

July 2012

**Lighted  Lamp
Magazine**



And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

—Romans 13:11-12
(NKJV)

Contents

Articles

4 Crying Out

Praying authentically is much more than repeating a few words.

14 One Man in a Powerful Movement

The story of William Wilberforce

Fiction

10 Andy's Trial

What can Andy do when he finds out his mother has cancer?

Poetry

9 I Wish You Were Here

8 Giving Them to Thee

Quiz

12 Name that Disciple

How much do you know about Jesus' 12 disciples?



“Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon Earth.”

— John Wesley



photography by Isaac Swanson

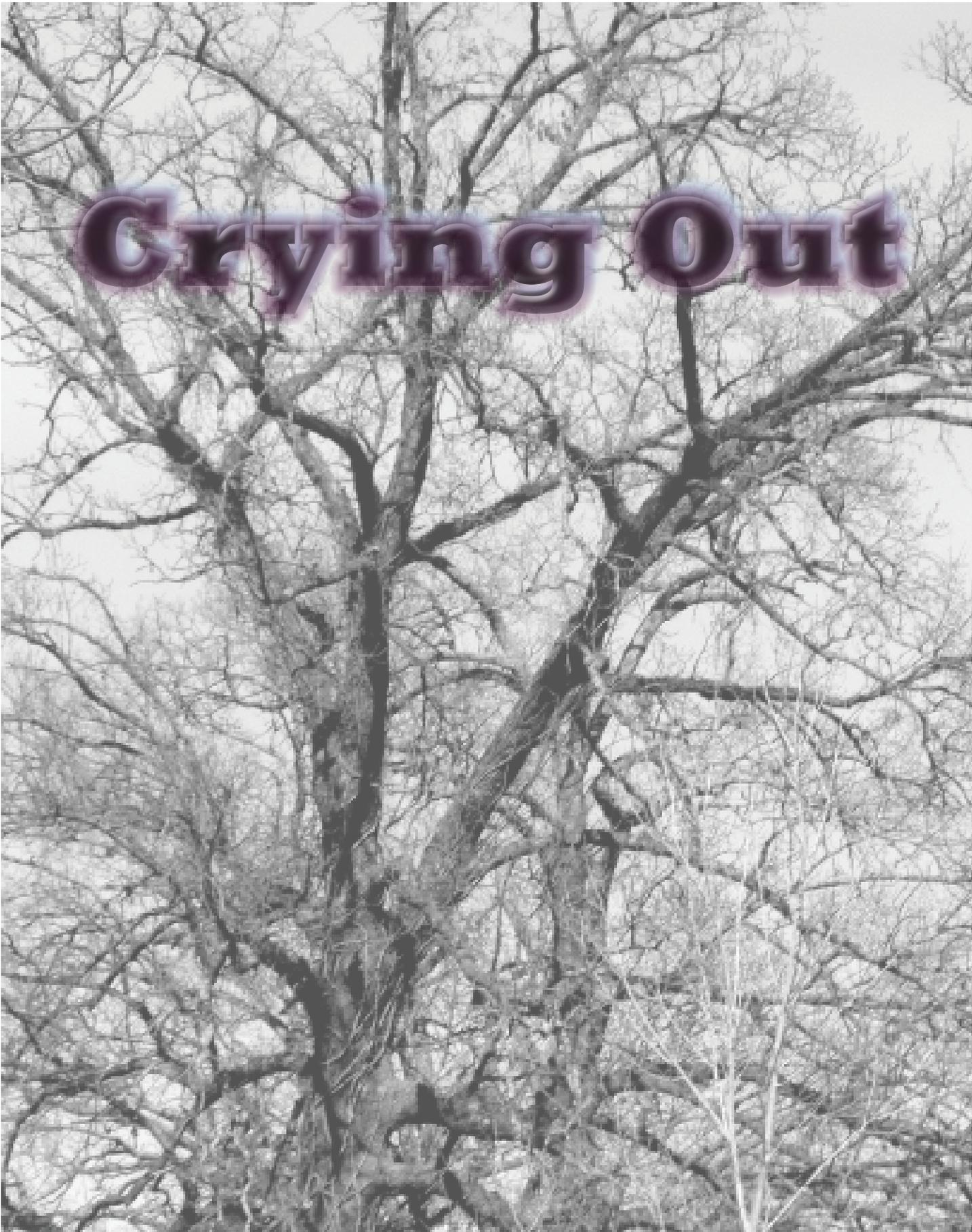
Editor:
Priscilla Carsten

Writers:
Alesha Andrews
Elizabeth Scherer
Melinda G.
Nicole Garcia

Photographers:
Isaac Swanson
LeeAnne Hughes

Cover:
Timothy Gonzales

Graphic Design:
Ashley Jones
Elizabeth J.C.



