

4th Edition | Revised with Study Guide

POSSESSING
THE GATES
OF THE
ENEMY

A TRAINING MANUAL
FOR MILITANT INTERCESSION

CINDY
JACOBS



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Dedicated to
my wonderful husband, Mike
my daughter, Mary
my son, Daniel

and to the loving memory
of
Peter Wagner, my father in the Lord

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Foreword

by C. Peter Wagner

The book you hold in your hands now qualifies as a classic. What is a classic? The dictionary says it is a literary work of the first rank, especially one of demonstrably enduring quality. *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy* fits that description.

Over the years I have built quite a library on prayer and spiritual warfare. None of the other books approaches the content of *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy*.

Not many people are equipped to write a book like this. There may still be some segments of the Body of Christ that are not quite ready for it, but my hope is that they soon will be. This is not the milk of the Word, it is meat; and a certain amount of Christian maturity is necessary for it to be adequately digested. But God has been doing remarkable things across the lines of different ecclesiastical traditions these days, and that has been producing new and fresh maturity in the area of prayer.

Indeed, we now find ourselves well into the greatest worldwide prayer movement in history. It began around 1970 and has steadily been gaining influence, strength and momentum. Since then, prayer ministries, prayer leaders, prayer for cities and nations, prayer conferences, local church prayer programs and books on prayer have been multiplying. There is a growing quantity of prayer across regional and denominational lines that amazes

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many. The latest addition has been Cindy Jacobs's powerful Reformation Prayer Network.

All this is why I am excited that *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy* is now available in a revised and updated form. We need to get back to the basics, and the basics of strategic-level intercession are right here.

Seven characteristics blend together to establish this book in the category of a classic.

It is personal. Cindy Jacobs is an outstanding woman, wife, mother, teacher, learner, preacher and intercessor. My wife, Doris, and I consider it an honor to count her as one of our closest personal friends. As you read this book, you will get to know Cindy as an unpretentious person who shares both laughter and tears, victory and defeat, all in the context of transparency and integrity.

It is biblical. While this is not an expanded sermon series or Bible study, Cindy takes great pains throughout the book to relate whatever she teaches to Scripture. She is focused on testing all that she says and does against the Word of God.

It is informed. Few Christian leaders have moved as extensively both nationally and internationally as has Cindy Jacobs. She has accumulated profound firsthand knowledge of what is going on in today's world and how prophetic prayer can advance the Kingdom of God. You will see that reflected on page after page.

It is compassionate. Cindy is not afraid to step out of the box and address cutting-edge issues that may pull some readers out of their comfort zones. Still, she is able to do this in a gentle way that avoids any haughtiness or self-righteousness. She allows you to disagree with her and still be friends!

It is analytical. This is not to disparage them in any way, but many intercessors are so right-brained that they find it almost impossible to analyze or explain what they are doing. Cindy Jacobs, however, is one of those rare individuals who balances intuition with understanding in such a way that she clarifies to others what God is doing to and through her.

It is practical. This is a manual based on much hands-on field experience. It is the kind of guidebook that will tell you not only what needs to be done, but what steps you can take to make that happen.

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It is motivational. You may be one who has considered prayer boring. If so, when you read this book, you will catch the fire of how powerful and exciting prayer can really be. You will end up praying as you have never prayed before, and you will love it!

I think this will happen to you because it happened to Doris and me. Through Cindy Jacobs we have become open to allowing God to do new things through us that we did not know were possible.

Possessing the Gates of the Enemy is a book I know will excite and uplift you. Watch and see. You will soon be recommending it to your friends!

C. Peter Wagner (1930–2016),
chancellor emeritus, Wagner Leadership Institute;
vice president, Global Spheres, Inc.

Foreword

by Lou Engle

Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. . . . Now she sent and summoned Barak . . . and said to him, “Behold, the LORD, the God of Israel, has commanded, ‘Go and march to Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men. . . . I will draw out to you Sisera . . . with his chariots and his many troops to the river Kishon, and I will give him into your hand.’”

Judges 4:4, 6–7 NASB

“The stars fought from heaven, from their courses they fought against Sisera. The torrent of Kishon swept them away, the ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon. O my soul, march on with strength.”

