



**All intercession is prayer,
but not all prayer
is intercession.**

Dear Jewish Jewels Mishpochah,

Protected by Prayer by Cheri Fuller

The missionary rose and prepared to leave the campsite where he had spent the night en route to the city for medical supplies. He extinguished his small campfire, pulled on his canvas backpack, and hopped on his motorcycle to continue his ride through the African jungle. Every two weeks he made this two-day journey to collect money from a bank and purchase medicine and supplies for the small field hospital where he served. When he completed those errands, he hopped on his bike again for the two-day return trip.

When the missionary arrived in the city, he collected his money and medical supplies and was just about to leave for home when he saw two men fighting in the street. Since one of the men was seriously injured, the missionary stopped, treated him for his injuries, and shared the love of Christ with him. Then the missionary began his two-day trek home, stopping in the jungle again to camp overnight.

Two weeks later, as was his custom, the missionary again made the journey to the city. As he ran his various errands, a young man approached him—the same man the missionary had ministered to during his previous trip. "I knew you carried money and medicine with you," the man said, "so my friends and I followed you to your campsite in the jungle after you helped me in the street. We planned to kill you and take all the money and drugs. But just as we were about to move in and attack you, we saw twenty-six armed guards surround and protect you."

"You must be mistaken," said the missionary. "I was all alone when I spent the night in the jungle. There were no guards or anyone else with me."

"But sir, I wasn't the only one who saw the guards. My five companions saw them, too. We counted them! There were twenty-six bodyguards, too many for us to handle. Their presence stopped us from killing you."

Months later, the missionary related this story to the congregation gathered at his home church in Michigan. As he spoke, one of the men listening stood up and interrupted him to ask the exact day the incident in the jungle had occurred. When the missionary identified the specific month and day of the week, the man told him "the rest of the story."

"On the exact night of your incident in Africa, it was morning here in Michigan, and I was on the golf course. I was about to putt when I felt a strong urge to pray for you. The urge was so strong that I left the golf course and called some men of our church right here in this sanctuary to join me in praying for you. Would all you men who prayed with me that day stand up?"

The missionary wasn't concerned with who the men were; he was too busy counting them, one by one. Finally he reached the last one. There were twenty-six men—the exact number of "armed guards" the thwarted attacker had seen.

What would YOU have done?

Would any of us have left the golf course?? Would we have called a special impromptu prayer meeting?? This true story has always touched us deeply. It is convicting and inspiring at the same time, an excellent example of faith and the power of believing, sacrificial loving prayers on behalf of someone other than oneself. This type of prayer is called **intercession**. The Lord has shown us that this is the need of the hour, a need to be addressed **this month**. Personally, we fall short of God's perfect will in the area of intercession. Too busy. Too many "appointments." Too many distractions. Too little desire. And yet, lives hang in the balance, miracles are waiting to happen, and the kingdom of God is poised to advance mightily upon the earth as believers in Yeshua stand in the gap for others.

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one." (Ezekiel 22:30)

Intercession involves the idea of closing up or walling in a break or a breach. Picture the levees in New Orleans that were not adequately built up (the U.S. Army Core of Engineers had issued warnings months before about them). It was the equivalent of having "gaps" in the walls. The flood waters rushed in and with them, massive destruction and loss of life. It is interesting to note that the Hebrew word for levite (priest) is *levi*, pronounced exactly like levee. The high priest in the Torah was the one appointed by God to make intercession on behalf of the people. He carried on his breastplate the names of all the tribes of Israel. The needs of the Israelites were continually on the heart of the high priest. He stood as mediator between the people and their God. Once a year on Yom Kippur, he offered a sacrifice of blood on their behalf to **make them right with God**.

As New Covenant believers and part of a "royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9) we are also called to intercede, to stand in the gap, and **connect others with God**. Isaiah 58:12 speaks of this calling: "Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell In." An intercessor can be used by God as an agent (often secret!) of restoring people—even entire nations—to a relationship with the Almighty. What sin severed, intercession can help rebuild. An intercessor has the power, through the Ruach HaKodesh to stop the flood waters (of evil) from rushing into a life or a nation. *"When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him." (Isaiah 59:19b)*

Dynamite in Our Hands

This was the phrase used by a dear saint of God, M. Basilea Schlink, when referring to stepping into the breach through intercessory prayer. Why dynamite? In her words, "True, earnest prayer contains the power to transform and release people. Earnest prayer makes the intercessor like a

king; investing him with authority so great that it can release captives!" We see a concrete example of this in the Holy Scriptures in Acts chapter 12 where the Apostle Peter is imprisoned by Herod. *"Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church."* (Acts 12:5) Believers interceded for Peter. They stood in the gap for him. What was the result of their prayers on Peter's behalf? *"And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands."* (Acts 12:6-7) Peter walked out of the prison, free. God wants to use you to help set someone free this summer!!

Note the phrase "constant prayer" in Acts 12:5. An effective intercessor prays earnestly, with persistence. Keeping a definite goal in mind, the intercessor perseveres and doesn't give up until God answers. *"For with God nothing will be impossible."* (Luke 1:37) For how long do you intercede? **PUSH. Pray Until Something Happens!**

M. Basilea had some cogent insights concerning God and our enemy (ha Satan) and intercessory prayer: "If our prayers are not persistent and in earnest, should we expect God to take them seriously? Should we likewise be surprised that Satan mocks halfhearted and lazy prayer by tightening his hold on his prey? Satan, our arch enemy, doesn't want us to take his might seriously. That is his greatest trick, for then we don't correctly oppose him and he can control our neighbors and situations with ease. But Yeshua has come 'to destroy the works of the devil.' We must therefore persist in intercession, using the victorious name of Yeshua and the quickened word of God, until Satan gives up his booty."

