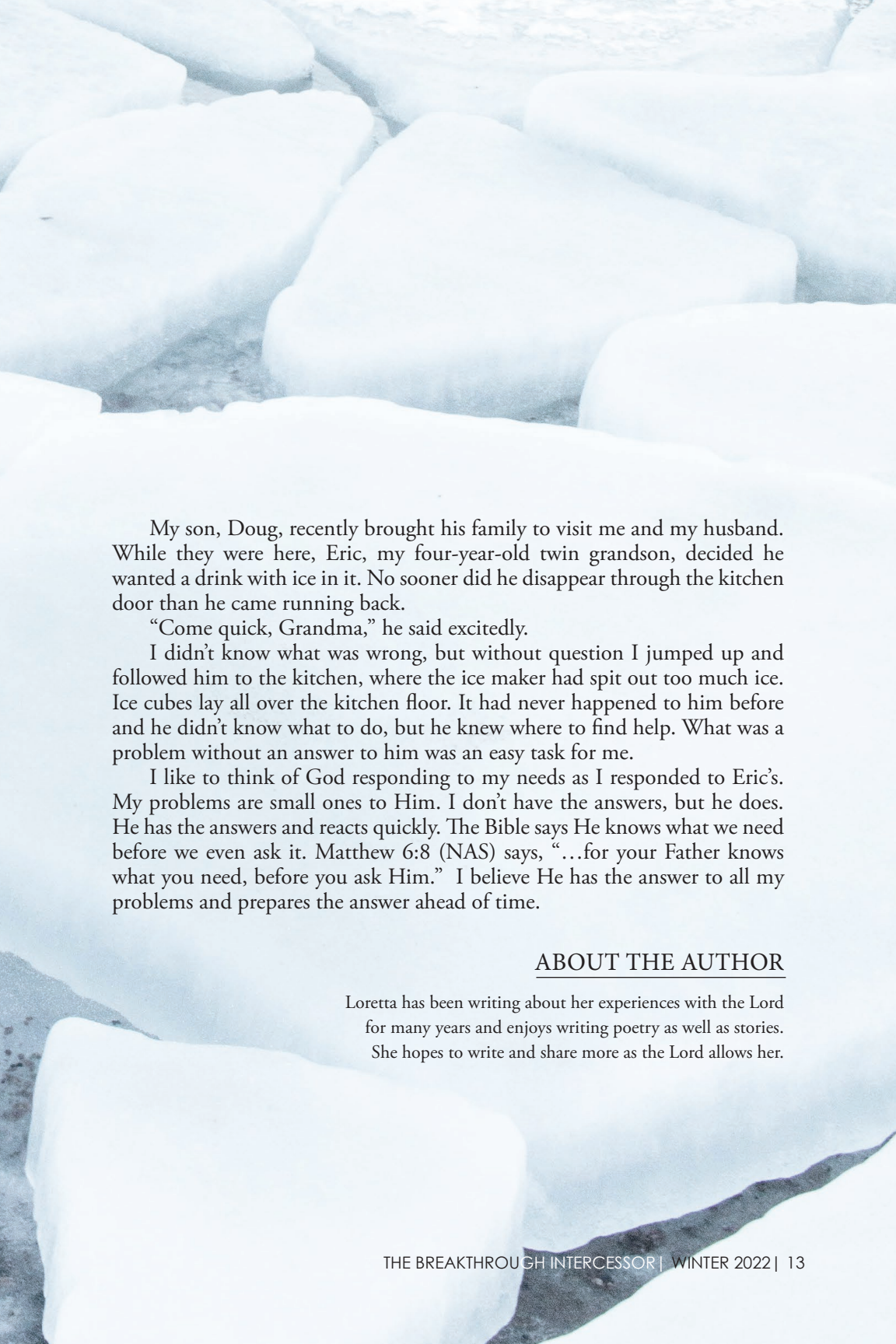
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Include the following wording: "I give, devise, and bequeath to Breakthrough, Inc., tax identification number 23-7423474, P.O. Box 121, Lincoln, Virginia 20160 (insert amount, percentage, or nature of gift, or remainder of estate) to be used for its ministry purposes."



# The **POWER** of Praying

BY LORETTA WADSWORTH



My son, Doug, recently brought his family to visit me and my husband. While they were here, Eric, my four-year-old twin grandson, decided he wanted a drink with ice in it. No sooner did he disappear through the kitchen door than he came running back.

