


The Breakthrough  
INTERCESSOR  
Fall 2023

*The Lord Will Have the*

# HARVEST

The Magazine About Prayer



*“Enter his gates with  
thanksgiving, and his  
courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him;  
bless his name!”  
-Psalm 100:4 ESV*

The Breakthrough  
**INTERCESSOR**

**FALL 2023**

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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



## Study, Obey, Share

“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it [to obey], and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel” (Ezra 7:10, NKJV).

God impressed the importance of studying, obeying, and sharing His Word upon Ezra, the priest responsible for reinstating the Jews’ spiritual life after they had returned to Jerusalem from bondage. Today, we can apply this same message as we develop intimacy with Jesus.

Any of us who has been a Christian for any length of time knows that a relationship with Jesus can only grow or stagnate—a neutral relationship cannot exist. In 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV), it says, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” It pleases God when we STUDY His Word. Besides providing us with knowledge of the Bible, Scripture will help us discern God’s truth.

The reference to the workman here reminds me of an expert carpenter who opens his toolbox, knowing every tool inside and exactly how to use it. Likewise, the Bible is our toolbox. We are commanded to know it, and to know how to use it.

Ezra was also convicted that he must OBEY God’s Word. This means applying or putting into action what we learn, a practice just as essential as study. Faith without works is dead, and knowledge without obedience is unproductive and leads to pride. As we study, God will convict us of things we need to avoid and things we need to do, giving us opportunities to obey.

Finally, we must SHARE God’s Word. Not all of us have been called to teach formally, but we all have been called to share our faith. Beyond evangelism, God wants us to share the insights He has given us to encourage and challenge others, both believers and non-believers alike.

Studying, obeying, and sharing will lead us to prayer. Prayer will help us carry out these keys to spiritual growth, and it will prompt us to be concerned for those around us. You as intercessors are meeting the needs of those who turn to Breakthrough by praying for them in their greatest hour of need. Thank you for praying! And thank you for your donations that keep the lights on so we can be there for our requestors.

We pray for you and appreciate your prayers. As a Breakthrough family, let's pray that we will study, obey, and share the Word of God. This is pleasing in the sight of the Lord, is in our best interest spiritually, and motivates us to meet the needs of others.

God bless you all as we move forward in Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Michael Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "S" at the end.

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

# Prayer for Thanksgiving Day

BY PETER MARSHALL

**L**ord, Thou hast indeed been bountiful. As we look back over the years, how gracious Thou hast been, how tender Thy mercy, how warm and constant Thy love.

Create within us, our Father, that true gratitude that shall make this day of Thanksgiving one of rededication, when we shall think not of how much we can eat but of how thankful we ought to be.

So may we—all across this land today—act as recipients of God's richest mercy and bountiful blessing, as we share with others. May we, in gratitude, get on with the job of creating not only a nation but a world in which all men shall have the right to seek happiness.

Help us to make that dream come true in our homes day by day, in street and office and school, and so to live that Thou shalt be able to bless us and bless the nation for which we pray. In His name, who created us a nation, we pray. Amen.

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



# Embrace the Thorn

BY ROY BORGES

The Apostle Paul had a mysterious affliction that caused him great discomfort. He called it a thorn in his flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7). And although it made him miserable, the Lord allowed the torment to continue. He didn't remove it, even though Paul begged Him for relief.

Eventually, Paul surrendered to the Lord's will and relied on God's strength to endure. He knew that God had a purpose in the thorn. In fact, he said it kept him from becoming prideful about who he was in Christ.

I was in prison for over three decades. It was a thorn that I thought would never be removed. I prayed for God to free me from captivity, and I promised Him that, if He set me free, I would live out my life doing His will.

God had a reason for letting me stay locked up. I had much to learn about my need for Christ and what it means to follow Him. Today I can say that living with the grace of God through my trials and weaknesses is much greater than being delivered from them.

In prison, I learned to lean on God for supernatural strength. He never failed to help me endure the hardships and difficulties of prison life.

