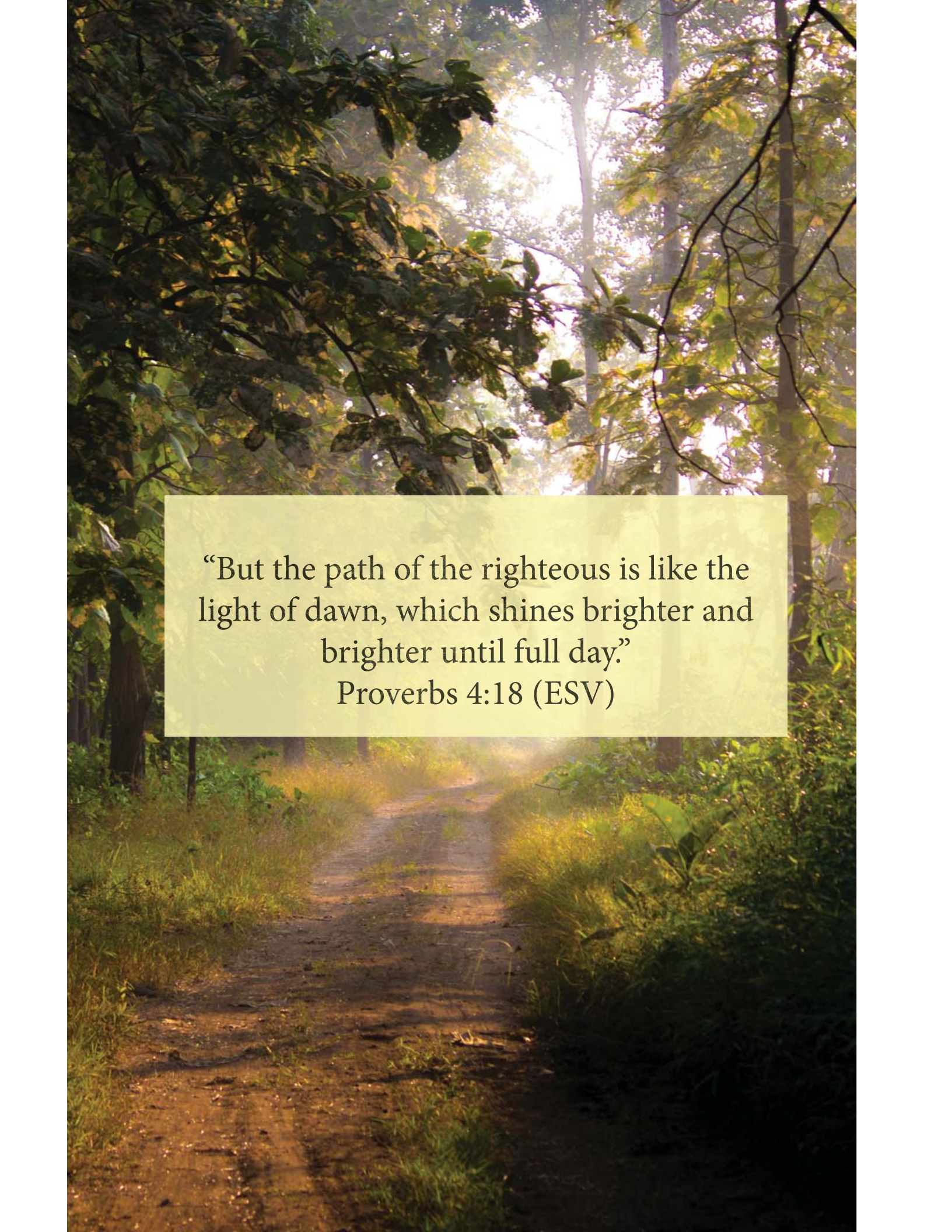


The Breakthrough
Intercessor

Summer 2024

The Path to God's Kingdom

The Magazine About Prayer

A dirt path winds through a sun-dappled forest. The path is flanked by tall grasses and dense green foliage. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. The trees are tall and thin, with their branches reaching towards the sky. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

“But the path of the righteous is like the
light of dawn, which shines brighter and
brighter until full day.”

Proverbs 4:18 (ESV)

The Breakthrough
INTERCESSOR

SUMMER 2024
Vol. 45, Issue 2

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Production

Managing Editor Claudette Ammons
Acting Editor Eva Cooley
& Designer
Editorial Committee Jami Dittmeier
Elizabeth Smith
Anna Lorrig

Contact

Office Address P.O. Box 121
Lincoln, VA 20160
Phone (540) 338-5522
Prayer Fax Line (540) 338-1934
Email breakthrough@
intercessors.org

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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



God's Promise for Our Needs

If we were asked what is the one thing that is necessary for life/living, what would it be? It's a tricky question as we physically need two things—bread and water. You recall when the children of Israel left Egypt bound for the promised land, God was faithful to provide the essentials for their life — manna and water. He provided it six days a week, with a double portion on the sixth day so they would rest on the seventh day. Sure, they got tired of the same thing, and God accommodated them with quail.