by Meggie, photography by LeeAnne Hughes
O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name! -Daniel 9:19 (NKJV)

My heart was wrenching out of me. Two friends of mine didn't seem to have God as their Lord, their Master, and I wanted them to know God like I do. I wanted them to know Him as a friend, rather than someone their parents believed in. I couldn't stand the fact that they weren't open to talking about it. I finally decided to ask them to youth group, hoping that God would break through during worship and change their lives. When they didn't give a yes (or no!) answer, I went home sat and prayed... and prayed... and prayed. Have you ever felt like you wanted something to happen so much that you couldn't stop praying, begging God to let it happen?

Praying isn't just mumbling some words with a vague hope that there is a God that will hear them, and maybe on the off-chance give you a hand and give you what you ask. And praying is not a list of people and things you pray over daily in the exact same way.

Mere prayer sayers, who do not pray at all, forget to argue with God; but those who would prevail bring forth their reasons and their strong arguments, and they debate the question with the Lord. Those who play at the sport of wrestling catch here and there at random, but those who really wrestle have a certain way of grasping the opponent- a certain mode of throwing, and the like; they work according to the order and rules. Faith's art of wrestling is to plead with God, and say with holy boldness, "Let it be thus and thus, for these reasons." – Charles Spurgeon.

Pleading isn't just quietly asking God: "Hey, if you could I'd love to see this happen." No, it's when you're at your wits' end and you've worked out that it will take a miracle to change the situation or get the thing you want. When you want something so much, that's when you are down on your knees, crying out: 'God come and do this!!' As Charles Spurgeon said, "We must go for a blessing, and not be satisfied till we have it, like the hunter, who is not satisfied because he has run so many miles, but is never content till he takes his prey."

Crying out is the same as pleading, but is deeper. When a friend gets into trouble, when a family member is close to death, times when tears come more often than eating, when from the depths of your soul you sob out- your hearts hurts, it throbs.

The Free Dictionary definition of "Cry out" is "to scream or shout aloud, especially in pain, terror, etc."

Return, O Lord, deliver me! Oh, save me from for Your mercies' sake! For in death there is no remembrance of You; In the grave who will give You thanks? I am weary with my groaning; All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with tears. My eye wastes away because of grief; It grows old because of all my enemies. - Psalm 6:4-7

Keep persisting if He hasn't given you an answer; go after it with everything that you have got.

Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. – Job 7:11



I say they play at praying, they do not expect God to give them an answer, and thus they are mere triflers, who mock the Lord. – Charles Spurgeon.

In His parable in Luke 11:5-10, Jesus says that those who seek will find. Think about it: if I am going to go seek (say for buried treasure), I am going to look under every rock; I am going to search the world to find a map to the treasure, search the world just for a piece of parchment that might give me a clue. Go on in prayer while a glimpse of hope dares to show itself.

That week, I pleaded with God, I argued, asked,

cried out to Him, “Please God, have mercy, they need you so much. If they could come to youth group, and hear Your words and experience worship, maybe then they will know you more.” God taught me something amazing that week. They came to youth group, but they haven’t been back since. They didn’t like it- and during worship, nothing happened. God taught me two things. If you are not reaching out to people on His directions, it will come to nothing. And secondly, God listens to prayer; even the ones that are from a proud heart. God said to me that week that He wanted me to reach those girls through actions, and not through words. Not through experiences, but through daily sacrificial living. Through His directions, and

prayer pointed along the narrow way, I believe those girls will come to know the Lord.

Heart Check...