It wasn't easy, but I turned my focus from having my prayers answered to seeking ways to do God's will and be effective behind prison fences. I started using my talent for writing and my gift of encouragement to help others learn about the Lord.

Embracing my situation as an opportu-



nity to serve helped me take my mind off myself and my problems. It gave me purpose.

For 31 years, I continually reminded myself, “When I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10 NIV). Like Paul, I chose to boast about my weaknesses and how God’s strength helped me overcome.

The Lord used my thorn to mold me into the man I am today and to lead others to Him. My time in prison developed my character and deepened my worship. I had to humble myself before the Lord and admit my sins and weaknesses, but when I did, His strength was magnified (2 Corinthians 12:9).

I knew it was unlikely that I would ever be a free man, but through Christ, I found contentment being in prison. Today, I appreciate my freedom more because of the thorn I suffered for so long.

Maybe there are painful thorns in your life too, and you’ve been begging God to take them away. Maybe you don’t understand why He hasn’t removed them from you yet. Please don’t lose hope.

Continue to seek God’s will with your whole heart. Trust His presence to comfort you through this season of suffering.

The Lord never wastes a thorn. Just like He did for me, He will use every thorny experience to reveal His love, faithfulness, and power and to prepare you for what’s ahead.

Ask God to give you an attitude of thankfulness and a teachable spirit that will help you endure despite your trials. Your praise will bring God’s presence and power into your situation and strengthen you. And it will be a testimony to an onlooking world of the goodness of God.



## 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.”

# 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.

## Transfer Securities

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

## Leave Your Legacy

Consider leaving Breakthrough a gift in your will to ensure that our ministry can continue calling, equipping, and encouraging people in the work of faithful intercession.

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

# MEMORIALS

*Lisa Hummel in a thanks offering for*

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ANNE CHILDS HUMMEL

---

*Delouis Pace in memory of*

---

CHARLIE AND WILLIE MAE LIVINGSTON

JANICE ERICKSON

JEWELL GLOVER

ROGERS PACE

SANDRA "SANDY" LESOURD YOUNG

---

*Mary Louise Borello in memory of*

---

CHERIE AND BOB

---

*"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."*

*-John 14:1-3 ESV*

A photograph of a pumpkin patch at sunset. The pumpkins are in the foreground, some in focus and some blurred. The background shows a field of pumpkins stretching towards a line of trees under a warm, golden sky. The text "Math Assignment" is overlaid in the center in a large, orange, outlined font.

# Math Assignment

BY JEFF FERRIS

Two weeks were all that was needed to produce a lifesaving moment. That moment came in the mid-1990s, after I met a business acquaintance, who I'll call Jim. For privacy, I'll say his wife was Erin. Following those two weeks that my wife Ginny and I knew this couple and did business with Jim, Erin became gravely ill with complications from a routine surgery.

Jim explained Erin's condition to me. It was bad. While I was at work the next day, Ginny went to the hospital to pray for the young mother. Ginny found Erin comatose, and Jim was nowhere in sight. His absence seemed peculiar, given Erin's severe condition. Oh well. Ginny prayed and left after a little time of sitting with the unresponsive woman. Still no sign of Jim. Later that evening I called Jim, and he shared an unusual story.

Earlier that afternoon, Jim was in a private meeting with doctors as they discussed Erin's dim prognosis. Her vitals had faded, and her condition was critical. When the meeting ended Jim rushed back to his wife's side, but something strange had happened; Erin's vitals had returned to normal.

I asked what time the meeting was, and it happened to coincide with when Ginny was praying for Erin. Jim had no idea Ginny had been there because of his meeting with the doctors. As for Erin recovering at the time of that meeting and the time of Ginny's prayer... Well, you do the math.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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.



# Mama's Angelic Visitor

BY HELEN S. MOORADKANIAN

Halfway through that summer, we knew. Mama was slipping fast: despite healing prayers and the miraculous ways she had rallied before. Then one afternoon in late October, the ambulance siren shattered the silence. They were coming for Mama for the last time. The cancer exploding in her bone marrow, multiple myeloma had launched its final attack.