Jesus was not asked directly what was necessary for life, but He volunteered it. In Luke 10:38-42, Jesus told us the one thing that is necessary for life. It comes out of His visit to the home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. While Martha prepared the meal for Jesus, Mary set herself down at the feet of Jesus. Martha asked the Lord to tell Mary to help fix the food, with apparent indignation. Jesus' response was shocking. "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary, and Mary has chosen the good portion which cannot be taken away from her." What was it Mary had? Time spent with Jesus.

Toward the end of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He addresses our life here on earth which is filled with fear and feelings of inadequacy. He was giving comfort to those who have made the decision to have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus was explaining how much God loves us which results in His caring for us beyond just saving us so we can go to heaven. God takes care of us while we are here on earth. Jesus used an interesting way of showing God's desire to care for us. He makes a direct statement to us to get our attention; stop worrying! He uses as an example of need for food, shelter, and clothing.

To give us comfort, He says that if God takes care of the birds of the air who can't take care of themselves (nor do they have a soul that will live for eternity), how much more will He care for us? He further uses the comparison of the grass and the flowers. They cannot take care of themselves and last only a brief time, yet He causes them to grow and beautify the earth. Because of His love for us, how much more will He do for us?

His message is that He will provide for us no matter what situation we find ourselves in. No matter how we feel or how dark the future looks, He has it under control and will intervene in our lives and on our behalf.

Through prayer and intimacy with Jesus, we unleash the power of God to meet all of our needs and more. Mary had the privilege of being able to spend time in the presence of Jesus. Through prayer and supplication, we have the privilege also of spending time with Him. We can share our deepest needs, desires, and fears. Jesus said in Matthew 7:7 (KJV), “Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” What an encouragement to know that whatever time of day or night, no matter where we are, we have the right to approach the God of the universe. His door is always open. At times, we may only want to praise God, but He is always there to hear and provide for us in our deepest need.

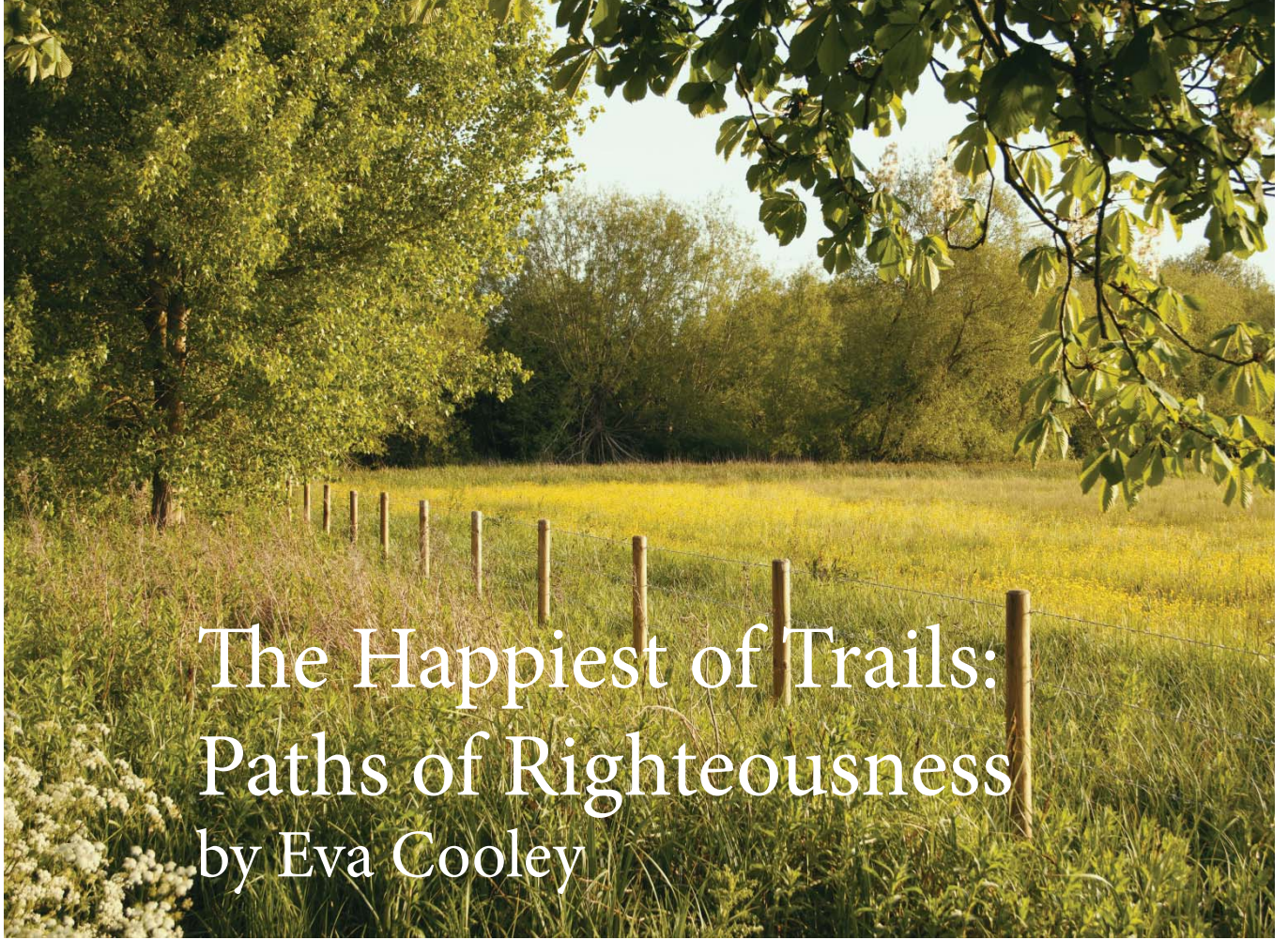
What a privilege Breakthrough prayer warriors have to approach God and to intercede for the needs of others knowing He hears and answers those prayers. Breakthrough’s mission is to make answered prayer possible in the lives of thousands each year. If you choose for us to intercede with God on your behalf, we consider it a privilege. We will talk to God on your behalf knowing that God loves you just as He loved Mary. He will move on your behalf because He wants to and has promised to do so.