Judges 5:20–21 NASB

For years I’ve said to Cindy Jacobs, “You are my Deborah and I am your Barak.” Cindy has been a true mother in the Spirit to me. In the ’80s, when the spiritual warfare movement was blooming, I remember going to an Intercessors for America gathering where I listened

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to her speak. I was spellbound by the authority and testimony of her life. At that moment, I was baptized into the spiritual warfare dimensions of prayer. It was as if Cindy were summoning me, like Barak, into my calling. It was at that time that I read the book you are now handling, *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy*. It became a sort of blueprint, war manual and training strategy that would shape the course of my prayer journey. The book gave me hope that the Church can actually win. I never wanted to play for a losing team. When I read the Scriptures I understand that life is a great earthly and cosmic battle in which the Church is called to overcome and gain authority over nations.

This book is not theory. It is real-life experience framed with scriptural understanding and heavenly wisdom. Deborah was a mother in Israel at the time that war came to the city gates. She was a prophetess who received from God the blueprints for making war. When Deborah told Barak that he needed to go down to the Kishon to draw out Sisera, it was brilliant wisdom from above. Sisera, with all his chariots, would be drawn to the river Kishon where a rainstorm sent from the stars in heaven, i.e. the angelic hosts, would create a flood that would debilitate Sisera's armies. Deborah saw the time and place God had prepared for battle, and she beheld in the Spirit what God would do to defeat the enemy. Her prophetic vision mobilized tribes who would risk their lives on the battlefield. Only a prophetic word from heaven can create that kind of movement and that kind of risk. A woman, a mother, led the armies of God into war.

It is not just interesting, but profoundly prophetic, that at the time of the reprint of this book, half a million women recently marched in Washington, D.C., demanding that the voice of women be heard. I believe their *cry* was a distorted echo of God's resounding heart for women to be honored and recognized and for those who have been marginalized and abused to find healing and freedom. Millions of women watched that march and said, "This is not my revolution." But there is a true Deborah/Esther revolution taking place. God is raising up women into places of prominence and impact to turn this nation. Men are recognizing the place of women and the godly authority they carry. In both the Old and the New Testaments God raised up women's voices and the voices of women prophets, and those voices are needed now more than ever. It is a battle

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between Deborah and Delilah for the soul of a generation. “March on, O my soul.”

At the time of the writing of this foreword, Cindy is stepping up as a Deborah and I am joining her as a Barak calling tens of thousands of godly women to the National Mall in D.C. to worship Jesus, the true source of freedom and feminine promotion. We believe this corporate “mother in Israel” that is rising up will give birth to a new Jesus Movement and Third Great Awakening. We believe these women will challenge the powers of death and abortion and will lead the way into compassionate justice movements through profound positioning in key places so that, like Esther, they can save a nation for such a time as this.

Cindy has historically led the prophetic battles in which I have been involved. Years ago she prophesied to a young man that he would be like Ezekiel and do prophetic signs that would be seen and known in the public square. That young man fasted a “Daniel fast” for two years, praying for the ending of abortion. During that time, Cindy prophesied over me that I must lead the young people to stand before the Supreme Court concerning abortion. She said, “If you don’t do it, God will remove you and send somebody else.” It was a reversed Mordecai/Esther moment! I replied, “Cindy, I need to hear that from God.” And I did—through that Ezekiel young man. He dreamed that thousands of people were standing in Washington, D.C., before the court with tape on their mouths with the word *LIFE* written across it. We took those kids to the Supreme Court and *did* the dream. They have now been there for thirteen years. It is that image of *LIFE* that the media has displayed all over the world.

We now stand in a moment of American history when possibly, in the next few years, the court could reverse the 1973 decree from *Roe v. Wade*. Cindy has prophesied that there will be a memorial on the National Mall for the millions of unborn children who were killed in one of the greatest holocausts in world history, with a testimony that abortion is no more. Cindy called me into this battle, and tens of thousands have been swept up into the magnificent vision.