God spared Mama's life many times. As a young girl, she nearly died of typhoid fever. At the fever's crisis, three angels appeared to her in a glorious vision, saying, "Your time has not yet come. You still have work to do." More recently, a tumor on her pancreas miraculously disappeared baffling the surgeon. We knew Jesus had healed Mama in answer to prayers.

This time, however, Mama would not be returning home to us. We knew. Mama knew. From October to November we kept a daily vigil by her hospital bed. Then, early one morning, after arriving a little later than usual, an uneasy hush greeted me as I hurried down the empty corridor.

Panicking, I began running to Mama's room. The door was closed tight. Breathless, I rapped on the door. "You can't go in there!" snapped a young nurse as she rushed out. The door swung shut with dreadful finality.

Within moments, she returned with the charge nurse and two other nurses carrying staks of folded linen. From behind the closed door I heard muffled voices rising in alarm.

Finally one nurse emerged, laden down with a bundle of soiled linen. As the heavy door began to swing shut behind her, I heard the dreaded words, "The hemorrhaging has begun."

*No!* I cried silently. *No! No! No!*

Crumpled against the wall, I could only whisper, "*Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! Help me! Help Mama!*"

By now the corridor was bustling with nurses. Yet, above the clatter, I heard a different sound—slow, unhurried footsteps. Jesus was answering me! Then I saw her, a young woman wearing the once traditional nurse's white

uniform and starched cap. She was walking deliberately towards me, her gaze was fixed on me. Peace radiated from her, wrapping around me.

“What’s the matter?” Her soft voice had a touch of a brogue. “Are you all right? Can I help you?” My words tumbled out, incoherent.

She gazed at me lovingly. “That’s all right. I’m the nurse here now. I’ve come to give your mother a sponge bath. Won’t you come in with me?” Her voice was gentle, melodious. When I hesitated, she replied, “*I’m* inviting you in. If *I* ask you to come in, *they* can’t prevent you.” She paused. “I report to a Higher Authority.”

“You may choose to come in, or not. The decision is yours.” She waited. “You would not want to miss out on a blessing, would you?” With that, she held open the door, smiling. Unable to resist, I stepped in.

Inside, bright sunshine flooded the room where all was serene. While she worked, the nurse kept her eyes fixed on me. When I asked her name and where she was from, she smiled and finally said, “You may call me Mary.”

“Look at your mother. Isn’t she beautiful!” Mary gently turned my attention to what I feared the most: the blood-stained sheets; yet they were pristine white. She continued to study me as she bathed my mother. After a few moments, she said softly, “God loves you.” When I didn’t answer, she repeated, “God loves you.”

“I know, I know,” I mumbled. *God loves everybody*, I thought. *That’s not what I want to hear right now.*

A shadow passed over Mary’s eyes. “God loves you! You know He loves you, don’t you?” she repeated.

I felt conscience-stricken. God had shown His love to me over and over.

“Will you come back again tomorrow?” I asked.

Mary looked pensive, as if listening for instructions. “No, I don’t think so,” she replied at last. “I’m here on assignment and go wherever I’m sent. Tomorrow I will be needed in surgery. After that, I never know from day to day where I will be.”

Later that day I asked the charge nurse about Mary. “We have no one here by that name. We never have,” she shrugged. “That happens all the time. A nurse appears out of the blue for a day or two and then disappears.”

That day my mother stopped hemorrhaging.

The next time Mary appeared, both my brother and I saw her. It was while our family physician was gently explaining the care Mama required.

*Not a nursing home! I can’t bear it, Lord.* I collapsed in a chair and covered my face. When I looked up, Mary had slipped quietly into the room and was standing by my mother’s bedside, watching me with concern. I silently pleaded with her: *Do something!*

Mary came toward me and peace began to flow through me. When I opened my eyes, she had vanished. But my strength was restored.

One week later, Mama went home. It was a peaceful home-going. Family and friends from church crowded around her bed. We sang old, beloved hymns, and at Mama’s favorite—“*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’*

*blood and righteousness*—she stirred, her lips parted, trying to join us.