You might find the idea of wrestling with God a little wrong. How dare you, a mere mortal, wrestle with the Lord? Could it be sinning by arguing with what God has said? I am not saying that we jump right in and attack God from every side and not fear Him. Argue and plead with Him, while you are respecting Him. Keep your heart open to God, and He will tell you if you slip up.

But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. – Jonah 3:8 NKJV

Be aware that you need to come with a clean heart to God. Sin blocks prayer, so matter how hard you plead, if you are still sinning and ignoring God as He is trying to point you in the right direction, your prayer will be blocked. Listen to God, chuck Satan behind you and pray.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. – Psalm 66:18 NKJV

Next time you pray, try crying out to God and pleading with Him for those things that pull your (and His!) heart strings. Come before Him, don't give up. And give yourself a heart check to make sure that your listening out for God's commands and keeping sin locked up in the closet.

Do a bible study for yourself and learn straight from Gods Word about prayer. Here are some verses to get you started:

Luke 11:5-10; 18:1-7

1 Chronicles 16:34

Matthew 6:5-15

James 5:13-18

1 Peter 5:7-8

1 Timothy 2:1-4;8

Matthew 9:35-38;

Proverbs 28:13;

Romans 10:9-13.





by Nicole Garcia, photography by Priscilla

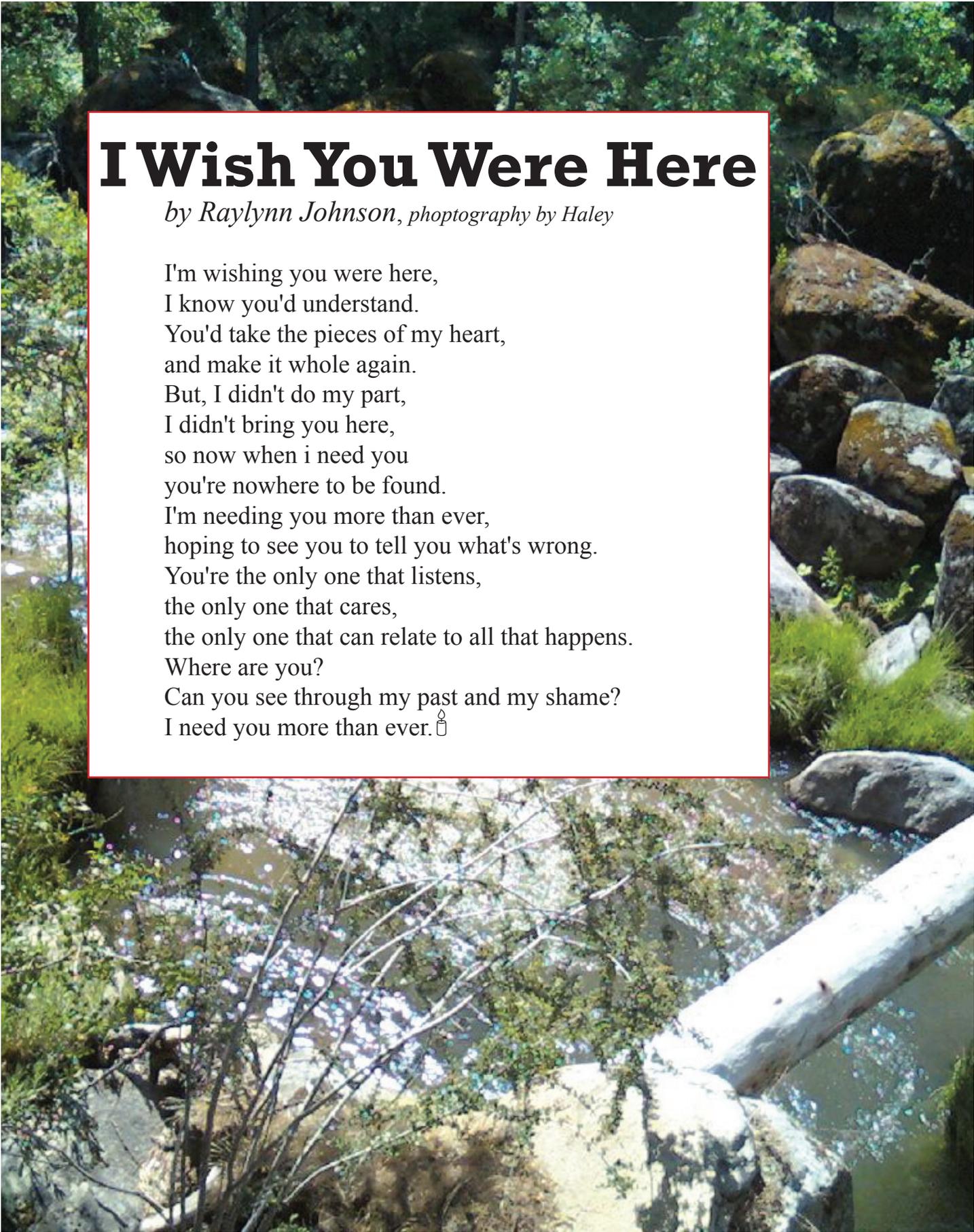
Troubles, they gnaw me
You call for me to come
Trials, they infect me
You long to bring me home.
Worries, they blind me,
You say mine is yours.
Walls, they force me in
And you say you are the only door.
Life will regain its breath you say
And you are the only way.
Clouds will fade and the sun
Will shine,
For I am yours and you are mine.