May God’s love and promise bring comfort knowing that He has promised to take care of us in every situation of our lives.

Philippians 4:19, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”



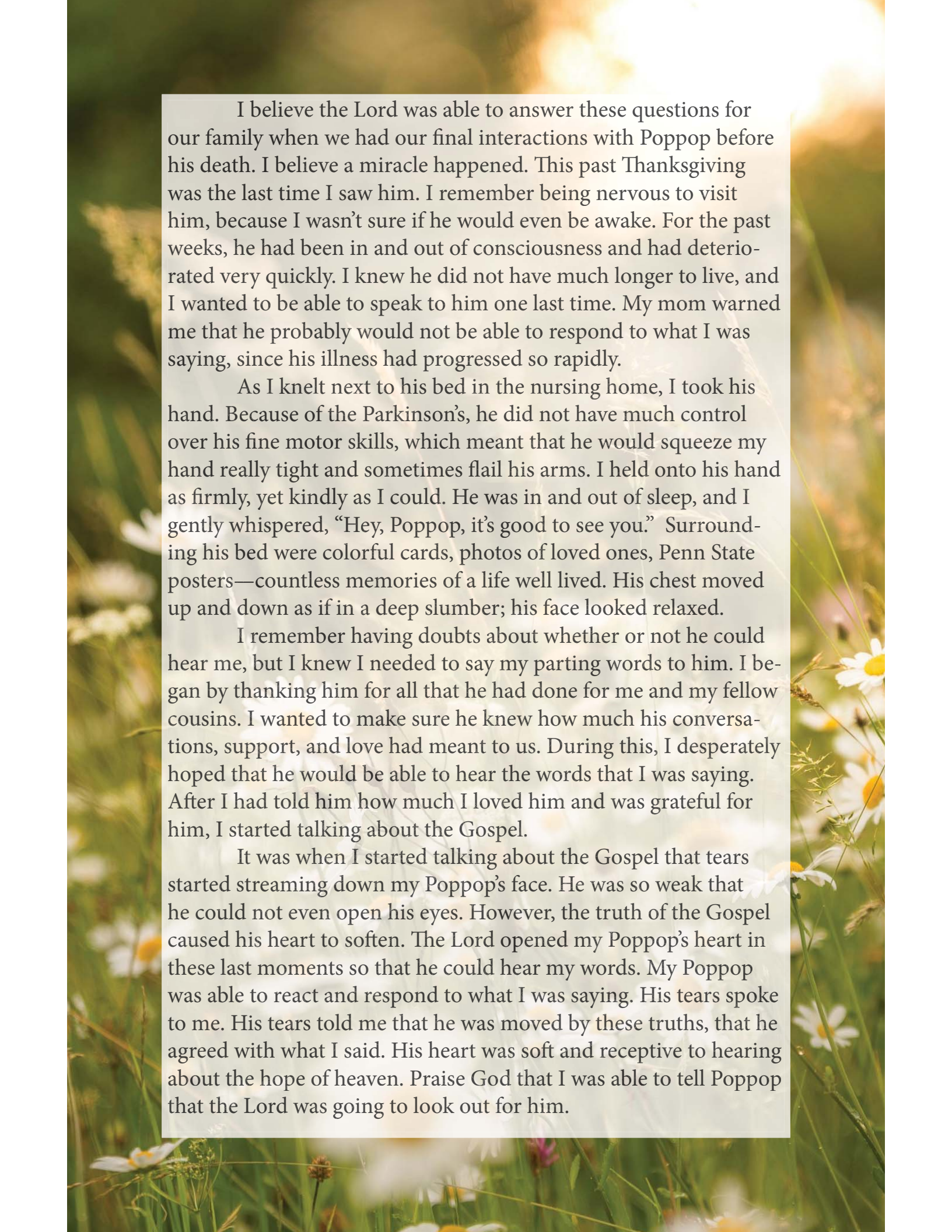
J. Michael Smith, Esq
Chairman of the Board



The Happiest of Trails: Paths of Righteousness

by Eva Cooley

“The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.” Psalm 23 was my grandfather’s favorite passage in Scripture. At the end of his life, death came like an old friend, inviting him to go on a long walk on a wooded, springtime trail. Death came slowly and gradually, encouraging my grandfather to leave the stress of earth. My grandfather (we called him Poppop) suffered from Parkinson’s Disease for years, which inhibited his walking, his movements, and eventually his talking. It was a hard experience to see Poppop stop being able to do the things he loved such as playing golf, going out to eat with friends, and supporting his grandkids by visiting their sports games and concerts. The most heartbreaking was that Parkinson’s restricted my Poppop from having good conversations with his loved ones and being able to communicate clearly. The biggest delight in his life was asking people good questions about their lives. As I watched my Poppop get more and more restricted, my heart begged the questions, “Why is Poppop restricted from doing these things that he loves? How can it be that Poppop cannot delight in life the way he used to? It doesn’t seem very fair.”