“As I was praying for your mother that night,” one friend told me, “I saw her room filled with angels.” Another saw “a procession of angels escorting her to heaven.”

Although I never saw this band of angels, I did sense their sweet presence filling Mama’s room that night with peace and joy. That peace and joy carried me through the months that followed and have remained with me to this day, more than a decade later.

As I walked through the valley of death, Jesus comforted me. He opened the Door of Hope and caused my heart to sing. Jesus is here, with us, now—from this world to the next.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Helen Mooradkian writes for church leaders through publications and collaboration on books. A Fuller Seminary graduate and professional writer, she won an AMY Award for journalism. She is also active in the healing prayer ministry.





# Prayer Strategies

BY MIKE MINTER

The subject of prayer should always engage the heart of any true believer. How could it not? We are told to “pray continually” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We are told, “You do not have because you do not ask God” (James 4:2b). We read about the prayers of Jesus, and yet with all the revelation regarding prayer it will forever be the weak link of Christian discipline.

I have often, as a pastor, told our people that I can meditate for long periods of time as I walk or drive. I can study Scripture for long periods of time and grapple with deep theological issues, but when it comes to prayer a raging war breaks out on all sides. My mind wanders. If you are like me, your prayers often go something like this:

*“Heavenly Father, I come to you today in humble obedience to seek and do Your will. Speaking of “will,” I wonder how my brother-in-law Will is doing? I think he starts his new job today. I really wish I had a new job. Maybe I could make a little more money and take that cruise to Alaska. I bet it is really cold up there at this time of year. I wonder if there is any truth to this global warming issue, or is this just politics? Speaking of politics, I wonder who will run in this next election....”*

Admit it. This has happened to you many times as it has happened to me. How is it that we can focus so clearly on almost any subject, but when we come face to face with God in active dialogue the lines of communication are jammed? Do our minds wander, or are they enticed by resisting forces that wish to take our thoughts in another direction? Could those resisting forces fear what might be accomplished in prayer? Do they create such an onslaught of distractions that we’re not even aware of the battle? Do we mistakenly attribute our lack of concentration to preoccupation with other issues?

Scripture gives us revelation on this subject. In Matthew 26:40-41, Jesus asked his disciples why they couldn’t have at least prayed for an hour just prior to his crucifixion. They had fallen asleep. How could that be? This was a crucial time in the history of the world and those closest to the Son of God

were asleep. That's not just distraction—that's total disconnection. What is more disheartening is that when Jesus left them once more and went off to pray, he found them sleeping again upon his return (Matthew 26:42-43). This is nothing short of warfare. Something is going on here that is beyond the natural.

We don't think about laboring or wrestling in meditation or study. Such terms are reserved for prayer. In Colossians 4:12, we read of Epaphras laboring in prayer. In Romans 15:30, Paul beseeches believers to strive with him in prayer. The word "strive" carries with it the thought of wrestling or agonizing. Paul sees prayer as warfare. Where there is war there is an enemy. So if you have ever suspected that prayer is your weakest discipline and wondered why, this may be a helpful insight as to what is going on behind the scenes.

So let's see if we can strategize a bit if we are to do battle in prayer. We must first of all see this as a time when we engage two powers. We proactively engage with the sovereign God of the universe, and God's enemy, Satan, proactively engages in distracting us. Keep in mind that we are encountering what Paul talks about in Ephesians 6:12—we are engaging principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places.

What can we do to defeat the enemy on the battlefield of prayer? I have a few suggestions:

- Pray out loud. If the setting permits, praying out loud is often beneficial because it helps you stay focused.
- Pray back the Scriptures to God. The Psalms are a wonderful place to start. All of them may not apply, but many of them will. In Daniel 9, Daniel is reading the words of Jeremiah the prophet and is prompted to pray. Though he didn't specifically pray back the words of Scripture, he did pray for his people in context of what Jeremiah had prophesied. Scripture will make your heart attentive as to what to pray for.
- Pray for other believers' minds to be open to the depth of revelation. If you study the prayers of Paul in Ephesians and Colossians, you can't help but note the passion he had for the believers to really know God in all His greatness. This is real prayer.
- Pray for the advancement of the kingdom. Paul, when writing to those at Ephesus, requested prayer for boldness in preaching the gospel. To the Romans, he asked them to pray for his preaching and his service. First and foremost on his mind was to see Christ exalted and the kingdom advanced.