I wish I could learn
To give it all to you
So I could see once again,
See the skies clear, and blue.

I will let go of my load
That breaks me
And binds me
And learn to give my troubles
To thee...

Life will regain its breath you say
And you are the only way.
Clouds will fade and the sun
Will shine,
For I am yours and you are mine.

No more will I toil and grieve
I'll give them all to thee--
So once again
I can be totally...free. ☺



I Wish You Were Here

by Raylynn Johnson, photography by Haley

I'm wishing you were here,
I know you'd understand.
You'd take the pieces of my heart,
and make it whole again.
But, I didn't do my part,
I didn't bring you here,
so now when i need you
you're nowhere to be found.
I'm needing you more than ever,
hoping to see you to tell you what's wrong.
You're the only one that listens,
the only one that cares,
the only one that can relate to all that happens.
Where are you?
Can you see through my past and my shame?
I need you more than ever. ☹️

Andy's Trial

by Elizabeth Scherer

Andy was a 15-year-old boy whose mother was dying from cancer, Andy liked to do every thing himself and knew that if anyone could fix things, he could, so he had never trusted God for anything, Now cars, the mower, and his little sisters he knew how to help with, but when he heard that his mother had cancer he had no idea how to fix that.

His mother told him to pray about it, but Andy said, "I know it will be okay, and if I think and know that you will be ok you will be."

Soon his mom started going to hospitals and doing treatment, and soon she took chemo which made her loose her hair. Then Andy started to get really scared, he then just started to pray at night as he thought to himself, "I can just pray at night to have God help us through this."

In one year Andy found himself having to take care of his two little sisters and play with them when he wanted to do school, or to be with his friends, Soon he was doing the laundry, a lot of the cooking, doing the girls' hair, and cleaning more. Andy wasn't happy. He felt burdened with so much to do, so he went to his mom one night. It took him a lot of courage because he didn't want to bother her when she was feeling really awful. "Mom, I feel really overwhelmed, I want this to end."

Andy's mom's head looked down at the floor

and got sad, Andy then knew it was a bad idea from the start. "Andy, have you been praying about this?"

Andy's head poked up. "Yes, every night."

She looked at him surprised. "Only at night?"

Andy started to remember how she would pray three times a day. "Well, I guess so..."

"Andy, Sweetheart, you need to put this in God's hands. You can't fix this problem; you need to bring it to God, Let go and let it be His problem. He will help you out with your chores and more."

Andy looked at the floor and started to play in the carpet with his finger. "Well, how do I know that He can fix it?"

"Andy, He was probably the one that helped you fix every thing else before, like the cars and the mower."

Andy looked at his mom, and didn't think about how God could have helped him through all of

"Well yeah, Andy, He might have been trying to talk to you ever since. I do believe that He has and you just weren't thinking or listening."