I believe the Lord was able to answer these questions for our family when we had our final interactions with Poppop before his death. I believe a miracle happened. This past Thanksgiving was the last time I saw him. I remember being nervous to visit him, because I wasn't sure if he would even be awake. For the past weeks, he had been in and out of consciousness and had deteriorated very quickly. I knew he did not have much longer to live, and I wanted to be able to speak to him one last time. My mom warned me that he probably would not be able to respond to what I was saying, since his illness had progressed so rapidly.

As I knelt next to his bed in the nursing home, I took his hand. Because of the Parkinson's, he did not have much control over his fine motor skills, which meant that he would squeeze my hand really tight and sometimes flail his arms. I held onto his hand as firmly, yet kindly as I could. He was in and out of sleep, and I gently whispered, "Hey, Poppop, it's good to see you." Surrounding his bed were colorful cards, photos of loved ones, Penn State posters—countless memories of a life well lived. His chest moved up and down as if in a deep slumber; his face looked relaxed.

I remember having doubts about whether or not he could hear me, but I knew I needed to say my parting words to him. I began by thanking him for all that he had done for me and my fellow cousins. I wanted to make sure he knew how much his conversations, support, and love had meant to us. During this, I desperately hoped that he would be able to hear the words that I was saying. After I had told him how much I loved him and was grateful for him, I started talking about the Gospel.

It was when I started talking about the Gospel that tears started streaming down my Poppop's face. He was so weak that he could not even open his eyes. However, the truth of the Gospel caused his heart to soften. The Lord opened my Poppop's heart in these last moments so that he could hear my words. My Poppop was able to react and respond to what I was saying. His tears spoke to me. His tears told me that he was moved by these truths, that he agreed with what I said. His heart was soft and receptive to hearing about the hope of heaven. Praise God that I was able to tell Poppop that the Lord was going to look out for him.

I told him that the Lord is the Good Shepherd who looks out for His sheep and that my Poppop is one of those precious sheep. I reminded Poppop that he did not need to be afraid, because the Lord is with him and the Lord has power over death. These tears that my Poppop shed were a miracle. My Poppop should not have been able to respond to me, as he was in and out of a coma-like state. His brain was undergoing much strain from all his medication and from being so sick. However, the Lord allowed my Poppop to hear the truth of the Gospel and to be told how much his life had made a difference to our whole family. The Lord also opened his ears and heart for all of my mom's siblings to be able to speak to him one last time. With each conversation, my Poppop's eyes welled with tears and they slipped down his peaceful face.

After I shared my heart with him, I prayed over my Poppop. I do not even remember all that I said, but it was a prayer of both praise and sorrow. Praise for his love and encouragement that had poured out of him so effortlessly while he was on earth. Praise that he is a child of God and will soon be in glory with his Savior. Sorrow that our family would not be able to walk alongside Poppop in this life anymore.

The Lord answered my prayer of "Why?" through the tears of my grandfather. The golf trips, dinners out with friends, and family activities are not the things that made him a great man. It was the love of Christ that poured out of him so generously. That love is something that cannot be stripped from him, even in the face of sickness and death. Though my Poppop will no longer be able to walk with his loved ones on earth, he now has the opportunity to walk in the green pastures with his Savior in heaven.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Eva Cooley is a college student who loves the Lord, people, and literature. She enjoys reading, spending time outside, and having good conversations. As the current acting editor at Breakthrough, she has delighted in working for a ministry that values prayer so highly.



The Kneeling Heart

I bow my head, my heart my knee
To honor and to worship Thee
Be lifted up so all can see
Your beauty and Your majesty!

Your beauty – such a blinding light
Illuminating darkest night
One look at You restores my sight
And petty grievances take flight

Confidence that I am Yours
Leaves me wanting nothing more.
Contented...blissful...so secure...
Faithful God whom I adore.

I love You more than words allow
My head, my heart, my knees I bow
Undying love to You I vow
For all eternity and now.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Connie Williams is a wife and mother of three, currently residing in West Virginia. She has written for LIVE, The Gem, Purpose, Evangel, The Vision and other publications. She has authored a book entitled *Journeys*. She is an avid reader whose quest is to do what Wordsworth eloquently stated, “to fill your paper with the breathings of your heart.”

Learning to Rest

by Peter Caligiuri

Jesus teach me the lessons of resting in You
When I'm burdened with fears and care
Help me to trust grace will carry me through
While I'm quietly waiting in prayer

Grant me a heart that is gentle and kind
Not just endlessly doing my best
Always striving yet somehow unable to find
Your gift of sweet stillness and rest

Like a shepherd You lead us on just as You said
Through the twists and turns of life's way
Up to the ridges down the valleys ahead
To Your arms at the end of the day!