This book will equip you in prophetic intercession, in wisdom, in how to work with the angelic realm and dismantle principalities and powers. It is the voice and life of a mother of nations, which I believe will help a young

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generation move into courageous faith to possess the gates of humanism, false ideologies, world religion, sex-trafficking and strongholds that create poverty. My desire is that God will use this reprint as a summons to an army of young Baraks and an army of young Esthers to step onto the battlefields of the earth to reach unreached people groups, to gain air supremacy over the powers, and to launch them on a journey as I was launched thirty years ago. The greatest spiritual wars in history are before us. A generation cannot waltz into warfare; it must be trained and prepared, and this book will be one of the manuals of its preparation.

Thank you, Cindy, for being a spiritual mother to so many of us, young and old.

Lou Engle, co-founder, TheCall

Acknowledgments

This book was made possible through the love, prayers and support of many special friends. First of all, I want to thank the Lord for helping me to do something I thought was impossible for me—writing this book!

I originally wrote *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy* with the urging of Peter Wagner. You may know that Peter was graduated to heaven on October 21, 2016. I really do not think this book would have been written without his wisdom and advice. He mentored me and “strongly” encouraged me to write. Doris Wagner, my good friend, has always been there to offer practical advice and has been my friend on the battlefield. She also is the one who came up with the subtitle for *Possessing* over a very delicious meal with her and Peter in Pasadena, California!

Of course, my husband, Mike, has been a great encouragement to me. When I felt I could not make it through with this assignment he would sit down and pray and talk with me and offer great wisdom. We have often teased about other writers who thank their families in their acknowledgments for the meals missed. (Mike, are you reading this?)

Also, Mary and Daniel, my children, are to be commended for loving their mom through the writing of this book. I love them dearly, and they are an encouragement to me.

My mom, Eleanor Lindsey, who faithfully typed the manuscript and spent hours reading and editing, also went to be with the Lord, on February 22, 2016. In fact, I brought home her typewriter to keep as a memento

Acknowledgments

of her work. Helping me with the cleaning up of the manuscript allowed me to finish the task! My precious mama has left me with a great legacy of prayer as well. Thomas Lindsey, my stepfather, who assisted with proof-reading, went home three months after my mama did. They were married forty years, and I do not think he liked being here without her.

Becky Wagner, Peter and Doris Wagner's daughter and my assistant at the time of the writing of the first edition, has become a great writer in her own right. I am still grateful to her for her administrative help. Her gentleness in her task as my administrative assistant was indeed Christlike.

I cannot adequately express my gratitude to the prayer partners of Generals International who have fasted, prayed and loved me as I poured out my needs in our prayer letter for the rewriting of this book. Also, thanks to the church groups who set aside time to pray each week that I would meet the publishing deadline.

Jane Campbell, editorial director of Chosen Books, gave a listening ear to me when I wrote the original manuscript and reached times of enormous frustration. Writing a book without any training created a huge learning curve for me. She patiently answered my many questions. Without her help I might not have finished the writing of this book at all or the ones that came afterward!

Thank you to Ann McMath Weinheimer for God's editing abilities through you. You are a joy.

I would like to thank and acknowledge my friend Jane Rumph for the excellent job she did in writing the Study Guide for this edition. Your prayers are important to me and my family.

John Jemison, my assistant at the time, helped me look up references and check on facts.

Introduction

*P*ossessing the Gates of the Enemy might seem to some to be an unusual title for a book on intercession. It comes from Genesis 22:17–18: “That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice” (KJV).

This powerful promise was given to Abraham for his seed. We, the Church, are Abraham’s spiritual seed, and so this promise to possess the gates of the enemy pertains to us today. The gates of hell will not prevail against a praying Church.

Today’s praying Church is rising up in militant force to possess the promised land of our nations. *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy* is a training manual for God’s prayer army. This manual is needed because a tremendous spirit of prayer is being poured out—worldwide. Intercessory prayer groups are springing up across the nations. Generals International, formerly known as Generals of Intercession, the ministry God has given to my husband and me, is rather like a networking center for new strategies pertaining to intercession. We are receiving reports of intercessors doing things like going to the banking centers of the world to pray. Some go regularly to their state capitols. Others have gone by dogsled as far north as they could go. Groups have gathered on Wall Street to pray for America’s economy.

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We currently connect with prayer movements across the earth through our Reformation Prayer Network—geared at seeing each part of society brought into a biblical worldview. These include what have become known as the “seven mountains of influence”: religion, family, education, government, business, arts and entertainment, and media.