“Come quick, Grandma,” he said excitedly.

I didn’t know what was wrong, but without question I jumped up and followed him to the kitchen, where the ice maker had spit out too much ice. Ice cubes lay all over the kitchen floor. It had never happened to him before and he didn’t know what to do, but he knew where to find help. What was a problem without an answer to him was an easy task for me.

I like to think of God responding to my needs as I responded to Eric’s. My problems are small ones to Him. I don’t have the answers, but he does. He has the answers and reacts quickly. The Bible says He knows what we need before we even ask it. Matthew 6:8 (NAS) says, “...for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him.” I believe He has the answer to all my problems and prepares the answer ahead of time.

### 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.





## *Intercession Brings*

# HOPE

BY LINDA. KRUSCHKE

Everyone experiences difficulties in life. It can be the loss of a job, an illness that never seems to end, a broken marriage and a broken heart, not being able to make ends meet, a physical or verbal attack by a friend or a stranger, the devastation of a natural disaster, and the list goes on. But the greatest tragedy is when such difficulties and trials shatter hope.

When we experience and overcome trials, we can respond in different ways.

We can be happy for ourselves and try to put it all behind us, never thinking of the trial again.

We can become bitter and resentful that we had to endure this trial at all,

never giving thanks for the restoration we have experienced.

Or we can rejoice that we have made it through with the help of God, but to never forget how it felt to be in the midst of that trial. This response develops in us an intercessor's heart filled with empathy. This is the response I have chosen to the many trials I have faced in life. God has developed in me an intercessor's heart with the desire to pray for others who are going through trials of their own.

Many people struggle because the weight of life has shattered their hope. I know I can't restore their hope, but I know the One who can. The devil would like God's people to drown in their trials, but God has promised to restore hope to those who believe.

I have a wooden sculpture of the word "Hope" that I got at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. I sat it on top of a picture in my bathroom where I would see it every day. Then one day it fell to the floor and shattered into many pieces. My son tried to glue it back together using Elmer's glue, wood glue, and a hot glue gun, but pieces kept falling off. It will never be the same. I bought a new one at Relay for Life the following year to replace it, but I keep both on the windowsill in my bedroom as a reminder of hope shattered and hope restored.

The apostle Peter wrote about weathering trials and the promise that God will restore hope:

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast" (1 Peter 5:6-10, NIV).

I love Peter's reminder that other believers are "undergoing the same kind of sufferings." This thought comforts me and brings me hope when I am facing a new or continuing trial. It inspires me to pray even in the midst of the trial.

What if we didn't wait until after we have been restored from our trials to intercede for others in prayer? What if, instead, we prayed for others undergoing the exact same trials we are undergoing right now?

- What if, as you look at a pile of bills you don't have the means to pay, you stopped to intercede for all those around the world who were also struggling to make ends meet?

- What if, as you sit in a clinic chair undergoing weekly chemotherapy for cancer, you prayed for the many who had just received their diagnosis or who were facing surgery to remove a tumor?

- What if, as you sit in your living room in shock that your spouse has left you or cheated on you, you cried out to God for all the broken hearts and



failing marriages across the nation?

- What if, as you survey the damage to your house from fire, tornado, or flood in disbelief that it could all be destroyed, you interceded with our Father for the many who lost all their worldly possessions too?

- What if, sitting in the front pew at your loved one's memorial service, you shed a tear and said a prayer for those sitting around you and at memorial services throughout the world?

What if we use our pain and suffering to care for others in pain? How would that change us? How would that change them? Would it give God an opening to restore hope to a people that desperately need it? I believe it would. And I believe it would strengthen the intercessor's heart in all of us.

Will you choose to join me in this intercessory endeavor? I hope so.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Linda L. Kruschke writes candid memoir and fearless poetry, and delves into hard issues others tend to avoid. She aspires to show others that God's redemption and healing are just a story away. She blogs at [AnotherFearlessYear.net](http://AnotherFearlessYear.net) and [AnchoredVoices.com](http://AnchoredVoices.com).





# Armed with a Whisper

BY JEFF FERRIS

Having our four grandkids spend the weekend is all fun and games until someone needs a paramedic at midnight. That someone was Paige, a huggable little first-grader only two weeks past her sixth birthday.

