

will do greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12)

## THERE ONCE WAS A VILLAGE By Jaci Phillips, PhD

I wonder what it would look like if a whole town, or even a neighborhood, were all walking in the power and love of the God through the Holy Spirit. How would it look different than my neighborhood? My city? As it turns out, there is no need to wonder. It would look like... "on earth as it is in heaven" and we have examples of it. I am in awe of the stories of the Welsh and Azusa Street Revivals (see "The Power to Change The World" by Rick Joyner). The Welsh revival was in a town that was not known for its virtue, to put it mildly. But when the glory of God fell upon this region, the power of the Holy Spirit not only made way (through the fruit of much prayer) for miracles that seem like the 'greater things' referred to by Jesus and the namesake of this publication, but *fruit* of the Spirit also accompanied the powerful manifestation of the Gifts. There amazing stories of the Welsh and Azusa Street revivals that we will save for another time. There is less well-known revival story that is an incredible example of what it looks like when people walk with God.

There once was an amazing village of about 300 people in Czechoslovakia who lived in the love and power of the Holy Spirit for 800 years, since around 1100 AD. This village was in danger of starving because crops had failed, and it was a very harsh winter. When they prayed to God for help, "a beautiful woman appeared" on the mountain and taught them how to implore the Holy Spirit. It seems that this woman had a lot of experience with the Holy Spirit. I suspect that this woman learned from the best. Which is how this woman knew what the Holy Spirit was capable of when she once informed Jesus that the wedding guests had run out of wine. Interesting thoughts.

The villagers prayed as the woman instructed and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to manifest, not only the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, but were also were filled with the Fruit of the Spirit, most prominently love. They experienced a miracle similar to Elijah and the widow, whose son was dying, but who gave her last supplies to make bread for Elijah. The widow's supplies did not run out and the villager's bread did not run out until the next harvest season. Unlike the nine people who ran off after being healed by the Lord while only one stayed to thank Him, these were not people that ran off and forgot about how to walk with God in the Spirit after their need was met. They continued to walk in faith, love, and miracles for almost a millennium! They had no hospitals or doctors because when anyone was sick, they would gather and pray, and the person would be healed ("Is any one of you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing praises Is anyone of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick. The Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven." James 5:13-15, Berean Study Bible.) They had no jails because there was no crime. There was no such thing as a divorce or infidelity or a broken family. They celebrated Mass for hours, and afterwards, would enjoy fellowship together for the rest of the day. Before making their First Holy Communion, all of the children were required to memorize the entire New Testament and to climb a mountain and make a retreat in an ascetic cabin where they prepared themselves with prayer. Their lives were filled with love of God and neighbor through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the village where Anna Maria Schmidt was born and where she lived until 1938 when Nazi soldiers stormed her church one day just as the priest was performing the Consecration. The villagers, who had never experienced hate or violence, without one word of organization or human prompting, instinctively moved into aisles and stood facing out to surround and protect the priest and the Eucharist in his hands. Anna's village knew the preciousness of the Body of Christ and the power of the Word of God. They were being rushed by a 20-year-old soldier with a gun pointed at them and this is what they did.... They started to sing praise and worship to God from their hearts. Anna explains that as they did this, there was such a genuine joy and love that rose within them that they could have all died at that moment in perfect peace. But as they praised, just like Joshua in the Old Testament and Peter in the New, as the people of God worshipped, a miracle happened. The young soldier rushing at them threw himself on the ground and put his gun down and said, "What am I doing?!" and he began to repent. He had abandoned his faith long ago, but he was instantly touched by the realness of the Living God as the villagers worshipped. He told the priest that he wanted to confess and receive Communion. The priest heard his confession and gave him the Eucharist. As he left the church, forgiven and having just received Jesus, he was grabbed by his commanding officer and was shot on the spot... and entered into his eternal reward along with the good thief. Soon after, the officer retrieved 25 people from the villagers and told them to renounce Christ and be given a 'good life' or face death. One by one, they chose death with the peace of God in their hearts. Men and women, young and old, children and parents... all chose

## PAIN By T.A. Walkewicz



When we are hurting, suffering or grieving, we are invited to choose to tell ourselves the truth as found in scripture, even though we may not experience it, feel it, or at times even believe it. God says, "*I will never forsake you or abandon you.*" (Hebrews 13:5, NAB). This is often a difficult truth to recall in the midst of suffering.