Why the need for a new edition of *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy*? I have found that many of the truths we as prayer leaders taught in the late '80s and '90s are totally unknown to a new generation. Even if they know these truths in part, there are wide gaps that need to be retaught. It behooves all of us as leaders of intercessory prayer to begin with the basics and not just assume that the next generation of intercessors knows all we have learned through the years. I have had a number of conversations with Peter and Doris Wagner, Dutch Sheets and others about the need to reteach the truths that brought moves of God to such places as Argentina, Colombia and other nations.

This movement of intercession is powerful and exciting! I earnestly believe that unless we reintroduce the understanding that we are enforcers of God's will in the earth, then the revivals and awakenings we are all praying for will not be lasting. Studies of historic revivals of prayer show me that we need to guard this present visitation from the mistakes of the past. The Bible is clear about this in Ephesians 6:10–12:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Trying to ignore the wiles of Satan simply does not work.

Years ago, as I prepared to write this book, I went to bookstores in many places looking for research material of a practical nature. Many of them had a large section on prayer but little, if any, on intercession. The books I did find on intercession had a sad lack of practical guidelines. Thank God for the books by Rebecca Greenwood and Dutch Sheets on this subject.

Originally I had thought simply to write a book warning of the “flaky” or out-of-balance practices that were cropping up in intercessory groups;

however, Peter Wagner sat me down one day in his study in Altadena, California, and challenged me to broaden my scope to include intercession as a whole. From this discussion came the vision to write *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy* in its present form.

Who will benefit from reading this book? *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy* is written with a broad brush to include beginning intercessors as well as those who are mature leaders. Pastors and ministry leaders will reap much by studying the practical sections written for them.

One of my greatest frustrations as a young intercessor was that I had no one to talk to on a practical level about intercession. I was not really sure if I was praying “on target” or if I was out in left field. *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy* begins with chapters for those who feel this same frustration, and I have attempted to share my heart with those who are interested in the call to intercede. I have tried to remember the numerous questions that spilled out of me when seasoned prayer warriors would take time to listen. Since I cannot speak to each of you personally, I have tried to talk to you as if we were sitting down across a table and you were asking me the many questions you have about intercession.

Because this book has been written from my life experiences, you will see a transition from chapter to chapter as I grew and the gifting matured. To tell you the truth, it was a very stretching (and that is an understatement) experience to try to analyze the process the Lord took me through from intercessor to prayer leader. As Peter Wagner said, it is usually not the nature of intercessors to analyze what God is doing in their lives; they are too busy just praying. In the original writing of this book I would sit at my typewriter day after day and pray, “Lord, show me Your ways in the life of an intercessor. What are the traps the enemy lays for people as they intercede? What can I share that will save them heartache?” For this new and updated edition, I asked the Lord to amplify what He gave me at that time.

For the chapters on the language and the manifestations of intercession, I spoke with numerous intercessors to see what they understood to be the definitions of terms they use such as *binding* and *loosing* and *travail*. In addition, many called me with sad stories of gross error and problems with intercessory groups.

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In the chapter on corporate intercession you will find many practical insights gleaned from some of God's generals who lead intercession. Many prayer groups are weak or ineffective because they lack strong leadership. I also included guidelines for pastors and ministry leaders. Many of these individuals are strong intercessors themselves and are on the cutting edge of this prayer movement. I have a special heart for the pastors of the nations and hope this section will save them some grief in working with their prayer leaders. In addition, prayer leaders will find guidelines to share with their prayer groups that will bring order and peace to the meetings.

The interest in prophetic intercession is on the upswing. The chapter on this tells how to prophesy in prayer and includes material for those who already prophesy in intercession.

Intercessory praise is a pertinent topic among prayer groups today. Many are realizing the need to war in the heavenlies through praise and worship. I have tried to include contemporary examples as well as those from the great hymns of the Church.