Andy thanked his mom then walked out of the room and immediately went to his own room

and knelt down beside his bed. “Dear God, please my mom isn’t doing so well, She has been going downhill ever since this cancer started. I need Your help, Lord. Can you please help me? I can’t do this on my own, and now I notice that You have been helping me with everything and have been trying to get my attention but I just wasn’t caring to listen. I need you to help us out. Amen.”

Andy stood up and walked over to his desk where his Bible was and began to read it. The first page he opened up to was Psalms 46:1, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble”.

Andy looked up from his Bible and said, “Thank you Lord, I really needed that verse.”

Then Andy went into his mom’s room and talked to her, and said that he would be praying three times a day (with God’s help) and that he would be doing his best to take over more chores and do better at the ones he had.

Another year passed as Andy’s mother’s cancer didn’t get worse, and didn’t get better, “Is that good or bad?” she asked her doctor.

The doctor chuckled. “Quite frankly, it’s wonderful news. It means that the cancer may have stopped multiplying.”

Mrs. Carmine yelled, “Oh thank you dear Jesus. This is an answer to prayer!”

“We will need to have you in for test later to keep an eye on things, and I don’t know if this is just a for now thing or what,” said the doctor

“I understand, thank you so much” Mrs. Car-

mine said.

“You’re welcome.”

Mrs. Carmine arrived home to see Andy waiting for her on the drive way with a basketball in hand. “Hey Mom, how did the results turn out?”

She got out of the car and gave Andy a huge hug. “Guess what?”

“What?”

“The cancer isn’t multiplying any more, which means that I’m getting better.”

“Oh mom that’s so awesome! God is answering our prayers.”

“So far yes, and I believe that He still is, we just need to keep our faith in Him for everything. Anyway I’m not sure if I’m really getting better yet but I know that He will work everything out according to His will.”

“I know, it’s just hard. What if this is just a for now thing and then later it will start multiplying again?”

“Andy you need to trust God. We can do this. I just can’t wait to tell your father when he comes home!”

They both laughed and went inside.

They later told Mr. Carmine and they all went out to eat to celebrate this wonderful news.

Continued on page 15

Name That Disciple

1 Which disciple heard John the Baptist say “Behold the Lamb of God?”

- a. Simon the Cananite
- b. Simon Peter
- c. Thomas
- d. Andrew

2 Whose wife’s mother did Jesus heal from a fever?

- a. Judas, son of James
- b. Matthew
- c. Levi, son of Alphaeus
- d. Simon Peter