Is anyone exempt from suffering? Then why should I be? An acceptance of suffering can open me up to experiencing God in a new way. Can my grief enable me to recognize my utter dependence on God? Yes, it can!

When my husband died five years ago, I became afraid. The thought "I am all alone now" kept playing in my head. Even though God assured me that He was totally trustworthy and that He would be with me, my initial attitude was to just endure it since I really couldn't do anything about it. Just 'make the best of it.'

However, after this I began to experience a '*call to widowhood*.' It was a call to embrace this season, to find life in it, and to look for ways to help hurting people. I was a 'wounded healer.' But as I walked it, I began to experience greater intimacy with God; experiencing joy, not in the grief, but in my friend and lover, Jesus. I stopped trying to get out of the suffering and began to grow in ways I recognize that I couldn't have as a married woman. Philippians 4:4-7 (NAB) became more alive for me:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

There was this transition during which I stopped asking "why?" and began to ask "for what purpose?" Instead of looking to the past, I began to look to the future.

I realized that my walk of pain was just that, my walk. I had to bear the pain alone with just the Lord. I recalled 2 Corinthians 1:3, "The God of all comfort...," yet I also realized that I needed the community of other Christians to help restore me and I began to see with the eyes of faith that something good would lie ahead. "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance." (Romans 8:24-25, NAB) It was another invitation to trust Him without having answers. I learned to trust the Lord's plan even though I could not yet see it.

Realizing God doesn't usually rush in to explain what He's doing, it was important for me to trust Him as I struggled with circumstances that didn't make sense; accepting the shared human condition of suffering, while trusting suffering that and disappointment do fit somewhere into God's plan. I determined to believe even when the proof was not provided and when my questions were not answered. My faith was growing. I remembered Proverbs 3:5, "Lean not to your understanding," (NIV). own "God, I trust that You are present and involved in my life even when it seems You are not listening or that You may be on an extended leave of absence from making Your presence known."

I had to make the decision to let God be God. I had to *know* that I am incredibly *precious* to Him! I had to choose acceptance rather than despair; accepting this new season of grace called widowhood. So where is God when I'm hurting? Right here. Right now. Always. "Jesus, I trust in You."

References:

- Winter Grief, Summer Grace by James Miller
- Where is God When it Hurts? by Philip Yancy
- When God Doesn't Make Sense by James Dobson

# THERE ONCE WAS A VILLAGE By Jaci Phillips, PhD-Continued from Page 1

Christ. When Anna had to choose, she chose Christ, but was only grazed by the bullet and, in mocking anger, made fun of the soldier. Her mother immediately grabbed her and had tears of disappointment running down her face and told Anna that she would pray much for her because of her strong will. Her mother reprimanded her to love her enemies. In the very midst of murder, Anna's mother was not only teaching her the gospel, but showing her how to do it.

Anna tells a story of her mother that makes a strong impression of the legacy of love that parents passed onto their children in this village. On a special occasion, the first time that Anna had been permitted to sit at 'the grownups table,' an attendant came and informed Anna's mother that "Jesus was at the door." Anna could not resist the curiosity of seeing who would be announced to her mother in such a manner. Much to her shock, she saw her mother in her beautiful dress kneeling down on a muddy floor washing the ulcerated feet of an absolutely filthy beggar. Then she invited him in to have dinner with them. When Anna pridefully asked her mother why she would do such a thing, her mother reprimanded her and told her that 'she should be able to recognize when Jesus had come to visit them.' The man said that he would pass on dinner, but took her mother up on a warm bed to sleep in. First thing in the morning Anna ran into the bedroom to check on the man, only to find that the bed had not been slept in and a pure red rose had been placed on the pillow for her mother. It made a deep impression on Anna.