As I reflect back over the years since I wrote *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy*, I am amazed at what has happened to the prayer movement. God has used this book in its own way to start prayer groups all over the world. It always touches me to hear the stories of leaders in various nations who say, "We started our prayer movements from reading your book." How humbling and gratifying! It often causes me to reflect on what I was going through when I wrote the book. The devil seemed to be sitting on my shoulder the whole time, whispering comments like, *No one will ever read this book. Who do you think you are, writing a book no one will want to read?* I am thankful that I did not bow to the intimidation of that voice. As I travel to many nations it is rewarding to hear the results of simply using this manual as a guide for intercessory prayer to pull down strongholds.

For those who are picking up this book for the first time: These principles really work! They are tried and tested. I pray that you will be encouraged as you read these pages. Time and again intercessors have said to me, "I didn't know there was anyone else like me. I just thought I was weird." My friend, you are not alone. There are thousands of intercessors like you all over the world.

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I started writing the original manuscript of *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy* in 1989, and the book was first released in 1991. Of course, the Lord has increased my understanding of intercessory prayer since that time. For that reason, this updated version contains new stories and revelations concerning healing nations, prophetic intercession, and legislating in the heavens and the courts of heaven.

God is never static! His Kingdom is ever-increasing, as is knowledge of Him in the earth, and we, as people who pray, need to stay current and fresh in our understanding.

You might feel the call to be a “general of intercession,” such as I wrote about in this book. If that is so, I want to encourage you in your calling and destiny; however, even if you are just beginning to learn to pray, this book is a manual to launch you into one of the most exciting adventures of the Christian life—intercessory prayer!

It is my hope and prayer that you will learn so much from what you read in these pages that you will shake our world for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Standing in the gap for the nations,
Cindy Jacobs

1

The Call to Intercede

My call to intercede came to me during sleepless nights when I would suddenly be awakened out of a deep sleep to pray. One of the more dramatic occasions that started me down the road to being a prophetic intercessor happened to me in 1990.

A beginning of a new decade—thoughts tumbled out one after another as I tried to fall asleep in a hotel room in Bradenton, Florida. My husband, Mike, and I had just flown in from our home in Texas to meet with other prayer leaders and to take part in a prayer session we called “Ninety Hours of Prayer for the Nineties.” We all had a sense of God’s moving and felt that a tremendous outpouring of the Spirit was imminent. As I began to relax, I mulled over the events of the ’80s. God had been so gracious. Five of those years had been spent bringing prayer leaders together from different nations—a networking that had come to be known as Generals of Intercession. Mike and I had learned a lot on the battlefield about tearing down the strongholds of the enemy and looked forward to what God’s new assignments would bring.

At two a.m. I awakened with a start. The indicators were familiar: I felt a sense of danger and agitation. Deep within I began to pray, *God, what is wrong? Is someone in trouble?* Almost instantly I saw a mental picture, a vision, of good friends David and Cheryl Barton. They were driving

their van from the Dallas area where they lived to our meeting with their three children curled up asleep in the back. All of a sudden, in the vision, the van's right front wheel rolled off, and the van careened wildly into a horrible accident.

I knew immediately that they were in serious danger and that God wanted me to pray that the wheel bearings would hold until we could see the Bartons and warn them. David was doing a mighty work for God with his book *America: To Pray or Not to Pray?* and was coming under spiritual attack. The hours dragged on as I cried out to God to keep that wheel in place and protect them. All through the night I sensed a tremendous battle taking place in the heavenlies.

The next day I hounded the registration desk until finally a call came into our room. They had arrived. I ran to their room and pounced on them. "Are you all right? Has anything happened to the van?" Between hugs they said that everything was just fine. After I told them about my night of prayer, Cheryl mentioned that she had heard a funny sound in the van the night before, but David had not noticed it. I urged them strongly to check the right wheel bearings. David and Cheryl know me well enough to know that I would not say this lightly; so before David took the van on the road again, he and Mike drove it to a garage.

When they finally returned to the hotel they were grinning from ear to ear. Mike had a little bag in his hand. "The trophies of intercession," he said. It held the bearings from the right front wheel.

As we heard their story we marveled at God's mercy and care for the Barton family. The mechanic took the bearings off the left wheel first and exclaimed, "I don't see how you could have driven this without having it seize up on you." After checking the right wheel he was really amazed: "This one is worse than the other!" He said that there was no way they should have been able to drive without having the wheels come off. He went on to explain that the spindle, which should have been totally ruined, was not damaged.