Following a fun time at the park, Paige had gone to sleep amongst her siblings. All were happy, healthy and squeaky clean from their baths. At around eleven-thirty, on that Saturday night last September, she then rocked everyone awake with a croupy cough that seemed to trigger an asthma attack in her. Paige quickly became stressed and had trouble breathing. After my wife administered Paige's rescue inhaler and her airway didn't clear, it was time to dial 911.

That night took me back more than thirty years, to an incident involving Paige's mom, Tamara, our firstborn. I estimate Tamara was three-and-a-half years old. Her little sister Vanessa would have been one. The girls shared a room across the hall from my wife and I.

For the first time ever in her existence, Tamara awoke in the middle of the night with a severe croup. She wasn't asthmatic. She was breathing. No call to 911 was needed. But the horrible barking sound squeezing from her little body frightened her.

I don't recall why Tamara wanted me at the moment. Vanessa may have awakened with the commotion and needed her momma. It could have been



that Tamara viewed me as the protector. Or maybe it was that she knew I worked with tools at my job and at home, and I fixed things. Whatever the reason, she wanted me.

I dropped my heart when I picked up my crying, croupy little girl.

“Fix it, Daddy!” she cried. “Make it stop!”

It was a kick in the gut to think she was trusting me to fix such a thing. How could I explain that a screwdriver would be of no use? My ratchet won’t fix it. My wrench can’t take her cough away.

My little girl had watched me work on our cars and do household repairs. One time, when she was two, I “helped her” use my power drill to put tiny screw holes in our downspout. I made her bike better. Fixed her toys. Why couldn’t I stop her scary cough?

There was no tool for this. With each seal-like bark, she cried all the more and pleaded with me to fix it and make it stop. But how? What options did I have? Suddenly, an idea rose within me: counter each cough by whispering the name of Jesus. It might sound flimsy or far reaching, but it was all I had. The only tool at my disposal. My immediate armament. So, I would use it. And I was determined to lie awake all night whispering “Jesus” if necessary.

Holding her close to my heart, I took Tamara and her blanket into the living room and lay with her on the couch. She then barked a croupy cough.



“Jesus,” I whispered.

To my amazement, Tamara instantly dropped into a hard sleep. And she slept in my arms, through the night, without another cough. When we awoke in the morning, she was her usual smiling, bright-eyed self and had no memory of her nighttime coughing episode.

Sure, our hearts were saddened to see little Paige breathing through an oxygen mask, surrounded by paramedics, Emergency lights pulsating through the window behind her. But I was confident she would be fine. And because of the same Jesus, she was.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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A tool and die-maker by trade, Jeff answered a calling to write professionally while out of work in 2006. Upon sitting down and stepping into that role, he has authored numerous inspirational articles published on multiple platforms. He has written scripts for radio shows, song lyrics, and has ghost-written autobiographical projects. Since December 2010, Jeff has made extensive writing contributions to Pathway Christian Newspaper in his hometown of Toledo, Ohio, where he resides with his wife, Ginny, with whom he has three children and four grandchildren.







## Four in the Fire

BY LEON OLIVER

Take me to a place beyond Jacob's well  
Take me to a place where I'll meet His Grace  
The Son gives water, the Samaritan drinks

Take me to a place I can walk on water  
Take me to a place where four thousand feast  
Seven loaves of bread, supper with our king

Take me to a place where enemies fail  
Take me to a place where there is no night  
Jericho's walls come down, God's throne shines bright

Take me to a place among loving friends  
Take me to a place families unite  
And Samaritans help strangers back to life

Take me to a place that ignites our hope  
Take me to a place where lions are tamed  
Four in the fire, dancing in the flames

Take me to a place where the Godhead lives  
Take me to a place Christ prepared for us  
Where the books are open and He'll say, proud,  
"Your faith has made you well."

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Leon Oliver is a poet, writer, and prisoner in the California Department of Corrections. He is currently working on two poetry books, and he is co-founder of Prison Prose Publishing. He resides in Chowchilla, CA.

# By Steps of Faith

BY PETER CALIGIURI

There is no faith  
That has not journeyed on  
Nor hope that's true  
Where no battles have been won  
Neither joy in Christ  
Without some sorrow known  
Or love of God  
That has not hatred borne

But He gives hope  
When grace its work has done  
And joy for strength  
To rest in God's own Son  
By steps of faith  
Each day our race is run  
Until in love  
We reach our Father's home

*I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.*  
-2 Timothy 4:7-8 ESV



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter and his wife Nancy have been married for 50 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.