Anna did not forget the look of disappointment on her mother's face as her mother reminded her to love her enemies as the villagers were being shot and as Anna herself went on to survive both Russian and German concentration camps. She was one of only a handful of villagers to survive the war. The lessons of the love and power of God that she learned from the village never left her and would assist her in not only surviving the

camps, but doing so in a manner that ministered love to those around her, even to her enemies. Anna was not the only one that the town made a strong impression upon. When she was a girl, there was a bishop who felt at home there and would come to visit. The bishop was Bishop Roncalli. He would go on to become Pope Saint John XIII. The Pope who not only prayed "Renew Your wonders in our day, oh Lord, as by a new Pentecost," but who knew from his experience of visiting a little village in Czechoslovakia what was possible when people truly lived in the power, humility, and love of the Holy Spirit. "As by a new Pentecost." Amen. Let it be. On earth as it is in heaven.

References used:

- Joyner, Rick. The Power to Change the World: The Welsh and Azusa Street Revivals. Morning Star
- Fellowship Church Publishing Company, 5 March 2006. https:// www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org/ store/speaker/anne-marie-schmidt

Give and gifts shall be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which your measure will in return be measured out to you.

Luke 6:38

The Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal will be holding its **annual pledge/fund drive** in November. We depend completely upon donations in order to be able to spread the power of the Holy Spirit throughout the diocese and to print and distribute the newsletter.



Holy Rosary Church, 2701 East Ave, Erie Tuesday, October 9, 2018 6:30 PM (Worship 6:15)

#### Sponsored by Son of God Prayer Group

Presided by: Fr Johnathan Schmoldt and Fr Jerry Priscaro

God wants to heal us and will heal through the powerful gift given to us by the Holy Spirit. This is one of God's gifts to His Church. During a healing Mass or service we must remain open to the Holy Spirit and invite Him into our hearts. Come with expectant faith.



#### Join Us COME TO JESUS ADORATION WORSHIP CONCERT St. Joseph Bread of Life Church 147 West 24th St, Erie

Worship by Jaci Phillips, Brianna Erdman and friends with special guest, Erie Philhamonic violinist, Louis Nicolia Exposition and Benediction by Fr. Johnathan Schmolt Friday, September 7, 2018 7 PM - 9 PM Free Will Offering to Support Erie Charismatic Renewal/Word of Life Center

#### HEALING MASS (SPIRIT-FILLED)

Sponsored by Son of God Prayer Group Holy Rosary Church, 2701 East Ave, Erie Tuesday, October 9, 2018 6:30 PM (Worship 6:15)

#### Show Me Your Glory ANNUAL GREATER THINGS CONFERENCE St. Joseph Bread of Life Center 147 West 24th St, Erie

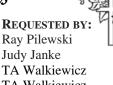
October 13, 2018 9 AM - 3:30 PM Lunch Included - Scholarships Available For Registrations Call: T.A. Walkiewicz (814) 833-9717 See Page 5 for details and registration form.

#### THE GIFT - LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

**St. Stephen's - Oil City, PA** Friday, November 9, 2018 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Saturday, November 10, 2018 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

### Memorials

PRESENTED TO: Henry Dipanfilo Mike Vehec Della Shirley Ireland Craig Kinney Jean Shoop



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Word of Life is completely dependent upon your donations to spread the fire of the Holy Spirit in the Diocese of Erie.