David grinned and told us, "We couldn't let an opportunity to share about the Lord pass by, and so I said, 'Do you know why we came in to have our wheels checked?'" For the next half hour the men witnessed to an astonished mechanic, and I thanked God in my heart for waking me to pray.

David Barton went on to become one of the noted Christian historians of our time, and his children are now grown and making great advances in the Kingdom of God as well. We will never really know what would have happened if I had not been awakened to pray, but every time I hear of the good work he is doing, I am glad that I did!

Perhaps you have had an experience in which you, too, felt impressed to pray for a certain urgent need. Or perhaps you have heard stories from other intercessors and have questions: How do you know when someone needs your prayers? How do you pray? Do our prayers really battle the devil? Can we thwart plans of destruction?

It takes courage and perseverance to be the kind of intercessor who will make a difference. It is not always easy. But if you are a prayer warrior, a prayer leader, a minister or “simply” a Christian who prays, and if you have an interest in putting what God will show you into action, then you can recognize the call of God to intercede and wage a holy war against the enemy.

Before we get into the ABCs of militant intercession, let me tell you briefly about the three phases or depths God led me through, which I hope will help you understand what God might be doing in your life. It was all quite a new experience for me. In fact, when the Lord first touched me to pray I had no idea what was going on. I knew only that something unusual was happening to me. Prior to that time I had been a rather “normal” Christian, mom and schoolteacher. I knew that I had a call of God on my life but had no idea what it was or how it would be fulfilled.

As the weeks progressed, I began to awaken during the night on a regular basis. The pattern was always the same: I would wake up suddenly, be wide awake and wonder why. After this happened to me for a week or so, I finally figured out that I must be waking up for a reason. It occurred to me that perhaps I should ask God about it. In answer to my questioning, God began to show me the beginning of a marvelous adventure of serving the King of kings as an intercessor. The Lord made it clear to me that I was to pray during these wide-awake times. Sometimes it would be at three o'clock on the nose for a week or so (God's alarm clock is incredible), and then it would be at two o'clock for a few days. As I began to seek His guidance, names would come to me with specific thoughts about what to pray.

I remember thinking, *Well, there's no one around who will think I'm crazy. The rest of the family is asleep, and it is just me and God.* So I would pray those thoughts that came to me.

I prayed in this fashion for a while without mentioning it to anyone. I was not sure but that they *would* think I was crazy.

One cold night I felt led to pray for a minister from my church named Todd whom I knew only casually. I pulled the covers over my head and began whispering quietly the thoughts that came. “Lord, Todd needs healing, and he feels lonely and afraid. I pray that You will comfort him, heal him and let him know that he is not alone.”

Then I attached an addendum: “God, I really would like some confirmation from You that these prayers I am praying are making any kind of difference.” This cry came from my heart because suddenly, on that cold winter night, I felt rather foolish. I noticed that the clock said 3:10 a.m.

My answer came quickly. The next night at our Wednesday night service Todd stopped me before I went out the door and asked if he could speak with me. He said, “Cindy, not many people know this, but I have cancer. Last night I was awake in extreme pain. I felt lonely and cried out to God, ‘God, doesn’t anyone care?’”

Todd said that God spoke to him at that moment and said, *Cindy Jacobs is awake and is praying for you.* The clock read 3:10. Needless to say, I was—to use a word a friend has coined—“awesomized.” All the time I had spent praying those outlandish things for people around the world had made a difference! I found out later that Todd had been healed of cancer.

I was greatly encouraged by that experience, so much so that when God impressed me around four o’clock one morning to pray that an older man in our church would not get hurt at work, I prayed with great conviction. God seemed to have spoken so clearly that I actually went to Buster in person and told him that God was going to protect him from harm on the job.

The following week Buster was working high on the nose cone of a Boeing 767. He took a step, lost his balance and found himself falling some twelve feet, crashing down face first on the cement floor. He lay there for a few moments, stunned by the fall, then cautiously began to check himself out as his co-workers came running. To everyone’s amazement he was a little sore but fine otherwise. God’s protection was a great testimony to his co-workers.

The next Sunday morning, Buster took me by the shoulders and told me his incredible story of God’s mercy. Buster’s deliverance from injury did a lot for him. But it did a lot deep inside me as well. I realized something: Intercessory prayer really works!