You may note that in many prayer gatherings the issue of people's health is usually the major topic. I don't wish to downplay this, but there is so much more. One night when I was leading a prayer meeting I asked those present to pray for something other than health or job-related issues. The request was followed by silence. The people were so conditioned to praying for their material needs, which is not wrong, but they had forgotten the urgency of focusing on making Christ known. Again, this is another type of distraction

that the enemy often likes to use.

Prayer is war. See it as war. Strategize as if it were war and leave the results to God.

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### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mike Minter founded Reston Bible Church in Virginia, preaching there for 45 years. He and his wife, Kay, have four grown children: Kelly, Megan, Katie and David.





# We Step into the Chapel

BY LISA MILLER

We step into the chapel  
Adorned with shining gold  
And kneel down just as always,  
We need not to be told.

Recite the words we've memorized  
With feeling? Maybe not.  
For do we really strive  
To give the most of what we've got?

To Mass we go each Sunday,  
To show our God respect,  
So when we die we'll be  
Among the few He will select.

We follow all He wants us to  
And everything He's preached,  
But is our God so high up  
That He simply can't be reached?

There are times when we're alone,  
Or that is how it seems.  
No one with whom to share our thoughts,  
Our hopes and fondest dreams.

Oh, but do not frown, my friend;  
Just listen and be still,  
For amidst you a companion stands  
Who loves as no one will.

Speak to the Lord, knowing  
He's a friend whom you can trust.  
Believe me, it's a joy to speak—  
I guarantee you must!

We stroll into confession,  
Confused and growing bored.  
So why not simply just proclaim,  
"I'm truly sorry, Lord."

Your room can be your chapel,  
Your heart can be your guide.  
No need to fall down on your knees  
Or run away and hide.

No, we are not less holy,  
A truth until the end.  
Oh yes, the Lord is wonderful,  
But still our closest friend.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Lisa Marie Miller is a writer and college professor who lives in New York City. Several of her academic projects have touched upon explorations of women in both literature and film, including an essay on female protagonists and religion published in *Proceedings of the Conference on Christianity and Literature*. She has also served as a religious education instructor for children.

# 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.



Send to...

Email: [editor@intercessors.org](mailto:editor@intercessors.org)  
Mail: Breakthrough Editor  
P.O. Box 121, Lincoln, VA  
20160

# Jacob's Well

BY PETER CALIGIURI

*"Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour."*

*John 4:6 ESV*

While everyone is working on  
Important things to do  
God is not too busy  
For listening to you

And in spite of all you've done  
Or what you're going through  
Jesus is waiting by the well  
And He wants to talk to you

Alone by the well of Jacob  
Jesus rests in that secret place  
And He's offering His Living Water  
When we meet Him face to face



## 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.



# The Lord Bless You

By Chelle Nance

The beautiful Aaronic blessing—or priestly blessing, as it's also called—from the book of Numbers is a treasure in my life. My parents prayed the passage over me, and it was engraved on their 21st birthday gift to me.

This poem is for my sons. I scribe it over their lives, and I pray the blessing over their hearts just as my mum and dad prayed it over me. It is a wonderful blessing from God to give and to receive.

*The Lord bless you.  
May you walk in His ways  
And seek to follow Him.*

*The Lord keep you  
In His hedge of protection.  
You are safe and secure in Him.*

*The Lord make His face shine upon you  
With love and favour from Him.*

*The Lord be gracious to you, His dear child.  
You are chosen and loved by Him.*

*The Lord turn His face tenderly toward you,  
And your gaze be fixed on Him.*

*The Lord give you peace beyond comprehension—  
May you stand firm together with Him.*



Peace from God is a promise to all who know and trust Him. It's not dependent on our circumstances or how good we are and has nothing to do with us deserving it.