If you wish to send a contribution, checks can be made payable to:



Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center St. Mark Catholic Center 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa. 16514



#### † SUNDAY

**Shalom in Jesus Prayer Group** In home, DuBois, PA Rick Kenawell

#### Acts II Community

St. Julia Church, Erie, PA West Lake Rd. & Powell Ave. Jack Heintzel

6:30 PM (814) 838-1325

(814) 375-0328

6:30 PM

6:00 PM

(814) 781-3904

#### Holy Crown of Thorns Prayer Group

First Sunday of the Month749 Bean Farm Rd, Sheffield, PA1:30 PMLil Herbstritt(814) 968-3208

#### † Monday

#### **Disciples of the Holy Spirit** St. Mary's Church Annex 139 Church St., St. Marys, PA

Mary Ellen Frank

#### St. Andrew Chapel

(formerly Leopold Center group) Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary 1116 West 7th St., Erie Pa Mary Lou Peterson

3:15 pm (before Mass) (814) 866-5678

#### **River of Life PG**

St. Bridget Ch., Rm. 4, Meadville, PA2nd & 4th Monday evenings7:00PMAmy Mosbacher(814) 724-6104

#### † TUESDAY

#### Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church 2701 East Ave. Pat Montefiori

#### † FRIDAY

Light of the World Community In Home Prayer Meeting Call for location

1:00 PM (814) 833-9717

(814) 823-3968

7:00 PM

#### † SATURDAY

T.A. Walkiewicz

**God's Holy Love** 11 Russell St., Warren, PA Virginia Baker

10:30 AM (781) 217-1683

CONTEMPORARY MASS

Every Sunday 11:00 AM St. Joseph Church / Bread of Life Community Children's Liturgy of the Word

**PERPETUAL ADORATION** 

Bread of Life Chapel St. Joseph Community Center

<u>ST. JOSEPH NOVENA</u> Every Wednesday 7:00 PM St. Joseph Church / Bread of Life Community



#### Speaker: Dr. Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol, PhD

Jaci is a neuropsychologist who is trained to diagnose brain disorders. She was director of the Neurocognitive Disorders Center at the University of

Texas at Houston. She has been a worship leader, prayer group leader, and speaker in the charismatic renewal for over 20 years.



Worship led by Jaci Phillips, Brianna Erdman, & friends with special guest violinist for the Erie Philharmonic Louis Nicolia

### Moses wanted to 'see' the glory of the Lord.

He wanted to see the face of the God he loved and he begged God to allow

Him this honor, even though he might immediately die (*"No one shall see my face and live"* Ex 33:20). This was a plea of a man who loved the Lord to be able to stand in the glory of the presence of the one he loved and to stare into His face. His plea was a yearning born out of intimacy (*"I am pleased with you and know you by name"* Ex 33:17), yet desiring closer intimacy. This is what God desires of us. Just as He desired relationship with Moses, He desires relationship with US! *"The Father is seeking such as these to worship Him"* Jn 4:34. He wants us to seek Him and to love Him. The 'more' that God desires to pour onto those who love Him is born out of our desire to be drawn 'deeper' into the arms of the Living God. As we hunger and thirst to be in the presence of the glory of the Lord, miracles happen. There are emotional, spiritual, and physical miracles in response to intercessions for people, relationships, and regions. As we more deeply seek God, greater things being to happen in a world that needs 'greater things.'

Registration form for Word of Life Event: "SHOW ME YOUR GLORY!" ANNUAL 'GREATER THINGS' CONFERENCE			
Name (Print):			Phone
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	Email:
Please send registration	form and enclose	ed event fee to th	the Word of Life Office (make check payable to Word of Life Center):
		Word of Life	Charismatic Renewal Center
		St. M	Aark Catholic Center
		429 E. Grand	dview Blvd., Erie, PA 16514
Please sign me u	p to receive the	monthly Word o	of Life Newsletter!Send it to my email ORSend it to my address
*If registration fee is a hardsh	ip or for ques	tions, please c	contact TA Walkiewicz at: (814) 833- 9717 or <u>wolcerc@eriercd.org</u> .
	**Annual WO	L CCRC Mem	mbers meeting will take place during lunch
	(you do not	need to be a co	ontributor to WOL to attend the luncheon)