Biblical Examples of Intercession

The Holy Scriptures contain many examples of intercessory prayer. Abraham interceded (Genesis 18:22-23). So did Isaac (Genesis 25:21), Moses (Exodus 32:7-14), Ezra (Ezra 8:21-23), Esther (Esther 4:15-16), Daniel (Daniel 10:4-14), and many others.

The greatest intercessor of all is the Messiah Yeshua. He is our model of sacrificial, loving prayer, of bearing the burdens of others, of selflessness that blesses the heart of God. The prophet Isaiah spoke of Yeshua's intercessory office more than 700 years before He was born: *"...He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors"* (Isaiah 53:12b). Yeshua, our great High Priest, a priest forever (Hebrews 7:17), stood in the gap for each one of us, taking our sin upon Himself, and in so doing, making a way for us to be **restored to God**. But Yeshua's ministry of intercession did not end there. He continues to intercede for us today! *"But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore, He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."* (Hebrews 7:24-25) According to Romans 8:34, our risen Messiah is at the right hand of God, even today, making intercession for us. That is why **nothing** can ever separate us from the love of Messiah! (See Romans 8:35.)

Following Yeshua's Example

In Yeshua's High Priestly Prayer found in John 17, we see a beautiful example of intercession: the Messiah praying for us and for those who will come to Yeshua through our witness. We should be following His example. Praying for others is indeed prayer at its highest level. It is divine love in action. The Lord is challenging us this month to move from prayer for our own

needs, and our own personal concerns, to prayer that encompasses a much broader spectrum of people and places. There are dire needs all around us. *"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."* (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

The Scriptures direct us to intercede for both civil and spiritual authorities. This would include at the very least:

- The chief executive of our nation, the President
- The Senate and House of Representatives

- Our local governments • Our military forces
- Israel and its leaders and government • U.S. support of Israel
- World leaders

- Our rabbi (pastor) and his family • Any leaders in spiritual authority over us
- Leaders in the Body of Messiah worldwide • Our local congregation
- Messianic synagogues, their leaders and families worldwide
- Our husbands (wives are under the husband's authority)
- Our employers • Revival

We are also exhorted to intercede for the lost, that the Ruach HaKodesh might convict them of sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16), and that God would remove the blinders that Satan has placed on their eyes (2 Corinthians 4). What is God's desire concerning those who do not know Him?: *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that **all** should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9).

A few ideas of whom to intercede for this summer:

- "pre-believing" Jewish people (For specific names, consider becoming a "Prayer Rose")
- U.S. and world media personalities • U.S. and world sports personalities
- U.S. and world entertainment personalities • U.S. and world governmental leaders
- pregnant women worldwide contemplating abortion
- "pre-believing" family and friends

Dutch Sheets in **How to Pray for Lost Loved Ones** gives the following suggestions: Pray that the person's heart be prepared so that it will be "good soil" for the seed (Mark 4:8). Pray that Satan will not be able to steal the seeds of truth (Mark 4:15). Pray that the Word becomes revelation through the lifting of the veil (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). Pray that the root of pride be broken (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Pray for true repentance (2 Timothy 2:25-26). May many souls be released into the Kingdom of God this summer as you intercede in faith!

Psalm 91 for Your Household

While we are admonished in Phillipians 2:3 to esteem others better than ourselves, it is still necessary to pray for ourselves that the Lord strengthen us, mold us, sanctify us, prune us, reveal His love to us, guide us and give us dominion over sin. Only then will we be able to intercede in power for others. Those closest to us are next in line for prayer. If you are not already doing so, consider praying Psalm 91 over your loved ones this summer. May the following true story

encourage you to become a "prayer warrior":

Psalm 91 is called the Soldier's Psalm. In World War I, the soldiers of the 91st Brigade recited the 91st Psalm daily. This brigade engaged in three of the war's bloodiest battles. Other units suffered up to 90% casualties, but the 91st Brigade did not suffer a single combat-related death. God is willing and able to keep his words of covenant promise. Plead God's shield daily in these evil times. We can confidently claim His rest, refuge, safety, covering, faithfulness, freedom from fear, angelic watchers, deliverance, and protection. Memorize Psalm 91, meditate on it, and pray it out loud for your family. It could mean the difference between life and death!

Intercession for the Body of Messiah

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:13)
Intercessory prayer for someone else is hard work. It can be agonizing and energy-draining. It is always sacrificial and takes time and effort. It is a battle, but aimed with the weapon of God's Word, in the power of the Holy Spirit, the victory is ours in Yeshua's name. When Messiah said, "...love one another; as I have loved you..." (John 13:34), this love included prayer for one another. Please remember to pray for believers all over the world who are being persecuted for their belief in Yeshua.

We deeply appreciate your prayers for us as we continue to lead **two ministries**. Jewish Jewels has recently gone on the air in Chicago and Philadelphia and off the air on INSP (stewardship decision). Like our Master, we are going from city to city proclaiming the truth that the Kingdom of God is at hand. Thank you for interceding for us and sending us on our way!

Neil and Jamie

P.S. Two great "summer" books:

Intercessory Prayer by Dutch Sheets: a classic.

Why Revival Tarries by Leonard Ravenhill: excellent and convicting.

P.P.S. Our dear friend Elaine Caruso requests your intercession for the **World Premiere** of her "Coronation of the King," a Levitical Davidic worship event to be performed on September 2-3 at the Koger Theatre of Arts in Columbia, SC. (www.sionsrose.org) Lord willing, we will be there to celebrate with her.