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls (Matthew 11:29, NKJV)."



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Life has a funny way of giving us unexpected adventures and detours. My wife, Nancy, and I have shared more than a few over the 50 years we have had together. We have two sons, six lively grandsons, and one very special granddaughter! I love to write about nursing home ministry, as well as devotional articles, poetry, and even a few songs.



A Faith That Trusts

Several years ago my family encountered a flash flood while hiking out of the Grand Canyon. As car-sized rocks plummeted end-over-end around us, amidst the thunderous roar, we held hands and prayed for rescue. Not long ago an aggressive malignant cancer diagnosis jolted our family, and I begged God for healing. Just recently a friend shared her heart-breaking infertility struggle with me, and I prayed with her for a miracle.

In each situation my faith was strong. I prayed intense prayers, with no doubt God was able to provide rescue, healing, and a miracle child. I lead our church's prayer ministry and know all the right prayer passages. James 5:16 (NIV) is one of my most quoted verses, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." Written testimonies in my colorful prayer journals are proof of God's faithfulness.

Even as I prayed, though, I had lingering doubts. What if the flood waters sweep us to our deaths at the bottom of the canyon? What if the next PET scan glows with areas of new cancer, and what if the antique cradle is never used? I knew God was able. I just didn't know if He would. I concluded that it is one thing to have faith in God, and quite another thing to trust Him.

Confronted with my lack of trust, I asked God to teach and strengthen me in that discipline. I remembered the account in Mark where Jesus' disciples tried unsuccessfully to cast an impure spirit out of a man's son. Jesus explained that everything is possible if you believe, and the father immediately replied in Mark 9:24 (NIV), "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

That became my prayer, as well, "Lord, help me overcome my unbelief."

Though I am still a work in progress, the Holy Spirit is teaching me. He used two verses in Psalms to help me better understand the role of trust in the Christian life, and how to apply it to prayer.



Psalm 112:7 (NIV) says, “They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.” When that familiar churning feeling begins in my stomach, I personalize this passage. I continue to tell God what I desire (James 4:2 NIV), but I also thank him for a steadfast heart that overcomes fear.

Psalm 143:8 (NIV) has also grown my trust, “Let the morning bring unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.” Speaking this prayer before bedtime settles my runaway emotions, shifting my focus to the One whose love is unfailing.

The words of Isaiah 26:3 (NIV), “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you,” led me to a better understanding of the relationship between faith and trust. Perfect peace, the lack of anxiety, comes when I pray in faith, trusting God, not myself, for the best outcome.

Finally, the Holy Spirit reminded me of the truth of Proverbs 3:5 (NIV), “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” When I add trust to faithful prayer, I relinquish my control of the situation to God. My peace no longer rests on the outcome, my peace is a result of faith in a perfect and loving God. I can rest assured that however God chooses to answer my prayer, I do not need to worry.

Often we use the terms faith and trust interchangeably. I have learned, when applied to my prayer life, they are different. I show faith when I believe God is who He says He is, and that He is able to do anything. I exhibit trust when I choose to believe that God not only can, but will do what He has promised. That understanding is producing within me a faith that trusts.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Barbara Gordon is a former school teacher and administrator who began freelance writing after retirement. In addition to writing, Barbara enjoys traveling and family time with her husband, three sons, three daughters-in-law, and seven grandchildren.



Mom's Prayer

by Roy Borges

When I first went to confinement at Union Correctional Institution (UCI), a prison inside a prison, the days were long and lonely. Just before I came to confinement, however, my mother had heart surgery and was on a dialysis machine for her kidneys. No one expected her to live. How she managed to survive all these years with diabetes and heart troubles is beyond my understanding. God had to be with her.

She was sent to a rehab center. Months went by and I didn't hear from her. I believed what everyone else must have thought—she was dead. My first week in confinement I prayed and asked God to let me see her again. The next thing I knew I received a letter from her.

“I'm feeling better,” she wrote, “and improving daily. I am off the dialysis machine and hospice is gone. I want to see you, and Jessie said she will bring me as soon as you are released from confinement.”

Joy filled my heart as I looked forward to seeing my mother. I knew God would answer my prayers. I thanked God every day and I learned to be thankful no matter where I was. I spent Thanksgiving Day in confinement with thankfulness on my lips. My attitude became more positive, loving, and meaningful.

Then the day I longed for became a reality. My sister Jessica brought Mom to see me on her 87th birthday. It was a day I will always remember.

I waited patiently in my dormitory for them to call me to the visiting park. Mom was sitting in her wheelchair. Her head turned toward me as I opened the door and her eyes met mine with a smile. She reached out her little arms and I embraced her tightly. She cried as I hugged her. I cried too.

“Don’t cry Mom,” I said.

We talked for hours, took pictures, and bought some food to eat. The time went by so fast and before I knew it, it was time for them to leave. The visiting park was closing.

“Can you say a prayer?” Jessie asked.