Waking up in the middle of the night was not the only unusual thing that started happening to me in phase one of my training in intercession. One day I was in a healing service, and a mother brought her critically ill little son in for prayer. As I watched the pastor lay his hands on the child, tears began gushing down my face. I realized my heart was breaking for the child as though he were my own. After a few minutes I put my head down on my knees and tried to be as inconspicuous as possible. Mike was trying to comfort me. Neither of us understood exactly what was happening.

All at once, as quickly as the weeping came, it left! I took a handful of tissues from a Kleenex box, wiped my eyes, blew my nose and looked around to see if anyone had noticed my outburst. It had gone seemingly unnoticed. Then I realized that deep inside I had a sense of peace and wonderment. I knew that God had done something for that child. I was sure that he would be fine. I later read that Charles Spurgeon called tears “liquid prayers.”

Other remarkable occurrences happened that were new to me. One day during a prayer meeting in our home, a group of us were praying about a job for Mike. He had been laid off from his job with an airline, and we desperately needed for him to find another one. Out of nowhere I began to laugh—loudly! The more I laughed, the more I wanted to stop. Laughing seemed irreverent—and besides that, some of the others were staring at me. It was much later that I found the Scripture that says,

When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

Psalm 126:1–2

I am convinced that Mike’s job was given in the heavenlies at that moment even though it was two months before we actually possessed in the natural what had happened that day in the Spirit.

Living with someone with the ministry of intercession can sometimes be quite interesting! I often ask people to pray for Mike because he is married to an intercessor. Just for one example, one night I was asleep when the Lord awakened me with an SOS prayer. I had a vision of a man boarding an airplane out of Europe with a bomb in his shoe.

Of course, I did the logical thing! I awakened Mike immediately. This was serious, and he needed to help me pray! I shook him awake, and he rolled over and looked at me as if to say, “What’s going on?” I am sure he was wondering if the house might be on fire. But then, I am also sure he suspected we needed to pray.

“Mike!” I exclaimed. “Someone is going to try to blow up a plane!” I proceeded to describe to him what I had seen in the vision. We did indeed pray, and you know the results. The infamous “shoe bomber” was not successful at carrying out his desired intent to be a suicide bomber.

Why does all this happen to me? It seems that the Lord took me up on some rash prayers that I had prayed before any of these prayer experiences began. God reminded me that, prior to these unusual experiences, I had said, “God, use me in the way You see fit. I will do anything You want me to do; go anywhere, anyhow.” As I searched the Scriptures for direction, one in particular leapt out at me: “I sought for a man among them who would . . . stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land” (Ezekiel 22:30). I could see then that God had chosen me to be an intercessor.

For several years I prayed in the manner in which the Holy Spirit directed me. I did not know why I was praying as I was, but I found comfort in the fact that it was bringing results for the Kingdom.

As my confidence grew that I could be used by the Lord to stand in the gap, it seemed that people began to tell others about the remarkable answers to prayer—such as what happened to Buster and Todd. Churches asked me to speak on intercession. I dug into the Word to find out how to teach others to intercede.

I felt joyful that my ministry was growing and that many doors were opening, when God spoke to me one day and said, *Cindy, I want you to lay your ministry down and learn to intercede.* Well, I thought I had done that already, but all of a sudden there came an overwhelming sense that I really had no idea how to pray at all.

After a time of wrestling in my heart, I said, “Yes, Lord.”

Thus began phase two, which is the basis of the teaching in this book. God furthered my education by introducing me to some of His great intercessors—living legends of prayer. Some of these have gone home to be with the Lord. Some are still at work for the Kingdom. We had marvelous times of prayer.

A principle I learned during this time is that intercession is not so much taught as caught, meaning that I grew not so much by systematic teaching as by experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit at work and longing to be a part of it. Intercessors find it hard to analyze what they do, perhaps because they are committed to putting themselves aside and focusing on the Lord’s will for their lives of prayer. So I observed and learned.

Another intercessor who has deeply touched my life is Dick Eastman. Dick’s spiritual heritage is rich in intercession. Dick is the president of an organization called Every Home for Christ, headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Their vision is for the Gospel message to be distributed to every home in the world.