# Are you a writer?

*The Intercessor welcomes  
submissions!*

## 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.

**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!

Send to...

Email: [editor@intercessors.org](mailto:editor@intercessors.org)

Mail: Breakthrough Editor

P.O. Box 121, Lincoln, VA  
20160





# Follow the Cloud

BY JEWELL JOHNSON

A cloud by day,  
a fiery pillar by night,  
God led His people  
through the barren desert.

My path is dark,  
the road unclear,  
the light dim,  
my future seems uncertain

God of miracles,  
guide my steps,  
help me stay the path.  
Send Your cloud to point the way.



## 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 Unselfishness of God

*How the Incarnation gives us confidence in God's love  
and boldness in prayer*

BY CATHERINE MARSHALL

In my dealings with people I have been surprised to find that so many honestly do not believe that God wants our happiness and fulfillment. We have heard all our lives that God is Love, but we insist on “spiritualizing” this. Many Christians have been taught that God’s love is different from ours—not the kind His creatures understand. Deeply imbedded in our consciousness is the idea that God is primarily interested in our spiritual and moral rectitude; that, therefore, most of what He requires of us will be about as welcome as castor oil.

Of course God is concerned about our growing into mature spirits. And the God I know sometimes asks difficult things of us, it is true. But His will also includes happiness here on earth.

But when men persist in these mistaken and tragic ideas of the Creator, how can God show us what He is really like? This is the problem that He had with men. And He solved it in the incarnation. If God were to break into the stream of history—come to earth as a man and demonstrate that He loved people weep with them when they suffered, rejoice with them in moments of gladness—then there might be a closer relationship between God and His children.

A story I first read in my late twenties helped me to see why the incarnation had to be: One day a British scientist discovered a large anthill in his kitchen garden. These were different from any ants he had observed before, so he was eager to study them. But each time his shadow fell across the anthill, the terrified ants scurried off.

“I stepped back,” the scientist wrote in his diary, “and sat down on the grass to think out the situation. I had only good will for the ants, did not wish to harm one of them. But how could I make the ants aware of my good will?”

“My imagination played with the problem. To those tiny ants, I was an all-powerful creature ‘somewhere up there,’ whose thoughts they could not guess, whose ways and intentions they could not know.

“If only I could communicate,” the scientist wrote. “But even that wouldn’t be enough. Even then, I would be a gigantic being to the ants, and they would never believe that I understood their problems—the minute organization of the hill, their struggles for food, their battles with other ants.

“Only one thing could give them complete confidence. That is, if by some alchemy, I could—for a time—become an ant—”

The gap between our understanding of nature and the intentions of the Creator is far wider than the gap between that of ant and man. Only as much of God could be contained in human flesh would suffice to demonstrate to us what the Father is like. That is why the Incarnation was necessary.

That is why Jesus insisted, “I have come down from the heaven not to carry out my own will but the will of him who sent me...” (John 6:38, Moffatt translation) and that “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).





Then in watching Jesus, what did His disciples learn about God?

The most obvious thing they observed was the daily intimacy of Jesus' relationship with His Father. At first this must have puzzled them. For always He appeared to be listening to a Voice beyond Himself. There is no record of His ever having argued with anyone about the existence of God; this was fact. Also there was no doubt that God was always present to help, to guide, to succor.

Jesus acted as if there was never any question of the Father's willingness to supply all needs—even such material ones as appeasing hunger. God was concerned about men's bodies along with their souls: Divine love delighted in dispelling pain, in restoring sanity, in straightening crooked limbs and opening blind eyes, even in banishing premature death. Jesus said that in heaven there was an instant readiness to forgive and great joy over finding the lost. And are not these the things that ordinary human father-love or mother-love would delight in doing, if it could?

At every turn, Christ Himself made the comparison between human families and the Fatherhood of God. There is the unforgettable story of the universal Father dealing with the prodigal son. And in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus asked:

"Why, which of you, when asked by his son for a loaf, will hand him a



stone? Or, if he asks a fish, will you hand him a serpent? Well, if for all your evil you know to give to your children what is good, how much more will your father in heaven give good to those who ask him?" (Matthew 7:9-11, Moffatt translation)

The gospels make it clear that to Jesus, the Father is all-loving, is of the essence of love, cannot help loving. Moreover, this love includes the attributes of love known to all of us—good will, unselfishness, consideration, justice, wanting only good things for us, desiring our happiness. It is not a love dependent on our earning it. God is “for us” first, last, and always. By every word and action, by all the force of His personality, Christ sought to tell us that the Father is always nearer, mightier, freer to help us than we can imagine.