## GOD OF MIRACLES! By Kathryn Wilcox

## What is a miracle?

Definition of MIRACLE

 an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs

 the healing miracles described in the Gospels.

https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/miracle

Do you believe in miracles? Have you ever experienced one or heard about a miracle in the life of someone you know? Michael H. Brown defines a miracle as "something that appears to deviate from natural law" and tells of an extraordinary event. In his book, The God of Miracles, published by Queenship Publishing Company, 2005, Michael takes us back to World War II and August 6, 1945, the day that the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. Over 140,000 individuals died instantly or within a year from radiation poisoning. The immediate total destruction and fires spanned at least three miles from the center of the blast. Yet, just eight blocks from the epicenter, stood a small Catholic church tended by 8 Jesuit missionaries ("the Hiroshima 8"). Even though the priests were tossed around like toys from the force of the explosion, they and the building where they stood survived the blast with no after effects or radiation poisoning. They immediately ran out of their abode to minister to those affected and they had no earthly protection for the radiation, yet it did not affect them. All around them were fires and ashes of destroyed buildings and people killed by the bomb, yet they were fine. They have been studied medically year after year for effects of radiation and there has been no effects. Scientists interviewed and studied them over 200 times, vet could not come up with an explanation. But there is an explanation. It was a miracle from the Living God of the universe.

This was indeed a miracle, and

Michael Brown explains that "there is a shield of power, an energy transcending all known forces, that attaches itself to those who attach themselves to the Lord." Those priests and that church were under the protection of God. Did that just happen because they were priests? Absolutely not! Protection is given to those who "attach themselves to God" through praver and total surrender. A daily prayer of protection is the Taking Authority Prayer, where we take authority over all the powers and forces of the world, the nether world, and nature, and ask Jesus to pour His precious Blood of protection over us and ask Mary to surround us with her mantle of protection. Daily Mass, scripture reading, daily rosary, and praying the Divine Mercy chaplet are other prayers that help us stay in communication with our Lord, and of course praying in tongues. We have all the gifts and we have the Word of God in the Bible to affirm that God is in control of our surroundings and us. It is also interesting to note that one third of the New Testament and two thirds of the accounts in Acts of the Apostles contain accounts of supernatural events.

We are reminded that one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit is the spiritual gift of miracles and it is often received through the laying on of hands during the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. God continues to work through us to do supernatural signs and wonders and miracles in order to minister to people in need and to show the realness of the power of the Living God. It is one of the marks of a "true apostle" along with signs and wonders: "The signs of a true apostle were performed among *vou in all perseverance, and in signs.* miracles." wonders. and (2Corinthians 12:12.) It was the sign of authenticity that Jesus was who He said He was and it is one of our signs of authenticity also; miracles that flow from the love and power of Almighty God.

It is an exciting thought. When we are under God's care and we are going about our days attempting to faithfully do His will, there is protection in that and we will also be able to bring His miracles to others. WOW!!! Christianity is not boring.

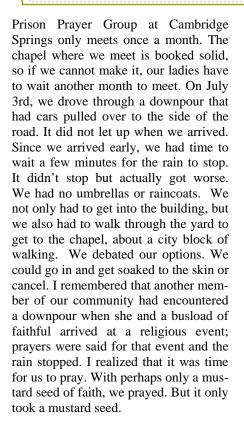
Minacles? Start small. Pray about little things... then start looking! Miracles are occurring all around us. In his book The God of Miracles, Michael H. Brown reveals story after story of big and small miracles that occur all day long when we have eyes to see God at work. Things we think of as everyday occurrences are actually miracles every time a child is born, people surviving horrible accidents, or overcoming addictions. We frequently go through our days blindly not seeing the wonderful things that God is doing in our lives. Reading this book helps one's vision to be opened to the things going on in the spiritual realm, including miracles and being more aware of His presence and protection. A friend of mine has used this book in two different prayer groups and reported that "it changed the awareness of every single person and gave everyone a new vision of the reality of how intimately involved God is in every minute aspect of our lives when we invite Him to be. They still talk about how that book changed them and we read it several years ago." It's a 'page-turner' and an easy read. Get to know 'the God of miracles." Praise God! He truly is the God of miracles!!