3 Which disciple did Jesus see under the fig tree?

- a. Nathaniel
- b. Philip
- c. Judas Iscariot
- d. Simon the Cananite

4 Who gave Jesus a great feast in his house, attended by many tax collectors and sinners?

- a. Thomas
- b. Nathaniel
- c. Levi, son of Alphaeus
- d. Matthew

5 Who answered Jesus’ question about who they thought He was by saying that He was the Christ?

- a. Simon Peter
- b. John
- c. Nathaniel
- d. Judas, son of James





6 Which disciple asked how Jesus would manifest Himself to them and not to the world?

- a. James
- b. Philip
- c. Andrew
- d. Judas, son of James

7 Which disciple asked how they could know the way to the place Jesus was going to prepare?

- a. Thomas
- b. James
- c. Simon Peter
- d. Judas, son of James

8 Which disciple took care of Jesus' mother after His death?

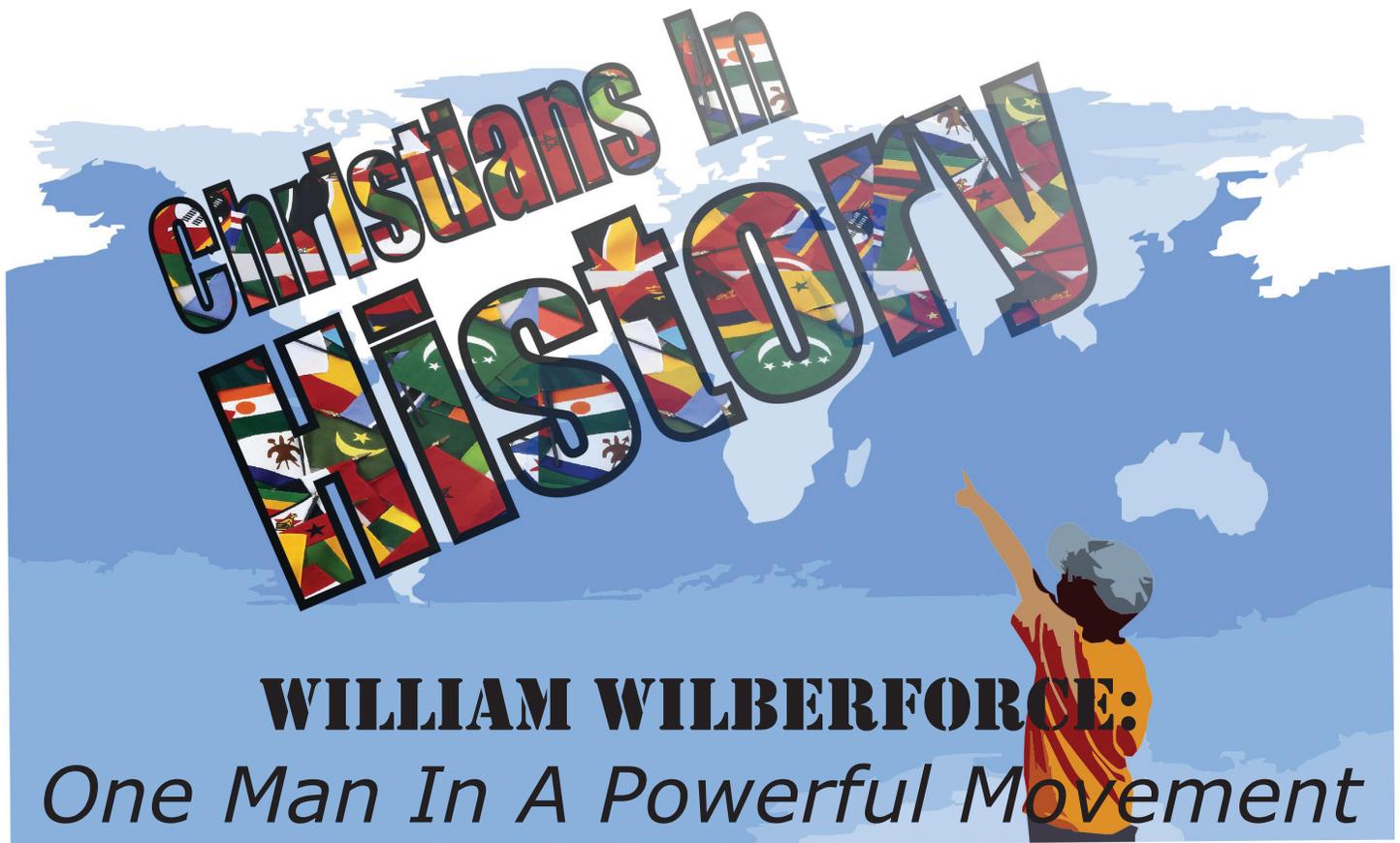
- a. Simon Peter
- b. James
- c. Matthew
- d. John

9 Men and women, including Simon the sorcerer, believed when which disciple preached Christ in Samaria after Jesus' ascension?

- a. Andrew
- b. Philip
- c. Matthew
- d. John

10 Who baptized the Ethiopian eunich?

- a. Simon the Cananite
- b. James
- c. Nathaniel
- d. Philip



by Alesha Andrews

William Wilberforce was born in England in 1759. The Great Awakening was spreading across Europe and men and women everywhere were experiencing spiritual renewal and revival. In the midst of this, however, dependence had formed to the profitable, worldwide business of the slave trade. From Africa alone, 35,000 to 50,000 people were captured, shipped across the Atlantic, and sold into slavery every year through the British Slave Trade. Though abolitionists were few in those days, even fewer believed that anything could be done to change or stop this cruel trade. William Wilberforce was among them.

With his ambitions and connections, William won election to Parliament in 1780. Later in life he admitted that "the first years in Parliament I did nothing- nothing to any purpose. My

own distinction was my darling object." The large-spread spiritual revival in Europe led to his salvation and he became what he referred to as a "real Christian" instead of a "nominal Christian". He believed that Providence had assigned him a duty to make a difference. Two causes caught his especial attention.