“Yes,” I said. “Dear Lord – Thank You for this day. Thank you for bringing my mother and sisters to see me.”

But then, Mom interrupted. “Heavenly Father,” she said, “My son has been gone for a very long time (over 30 years). Lord, please release him from this prison so he can come home to me. I need him. He has paid his debt to society, He has been good, and he has served You in prison. Now please, I pray, let him come home to be with me in my remaining days here.”

I waved to them as they left the prison pushing Mom. Every night I prayed and asked God to answer Mom’s prayer. I wrote an article titled “Mom’s Prayer,” which was published in “Live” in January 26, 2020. A pen pal read it and sent a copy to a judge in the county I was sentenced, and he answered my mother’s prayer. After serving 31 years, I was released on January 7, 2021. Today I am the president of a prison ministry in Florida.



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.”



God's Powerful Word
by Arlene Lila

When Satan comes to tempt you
at night or during the day,
the Holy Spirit within you
will give you words to say.

As Satan suggests a worry,
call out loud and clear:
“God has not given to us
the spirit of fear.”

If you can't forgive,
the verse you speak will be:
“When you stand praying, forgive”
obedient to God you'll be.

The precious words of God
will help both you and me.
Expressing God's well-chosen words
will make the enemy flee.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Arlene is a retired professional nurse who belongs to the Christian Writers Group in Fountain Hills, Arizona, where she lives. She enjoys writing articles, devotionals, and poems to encourage Christians in their faith. She also enjoys ministering to residents of a senior center where they have their chapel services. She loves hiking out in the desert.

Are you a writer?

The Intercessor welcomes submissions!

Guidelines:

1. Articles should be 500-1,000 words.
2. Poems should be at least 12 lines.
3. Topics must focus on prayer: an experience or teaching supported in Scripture.
4. 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?

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20160




Anxiety and an Answered Prayer

by Elkanah Zanatta

Constant mayhem is what I grew up with daily in my childhood. The heart palpitations, the sweaty palms, the never-ending heavy breathing was an ongoing war in my body day after day. I was frightened of the unexpected. I would look upon others with a quiet jealousy as they flourished in the idea of the unknown adventures that might await them. This continued throughout my life. I would spend days suffering with dizziness, unable to sleep or eat, and shaking with the idea there was a dreadful doom that may or may not appear at any moment.

When I married and had children, my anxiety grew worse. I did everything in my human power to assist myself. I attended church more and volunteered where I was needed. I listened only to Christian music, read the Bible, and even avoided television. However, nothing seemed to work.

Slowly, I felt myself falling apart. It started with fear and episodes of panic attacks. It eventually led to daily anxiety and paranoia. I had a psychotic breakdown, and was unable to function as a mother and wife.



One morning, I decided to take a walk and talk with God. There was a local nature trail nearby, and I decided if I went on a hike and tried to get my breathing under control, I could stop shaking. While walking along the trail, I cried. I cried a lot. I yelled with frustration about my devotion to Him. I yelled with anger how I didn't deserve to suffer the way I was suffering. I yelled that He should hold His side of the bargain. I ended my rant with a question, "Why won't you help me?"

After a moment, I sat on a bench that was along the trail, and immediately guilt grew up inside of me and I started to pray for forgiveness. After I finished praying, I brushed my hands against my eyes, and took a deep breath. I stood up and then continued my walk, but this time at a much slower pace.

"Do you know what your problem is?" I heard the Holy Spirit well up inside my heart.

"No," I whispered.

"Your problem is—YOU are trying YOUR best. You are not trying God's best."

I stopped in the middle of my walk and looked towards the heavens. I glanced at the creation around me, and I felt for the first time, my eyes were opened. I listened to the creatures hiding in the ground and amidst the trees. A stillness came about my body, and I immediately stopped shaking and I started listening.

I started thinking about the ways I tried to handle my anxiety. I avoided responsibilities for my actions. I blamed individuals. I blamed God. I isolated myself, and I simply had to have full control over every aspect of my home. I realized: I didn't have control over anything. As much as I was trying to direct my household, I was reminded that I couldn't even direct my own steps without God. In Jeremiah 10:23 (NIV) it says, "Lord, I know that people's lives are not their own; it is not for them to direct their steps."

"God I am going to let you direct my steps," I said out loud. Straight away I got on my knees in the middle of the path, and I prayed to God to help me with my fear and anxiety. I didn't pray it away like I typically did, but instead I asked Him for courage to endure my mental health challenges. I asked Him for His prescription. I was releasing control to Him.

As soon as I stood up, the Holy Spirit gave me direction. In Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NIV) it says, “But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

Since that walk, I have sought help with God’s help. I also have been following His prescription. I trust Him that my anxiety will disperse, and I won’t be filled with fear when I face trials. I have confidence in Him that when I face battles, I will be rooted in my faith, and that my suffering will work for His glory. And you know what? It has.

I have come to be more open about my anxiety, and I have made wonderful connections through the Christian and non-Christian communities. One of the scriptures I share comes from the book of Deuteronomy. In Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV) it says, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.”