Reference used: Brown, Michael H. *The God of Miracles*. Queenship Publishing Company, 2005.



# By The Word of Their Testimony

"But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death." (Revelation 12:11)



### THE RAIN STOPPED!!!

Praise God!! Fifteen ladies came, and praise and worship filled the room. It was a beautiful evening. And when it was time to leave, there was no rain falling.

As I pondered this miracle, I wondered why God answers some prayers and not others? Before I could even look to scripture, the Holy Spirit asked me, "If your group had been a busload of ladies ready to go into the casino to gamble, do you really think God would have answered a prayer to stop the rain?"

So the lesson is that we need to ask ourselves: what are the fruits of what we are praying for and what is the motivation of the heart for the prayer? Will God be glorified? How is God glorified? When the apostles asked Jesus how to pray, He gave them what we call "THE LORD'S PRAYER." (Matthew 6:9-13)

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name" - When we acknowledge that God is God, He is glorified.

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"- God is glorified when we do His will, loving God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and loving others as ourselves. Seeking His will in all things and at all times.

*"Give us today our daily bread"* - God loves us all and is glorified when we seek His care for ourselves and others. We are also reminded that He provides 'daily' provision. He wants us to trust Him.

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" - God is glorified when we seek forgiveness and forgive others. He did this for us even though we did not deserve it, so we also forgive others whom we may feel 'don't deserve' our forgiveness either. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" (previous, but pertinent translation). God wants us to know where our power is as "we fight not against flesh and blood." It's a spiritual battle and God is all powerful. He has the power to deliver and protect us from the evil one.

What prayers we should be offering? Prayers that glorify God; prayers to bring others to know this amazing God that we love and serve; prayers that bring others to His Truth so that they can be free; prayers that bring all to forgive and ask for forgiveness; prayers that bring our Lord's love and care to His people; prayers for provision of daily needs, both physical and spiritual; prayers that protect and deliver people from evil in the world and protect from temptation. Prayers that, as much as possible, make earth resemble heaven ('on earth as it is in heaven').

# When we pray for His will, God will be GLORIFIED!

I have a mustard seed and I'm not afraid to use it!

Holy Father, look upon this humanity of ours that is taking its first steps along the path of the Third Millennium. Its life is still deeply marked by hatred, violence, and oppression, but the thirst for justice, truth, and grace still finds a space in the hearts of many people, who are waiting for someone to bring salvation enacted by You through Your Son Jesus. There is need for courageous heralds of the Gospel, for generous servants of suffering humanity. Send holy priests to Your Church, we pray, who may sanctify Your people with the tools of Your grace. Send numerous consecrated men and women, that they may show Your holiness in the midst of the world. Send holy laborers into Your vineyard, that they may labor with the fervor of charity and, moved by Your Holy Spirit, may bring the salvation of Christ to the farthest ends of the Earth. Amen. May the Lord of the harvest provide many holy priestly and religious vocations for His Church! —John Paul II—

Word Of Life

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

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The office is generally open limited hours. Please call before coming.

The purpose of this newsletter is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to provide teaching, news and calendar of events, which help to foster Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the Diocese of Erie.

This newsletter may be copied to put in churches or shared with others.

CHIEF EDITOR Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol, PhD EDITORS Elaine Sinnott; Amy Mosbacher FORMATTING Elaine Sinnott; Loretta Laufer

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