The first was the issue of slavery. He wrote "So enormous, so dreadful, so irremediable did the trade's wickedness appear that my own mind was completely made up for abolition... I from this time determined that I would never rest until I had effected its abolition."

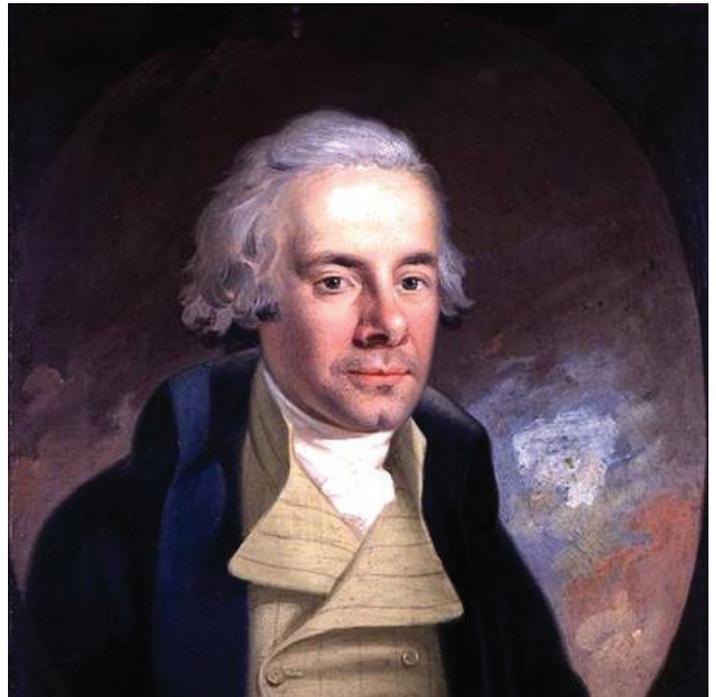
The second of his two causes was what became known as the "reformation of manners". Before the Great Awakening, England had fallen into extreme immorality. William believed not only in having a personal relationship with Christ,

but also in the importance of that relationship affecting the rest of one's life. He encouraged Christians to live like Christ instead of everyone else. He also wrote a book to the middle and upper class members of society about using their resources to benefit the less fortunate. Because of his role in this area, genuine hospitality and brotherly actions towards others increased significantly.

Though Wilberforce was often in poor health most of his life, when he was well he was an extremely determined and effective politician. He helped found a number of groups and societies, including the Antislavery Society. His efforts towards the Antislavery movement finally bloomed in 1807, when Parliament abolished the slave trade in the British Empire. Afterwards, William worked hard to ensure that the slave trade laws were enforced and worked diligently to see the complete abolition of slavery in the British Empire. He continued to stand up for the Antislavery Movement the rest of his life.

William retired from Parliament in 1825 due to poor health. After all of his efforts, he never lived to see the abolition of slavery in the British Empire; he died in 1833. The Bill abolishing slavery became law one month after his death. He was one man that desired to do what was right and ended up being used by God to play a huge role in the fight against the slave trade. He meant what he said and didn't rest until he had done all he could to change it. 🙏

This article was reprinted from Alesha's blog, *Mission: Live!*



William Wilberforce

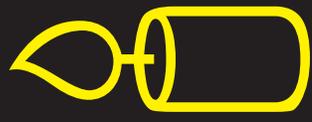
Andy's Trial, Continued

When she went to the hospital again for tests everyone went to find out the news, but they all agreed that no matter what news they got they would praise, thank, and trust God.

As the doctor walked out of his office, he said, "Dear Carmine family, you have a rejoicing day to thank God for." He looked at Andy. "Your mother's cancer is slowly disappearing." They all cheered.

When the doctor walked away they knelt down and Mrs. Carmine prayed, "Dear Heavenly Father, You brought me through this and now you are bringing me out. We thank you for your mercy, love, and kindness."

The Carmine family rejoiced that day and never forgot the wonderful miracle that God had done in their lives. 🙏



LL Magazine

Matthew 5:16