I have shared my testimony in God’s Word and His Truth. Setting aside my anxiety and fear and replacing them with strength and courage, has not only helped my mental well-being, but I have also been able to share my faith and the love God has for all of His creation with amazing conviction.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Elkanah Zanatta is a former Youth Leader, Christian Prayer Counselor, and she is currently finishing her BA Degree in Divinity. She has an online commentary and is a regular contributor to a variety of Christian magazines, where she dives deep into her testimony, theology and the liberating truth of God’s love.

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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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A LEGACY WORTH REMEMBERING: THE LIFE OF TIBBY

BY CLAUDETTE AMMONS



As I read through some Guidepost magazines in 2023, I came across the beautiful memorial article for Elizabeth Sherrill written by Contributing Editor, Rick Hamlin. Elizabeth (we all called her Tibby) and her late husband, John, spent most of their working years as editors and writers for Guidepost magazine. During these years they also co-wrote books such as “The Cross and the Switchblade” with David Wilkerson and “The Hiding Place” with Corrie ten Boom. Tibby helped organize and lead Guidepost’s Writer’s Workshop which is still going strong today.

One other job Tibby was involved in over the years was editing most of Catherine Marshall’s books. She shared with us how they often disagreed with her edits. Many heated arguments followed, but somehow they formed a loving and long lasting friendship.

During this time, Catherine received a vision from God to begin an Intercessory Prayer Ministry. Many of you are familiar with Breakthrough, but for our new members: Catherine had so many prayer requests from those who were reading her books that she was completely overwhelmed. At the same time many were writing letters (this was before computers), asking her how they could be in ministry if they were not able to be active in their church community. With God’s leading, Catherine and her husband Lenoard Le Sourd began Breakthrough Intercessory Prayer Ministry.

Tibby and John were on the original Board of Directors of this ministry. We are grateful for these original founders of our ministry. They used their business skills, their money, and most importantly their prayers to help Breakthrough grow.

Over time these original board members were led to other ministries or to be with the Lord. Over the last 40 years the ministry has grown and new Board members have come and gone. I have been privileged to be a member of this group for over 20 years now and continue to feel blessed by this wonderful ministry.

Tibby and John continued for many years to be part of Breakthrough. Tibby led a Christian Writers Workshop that was very well attended. Some of those who attended are now writing articles for Breakthrough as well as other Christian magazines.

In 2002 Elizabeth Sherrill published her autobiography, "All The Way To Heaven: A Surprising Faith Journey." I have read this book countless times. It is her story, but it is also a wonderful teaching lesson. If you have not read it, I would encourage you to search out a copy and love it as much I have! Soon after the book became available, Tibby gifted Breakthrough with over 200 copies of her book to share with our Intercessors. She blessed us with such a generous gift.

Tibby, we miss you but we know you are now reunited with John and most importantly with Jesus.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For 47 years Claudette was the wife of a United Methodist Minister and busy raising a large family. Now at 80 she is still active in her church and the work of Breakthrough Board. Her interests include reading, spending time with family and friends, and playing with her cat.

Sherrill photo: Credit Shawn G. Henry



A Child's Thought of God

by English poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning

**They say that God lives very high;
But if you look above the pines
You cannot see our God; and why?**

**And if you dig down in the mines,
You never see Him in the gold,
Though from Him all that's glory shines.**

**God is so good, He wears a fold
Of heaven and earth across His face,
Like secrets kept, for love, untold.**

**But still I feel that His embrace
Slides down by thrills, through all things made,
Through sight and sound of every place;**

**As if my tender mother laid
On my shut lids her kisses' pressure,
Half waking me at night, and said,
"Who kissed you through the dark, dear
guesser?"**

To Lift the Burden of Worry

By Peter Marshall

Father, some of Thy children find life hard. It is for them we would ask Thy help now. Many of them are burdened with loads that they need not carry. Many of them clutch black burdens of anxiety and worry, when no child of Thine need be anxious. There are many who carry loads of fear when there is nothing to fear; many who make themselves miserable when they might be filled with Thy peace.

We ask Thee, O Lord, to teach us all how to live without strain. We have to confess to Thee that most of the things we have worried about have never happened.

Teach us the secret of living just one day at a time, knowing that each day brings with it so much joy that we cannot fully explore it, so many blessings that we cannot even count them—much less enter into them all.

So help us to be like children, content to live fully each hour as it comes. Then shall we escape the corroding care, the agonizing worry that destroys our peace of mind, renders us unfit for happiness, and dishonors Thee. Then shall we be filled with joy and that peace which no circumstance can take from us. We thank Thee for Thy ceaseless bounty, for that joy and that peace. Amen.

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

A photograph of a vast field of yellow and white flowers, likely daisies, stretching towards a horizon under a clear blue sky. The flowers are in the foreground and middle ground, creating a sense of depth. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

This is my love song to You

by Amy Walsh

Almighty God, Friend of my Heart
So Holy, yet so near
You smile when I rejoice
And share each tear
You're my shade by day
My light by night
My Lord of all.

You sent your child to this world
To be beaten, mocked, and scorned
To hunger, thirst, and mourn
To bear the agony of the cross
He was your love song to me

He was your love song to me
Poured out on Calvary
Your grace an infinite flow
Your love so boundless; I cannot know
I lift my voice as free
For its free that Your Precious Gift has made me.