We lost our youngest son in a shopping centre when he was little. In the moment of realization that he wasn't with his dad and his dad realised he wasn't with me, I was terrified. We were right near automatic doors that lead out to the carpark...I stopped before any more scenarios could enter my mind. I prayed, placing him in God's care: "You know where he is, Father. Take care of him, and please help me find him."

I felt God's peace in my heart, but I couldn't find him.

I headed for an information desk, arriving at the same moment as another woman. We both spoke at once.

"I've lost my son."

"I've found a little boy."

As I picked him up, I burst into tears. I'd still been terrified as I searched, but God's peace was upon me, allowing me to think rationally and head to the information desk in His perfect timing.

"And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours]" (Philippians 4:7 AMP).

Moses' brother Aaron, Israel's priest, was given this blessing from God to declare over the people of Israel. May the Lord bless you! May you declare this blessing over your life and the lives of those you love.

"The Lord bless you, and keep you [protect you, sustain you, and guard you]; The Lord make His face shine upon you [with favor], And be gracious to you [surrounding you with lovingkindness]; The Lord lift up His countenance (face) upon you [with divine approval], And give you peace [a tranquil heart and life]" (Numbers 6:24-26 AMP).



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chelle lives in Sydney, Australia, with her husband of 27 years and two sons. She's an intercessor with a passion to see others drawing closer to God and deeper into His Word. She loves walking alongside and supporting those who are struggling and encouraging people through her writing and poetry.



# Around the Dinner Table

BY CATHERINE MARSHALL

After much experimentation, Len and I have settled on the evening meal as the ideal time and place for growing as a family. Mornings are too pressured, evenings too filled with school work, meetings, phone calls.

Being at the dinner table each night of the week is a command performance for Len and myself, Linda, Chester, and Jeff. No TV dinners in front of the tube. No dinners for our children at friends' houses except on weekends. A major effort by Len and me to keep our professional activities from interfering with this time.

The meal begins with grace, and the children do most of the praying, learning to overcome shyness until they can talk to God easily. Soon I hope we'll learn to say grace just as naturally when we eat as a family in restaurants.

Len and I try not to dominate the ensuing conversation, but draw out each child. "What did you learn today in school, Chester?...Which teacher do you like the most, Linda?...Who is your best friend, Jeff?"

Criticism in this setting, we learned, quenches fragile spirits; it's better saved for one-on-one encounters. After dinner there's a reading from Scripture and family prayer around the table. One of our main objectives is to show Jesus as so engaging a Person that we would all enjoy it if He joined us at the table.

"Jesus had a sense of humor," I mentioned once.

This seemed to surprise the children so the next night I came to the table armed with examples from Scripture. About the hypocrisy of the Pharisees He said, "You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel" (Matthew 23:24 RSV).

This is the humor of exaggeration, I explained, pointing out that Jesus' humor was always for a purpose. Sometimes it was His bridge to an individual He would otherwise have had trouble reaching. Most often it was to illuminate a truth.

There was the occasion when Christ joshed His disciples about spiritual timidity: "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a bushel, or under a bed?" (Mark 4:21 RSV). The point He was making: "I need disciples who don't hide their light."

When the apostles became too impressed with the crowds Jesus was drawing, knowing full well that crowds gather for many reasons, Jesus commented dryly, "Wherever the carcass lies, there will the vultures gather" (Matthew 24:28 MOFFATT).

Once we reread the Gospels, watching for Christ's wit, we find it everywhere. "Can one blind man be guide to another blind man? Surely they will both fall into the ditch" (Luke 6:39 PHILLIPS). Or the comment made about the rich man who valued his possessions too much. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:25 NEB).