Within the EHC international headquarters, aptly called the Jericho Center, is a major element of their success. Part of the Watchman Training Center, which is on the bottom floor of the Jericho Center, is the Watchman Wall, constructed of more than fifty tons of beautiful Jerusalem stone. And within this wall are prayer “grottos” where thousands of hours of prayer are offered every year. In the seven years before the Jericho Center opened in 2003, EHC teams reached more than a hundred million homes worldwide with the Gospel. But in the seven years after the center opened, teams reached more than 330 million homes. At present, EHC teams reach millions of new families for Christ *every month*. The difference? Intercession for the harvest!

In an interview with Dick and his wife, Dee, I asked him, “Dick, what event in your life most influenced your call to prayer?”

A warm smile spread across his face as he answered. “When I was growing up I never needed an alarm clock,” he said. “You see, each morning I was awakened by the sound of my mother’s voice in prayer.”

Dick’s mother, Lorraine, interceded faithfully for her son. She also invested her time in prayer for the nations. God put feet to those prayers through her offspring.

Surprisingly, Dick was not a model youth. In fact, he was quite rebellious. As he explains in his book *Love On Its Knees*:

While I was a rebellious youth involved in serious stealing and burglary by age fourteen, my mother stood against the darkness enslaving me, praying that the light of Jesus Christ would shine into my heart.

I remember in particular the day that my mother's prayers seemed to catch up with me. Mike, my young partner in crime, was on the phone asking me to go with him to our local large swimming pool. We had developed a scheme that we carried out in the vast area where swimmers placed their towels along with beach bags and even purses and wallets. When swimmers went into the water, we would walk casually by, selecting a neglected beach towel and purse or wallet and lay our blanket on top of it. After tossing a beach ball back and forth for a few minutes, we would pick up our blanket—with the purse or wallet now underneath it—and amble innocently off.

On this particular Sunday, however, when Mike called something came over me. I not only told him no; I told him that I would never do anything like that again. I couldn't explain why. I could only tell him my life was changing.

Mike decided to go alone that day and unknown to him a man sitting on a hillside near the pool would observe what he was doing and alert the police. Mike was arrested and taken to jail. That night, as it was a Sunday, I went to church. God had begun to answer my mother's prayers.¹

Lorraine Eastman's prayers intensified when Dick went off to college. While Lorraine prayed fervently for her son, God began to speak to Dick in what seemed like an unlikely place—the large walk-in closet of his dormitory room. That large closet was the launching pad for a worldwide ministry of prayer.

We will meet these and other prayer warriors later as I describe startling episodes of God's work through them. Knowing them has been an invaluable experience. I listened and observed their methods and stood in awe at the answers to the prayers they prayed. They were patient as I asked them countless questions: "Why did you pray that way? Does that work the same way every time you pray? How do I know how long to pray?"

This book is essentially a compilation of the golden nuggets mined from the depths of prayer of some of God's giants. I know it is their wish to pass on to future prayer warriors what they taught me and others in

the school of prayer. These are lessons that must be applied in an ongoing way for us to maintain the place in intercession where God wants us. In order to war effectively, the sword must be sharpened constantly by His Word and presence.

Another aspect of my training during phase two was reading books by these and other writers such as E. M. Bounds and Andrew Murray. God spoke to me significantly through Norman Grubb's *Rees Howells, Intercessor*. I was so touched by the life of that Welshman in the early 1900s that I would read a chapter, cry and have to wait a week or so before I could read more because each chapter so awakened my ache to go deeper into this ministry. Grubb writes: "As a result of a powerful meeting with God he was trained, chosen, and equipped by the Holy Spirit during the time of the great Welsh revival."²

God began to raise up those like Rees Howells during this great revival to be intercessors and teachers, to take the burden of the newborn babes, pray and lead them on. These young intercessors soon began to find out how mighty is the enemy of our souls. As Rees Howells said later: "The intercession of the Holy Ghost for the saints in this present evil world must be made through believers filled with the Holy Ghost."³

God had still more to show me about intercession. Phase three tracks the founding of Generals of Intercession (now Generals International). It was then I learned—and over the course of this book I will share with you—about the gates of the enemy and how we can possess them.