This is my love song to You.

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Thank you, Heavenly Father,
for creating me as I am, dying for me,
hunting me down when I was so far astray, and
surrounding me with Your love. Thank You
for now chiseling away at my ugly parts with
Your Spirit's conviction, my daily trials, and
Your Word. I long for more wisdom and grace.

I long to bring You glory in this life. And, I
hope to one day stand before You and feel Your
approval, knowing that I mirrored my life with
Your Son. I know I can't reflect You when I
am so full of me, so I commit my will to You
once again. I hope that my heart will be tender
enough to Your tools of change that I won't
have to grow the hard way.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amy Walsh writes historical and contemporary romance, mysteries, speculative fiction, and women's fiction. She is a fifth-grade writing teacher in an urban public school. Amy and her husband, Patrick, have three children. Amy considers herself greatly blessed in the roles God has given her including being a lover of family and friends and Christ-follower.

ANSWERS TO PRAYER

We are witnessing salvation/deliverance from many requesting prayer, and we believe it is because of your faithfulness in praying for us as we pray for others.
-Bertha N.

My right eye surgery has gone well. I can see out of my right eye without my thick glasses for the first time since 1962.
-Roger W.

I received the gift of three weeks of prayer after a difficult surgery and recovery. Two more surgeries after that and then another to redo what was a partial failure. The timing was significant!
Thank you.
-Cynthia P.

Emma was totally healed and continues to delight in life.
Jesus Lives!
-Leila

I had asked for Christian friends for my grandson and the Lord moved suddenly—my grandson called me one day from school and asked if I could take him and his sister to their friend's youth group! His sister knows 10 kids that go to the group. She wasn't saved before, and now is!
-Cathy H.

I just want to praise God for the fact that Brian survived his aortic dissection a few years ago. The fact that he needs further heart surgery is a testament to this miracle.
-Stacey

I fell and really messed up my knee and the Lord has healed it 100%!
Praise the Lord!
-Janet E.

My daughter, Elisabeth,
and I are
communicating
much better.
-Lori T.

Another praise! You
prayed for the healing of
Rachel's two ankles and safe
delivery of her precious
baby. The last big boot was
removed 4 days before the
baby was born. Baby boy is
healthy and came safely into
the world!
-Anonymous

My middle son
found a Christian
woman and is happily
married to her (it was a
long wait but they seem
so happy together.)
-Shelley F.

Nick was delivered from
alcohol addiction.
-Randy Z.

Praises to our Lord Jesus for
rescuing Sean from the worst
of suffering. Sean had only
been at hospice clinic for 4
days— Hallelujah! Blessings
on Breakthrough.
-Kathy C.

Wanted to let you
know that Lee is a
walking miracle, had
his lung removed, had
2 (I think) open heart
surgeries, and he was
back in church yester-
day smiling and giving
a testimony!
-Anonymous

Presently, the Federal Government of Nigeria has
approved and started making payment for some of the
outstanding salaries that were withheld. In my own
situation, I received payment but with heavy and massive
deductions. Though, I still give God the praise for this
huge sigh of relief.
-Engr. Prof. O.

Thank you for prayers for my healing from my stroke. God has healed me and it is manifesting physically. Praise God for my healing. Thank you for praying for us.
-Iheanacho U.

Baby born healthy and successful hip surgery!
-Robin N.


I can't say how much I love the Breakthrough Intercessors—without you I may not be here. The breakthroughs have been so many that I have lost count. I am in a better place, and I wake up to see the beauty and the lakes everyday. Life is sweeter, calmer, and more peaceful. Thank you all!
-Teri C.

My daughter and I both have functional, reliable cars. My daughter and I are both working now.
-Jennie C.

20 years ago this January, prayer saved my life. Intercessors all over the world prayed. Doctors expected me to die. God heard the prayers of His people and my life was spared.
-Elizabeth D.

My third surgery for breast cancer went very well. It has been a long journey but God has gotten me through it all.
-Fran H.

I am overwhelmed by the talent and compassion of the students I teach. All of them produced beautiful paintings. They helped each other and enjoyed themselves. They were truly inspired by the Holy Spirit.
-Suzette W.



To all the Breakthrough intercessors who've
prayed over the years for my daughter's
healing from mental challenges due to early
childhood trauma: She's healed!!

-Terry H.

My recovery and financial
miracles have met the needs
for my wife and I. Also, I found
a church to help them grow in
prayer ministries.

-Darryl C.

My brother has COPD
and has been breathing
better for several months.

-Cathy M.

Brethren, for the past
28 years, we have been
praying for Esther's mar-
riage; today God has filled
our mouth with laughter,
our tongues with songs
of joy. It is said among
the nations, "The Lord
has done great things for
them" (Psalm 126:2).

-Ruth K.

Your prayers protected
my grandson Jeremiah from
a harmful medication that
he had been put on. Thank
you for those prayers.

-Heather D.

Direction and
provision from the Lord as
we moved.

-Karen M.

You have prayed for my daugh-
ter Valerie in the past regarding
her health issues—an ultimately
lethal disease. She is still living
and getting along fairly well
in life, though not completely
healed yet. Thank you!

-Jeanne L.

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