To awaken people at every level of their being, Jesus used every weapon of language and communication to achieve His goals; most effective were the humorous thrust and banter about those who put on airs and think more highly of themselves than they should. Jesus sees all our incongruities and absurdities, and He laughs along with us.

As the result of these dinner table discussions, we're all finding that our spontaneity and fervor in worshiping Him increase. Our goal with the children: to help them see in Christ an incredible Man with that rare blend found nowhere else—purity, strength, compassion, and sparkling humor.

# ANSWERS TO PRAYER

After much exercising, my back has improved.

-Elizabeth

My great-grandson, who was born five weeks premature, is doing great! He and his mom are home with the family!

-Marlys

We prayed for mortgage relief from housing assistance funds, and it has been approved.

All our health results from labs and scans were good, for my husband and myself. We have been able to budget and pay our out-of-pocket medical expenses. We're grateful.

-Mattie

My husband's left eye surgery was successful. His vision has been saved, and he's adjusting to new glasses. Thank you for all your prayers!

-Julie

God has performed some healing miracles by dissolving one mass in some of her lymph nodes, and she's now able to have surgery for the other mass and lymph nodes. Praise the Lord!

-Patricia

My sister-in-law is healed from cancer.

-Sybil

The Lord has provided finances, jobs, and patience to be a caregiver to my son.  
-Gloria

The melanoma was removed from Charlie's neck with clear margins. It was graded 1A, which is a very good rating. His wife, a Christian, says this is clearly a miracle.  
-Andrea

Thank you so much for your intercession for our friend. He has since regained his strength, weight, and muscle. Our heartfelt thanks to all the precious Intercessors—I hold you all in prayer daily.  
-Mary

I led my high school English teacher to Jesus! I talked to him for about an hour, and he came to Jesus! All glory belongs to God!  
-Trasy

The Lord kept me safe after a TIA in July. He also protected our 21-year-old granddaughter in a serious car accident.  
-Helene

Years back, your intercessors labored for my dad's salvation. He was already 95 or 96 and still refusing Christ. My mother began praying for his salvation in 1941. After her passing in 2003, God told me I had to finish the work. I asked Breakthrough for help. In December 2012, at 96 years, Dad prayed earnestly to receive Christ. Intercessors made the difference.  
-Tia

This joy has never happened in our 35 years of marriage. It would appear that God is at work!

-Grant

I was originally going to ask for prayer to stop smoking, but I didn't feel it was even tangible for me. I had been smoking for 50 years. Well, a miracle happened on the day that you started praying for me. On the 15th, I stopped smoking, and I put on a patch. On Saturday, God told me to take the patch off, and now I don't have any more cravings for nicotine.

-Raina Anne

We received a call from our condo manager this morning letting us know that we have rental renewal options! We do not need to move!

-Joyce

Mike has found affordable housing!

-Sally

I praise God for your faithful, patient support of me over the years. I have come back from depression, and my time in aged care has been helpful.

-Margaret

My wife Kathy is an answer to prayer, as I had for a number of months prayed for a Christian wife after becoming a widower at 73. I thank God and all of you!

-Charlie

I had a successful surgery in March!

-Robin

When I went to the emergency room, I had a heart procedure. My main artery was 95-99% blocked. The operation saved my life. I also found out that my pancreas and liver were totally messed up, and I had diabetes. Since then, my pancreas has healed, my liver is getting better, and I'm doing positive things to heal.

-Richard

I'm happy to report that surgery on Brooks' liver was a complete success followed by chemo. He's doing really well—working full-time and riding his mountain bike to stay fit for the next surgery to remove a tumor from his colon. He is doing as well as he could be given the circumstances.

-Marie

I emailed for prayer because I was suffering from an unknown medical condition that was expected to be chronic if not cancerous. This medical scare stopped my husband and I from beginning the fertility treatment we meant to start. Now, I have been HEALED of that illness entirely, and I am now four weeks pregnant with my miracle baby!

-Lauren

Not long after you started praying for my mom, her voice sounded so much better!! Thank you Jesus.

-Donnie

The Father sent a large sum of money to meet our needs and help us advance.

-Teri

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