There were those who said that any man who held such ideas must be mad. But the disciples who tramped the dusty roads with Jesus day after day, who witnessed His decisiveness in dealing with people, His fearlessness of criticism, His sense of the sacredness of human personality, the realism with which He faced evil, knew that this One was not mad. Indeed He was more beautifully sane than anyone they had ever known.

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



# ANSWERS TO PRAYER

My sister-in-law  
was declared  
cancer free!  
-Kathy

B.'s delicate and danger-  
ous surgery went well.  
She has great relief from  
pain. Praise the Lord  
and thank you!  
-Anonymous

My daughter was set free from her sinful  
lifestyle in November of 2021. God recon-  
ciled her with some of her college friends  
and they now fellowship, speak of the  
goodness of God, and trust His leadership,  
provision, and guidance. Haleleujah!  
-Anonymous

I was struggling to find a job.  
The Lord has finally blessed  
me and I'm so happy. He has  
answered the tears I shed for  
many nights.  
-Ms. Sruthi

My family and I have been given 5-year  
visas to travel to the UK and to work  
and live in the UK. We are truly grate-  
ful to God who answered our prayers.  
Thank you for standing with us in faith.  
-Obioma

All the bills that  
needed to be  
paid, we paid!  
-Teri



My Church is spending more time in prayer and intercession.

-Shelly

My precious niece has now been released from the hospital. Her own body has now begun producing red blood platelets. Thanks as always for your faithful prayers.

-Chap

M. has been prayed for by Breakthrough for years for his depression and bipolar disorder. He is now very happily married and expecting a baby. He is full of love and peace and still loves the Lord.

-Janelle

Schools in Kenya reopened so that we could have a 20-minute prayer time with the students. During this prayer time, 15 students gave their lives to Jesus!

-Brother Bushebi and the GBF ministry

I am able to pray again for myself and for others, and I am reading my Bible again daily. Thank you for continuing to pray for me!

-Anonymous

Thank you for all of your prayers for our daughter C. over the last several years. She returned home and has been going to therapy. Several months ago, she found a job and has been getting back to her better self—shedding the parts of herself that were self-destructive and dark. God is so good!

-Deborah



The excruciating pain that I was feeling in my hip and thigh area has disappeared. Thanks for praying for me.  
-Marian

My wife and I struggled with infertility for a while and we prayed and prayed for a child. In July, the Lord blessed us with a baby boy. He is healthy and we are so grateful. Praise our Lord Jesus Christ for his miraculous blessings to our family.  
-Chris

A while back I asked for more time to spend with the Lord, and those prayers are answered. I have been given hours to study and learn of my Heavenly Father and His wonderful Son.  
-Rolande

S. had a safe delivery; mom and baby are fine.  
-Anonymous

My mother, who has been bedridden for at least three months, was recently able to get out of the house and go to Wal-Mart. We are thanking God and giving Him praise.  
-Donnie

My physical health is slowly improving, God is ordering my steps, the favor of God is evident, and the Holy Spirit is real to me.  
-Jason

I found a great teaching job!  
-Helen



My brother-in-law had a large, cancerous brain tumor. Surgeons were able to remove the tumor, and he had a remarkably quick recovery. He had an MRI scan, and a cancer specialist reviewed it and said there was no sign of cancer! Thank you for your prayers!

-Carolyn

I have become acquainted with a formerly homeless, former drug addict who has been sober for four years now. He loves Jesus. He has been desiring a place to live on his own. I saw him the other day and he says he will be moving into his own apartment, along with the support services that he needs.

-Pamela

The bathroom is broken in the apartment I had been living in for three years, so the director of our building told me I could move in to a new, renovated apartment. There are large windows all along one wall. I can see the sunrise and sunset again from my windows, and the light is perfect for painting. I am so grateful.

-Suzette

J. had nerve pain for 22 years. She saw a doctor who helped her and now she is out of pain! Praise God!

-Mary

S. was in an abusive relationship, but she got out safely and she's in a safe place.

-Anonymous



# Winter 2022

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