

FOREWORD

There is power in praying God's Word and there is power in praying in unity. Joy Lamb's *The Sword of The Spirit, The Word of God* is a handbook everyone can use to pray in power for themselves, for family and friends, for their church, and for their nation.

When I think of Joy Lamb, the word 'obedience' immediately comes to mind. From the first time I met her I saw that her desire to be obedient to the Lord was the priority in her life. It was in obedience to a specific word God gave her: 'Pray my Word, child' that *The Sword of The Spirit* came into being.

I am profoundly grateful that Joy again responded in obedience when she felt the Lord telling her to make *The Sword of The Spirit* available in Europe through Lazarus. Prayer is the foundation of all that Lazarus does. *The Sword of The Spirit* is used by our prayer supporters as they pray for those we minister to on courses, or two-on-one ministry - and it ensures total confidentiality.

Personally, I have found *The Sword of The Spirit* to be a unique and invaluable tool in the development of my own prayer life and it is so exciting to see the changes God brings about in situations as a result of Scriptural Prayers. It therefore gives me great pleasure to be able to offer it to others.

'Don't worry about anything, instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.'

Phil 4:6-7 (NLT)

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INTRODUCTION

I have discovered that praying for the needs of God's people is one of life's most fulfilling and rewarding experiences. It offers us an unique opportunity to see God's power and love working in peoples' lives as we come, in obedience, to Him in prayer.

The Sword of The Spirit, The Word of God has been an exciting adventure. Having received much personal healing through Francis MacNutt's ministry I had become a volunteer in their office. Over the weeks that I was there I became aware of a basket of letters in the lunch room that just seemed to grow, and on questioning, discovered they were prayer requests the MacNutts received from around the world. Their busy schedules made it impossible for them to pray for all these requests individually and I found myself saying 'may I take them'. As they became thrilled that someone was taking responsibility for this area of ministry, I became overwhelmed. I took them to the chapel and asked the Lord what I should do. It was at this time that the Lord spoke clearly to me: 'Pray My Word, child. It brings healing in all areas. Trust Me and pray My Word.'

I began to catagorize the many requests according to the needs of the people. As I read the Scriptures, the answers to the categorised needs seemed to jump off the pages of the Bible. It was so exciting watching the Holy Spirit at work in this way. I found this method so simple and yet so powerful in that you pray for hundreds of people in a very short time simply by roll calling the list and praying the Scriptures. Leave it to God to make it simple and powerful!

Together with three friends I regularly began praying these Scriptures for each category over the names. We decided to acknowledge the letters and tell the people we were praying for them, at the same time asking them to tell us of the prayers that were answered. The praise reports flooded in.

These people had seen the power of praying God's Word in their own lives and began to request copies of the

Scriptural prayers so that they in turn could pray for others, and the group of three grew to 500 in a few months. Thus evolved *The Sword of The Spirit, The Word of God: A Handbook for Praying God's Word*.

In 1989 I felt the Holy Spirit nudging me to gather together a group to pray God's Word for the healing of the land. The original intent of *The Sword of The Spirit, The Word of God* was, and still is, to connect people throughout the world by praying God's Holy Word in one accord - God's Word being prayed back to Him in a symphony of unity - a covering of His Word for the healing, salvation and deliverance of each land and its people.

I am amazed at what has happened. We have never advertised, we do not have a renowned publisher, distributor or promoter, and yet the books go out daily by the caseloads to individuals, churches of all denominations, prisons, prayer groups and counseling centers throughout the world. As a result several thousand prayer groups are praying in one accord. I stand in awe as I watch this happen, and yet I remember in the beginning I asked that the Lord, and He alone, be my agent. I hear Him daily saying, 'Yes!'

As intercessors, we are commissioned by God to become 'warriors of light', fighting against the powers of darkness that are trying to destroy the church, Christian institutions, families, value systems, governments, the environment, our health, our world. My prayer is that intercessory groups will emerge throughout the world in homes, churches, work places, government, schools, prisons, hospitals and retirement homes, all praying God's Word in one accord to bring healing and love to our world, and to bind and tear down the destructive strongholds of satan. We are standing on God's Word that if we speak out His Word with all boldness He will stretch out His hand to heal, and signs and wonders will take place through the name of Jesus. God is truly answering my prayer that this would happen and I praise Him for it.

Joy Lamb

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For Bronson,

My precious husband who has taught me all about God's unconditional love. This book would never have been possible without his love, help, and understanding.

Then the Lord said 'Behold I am going to make a covenant. Before all you people I will perform miracles which have not been produced in all the earth nor among any of the nations: and all the people among whom you live will see the working of the Lord, for it is a fearful thing that I am going to perform with you.'

Exodus 34:10

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I give thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ who lifted me out of the darkness and into the light to participate in the wonder of intercession.

My thanks to Jerry Shriner, Alma Coit, Connie Green, Frances Hanusek, Ann Bauwens, Barbara Newman, Mercy Jones, Pat Zink, Jill Wilson, Betty Heindel, Norma Dearing, Joy Abney, Dave Busse, Francis MacNutt, Thyrsa Zabriskie, Michele Perry, Grace Sarber, Louise Allen, Patricia Phillips, Rosemary Phillips, Monet Kent and all those who prayed that this intercessory handbook would become a reality, and be used to the glory of God.

Testimonies of Intercessors using *The Sword of The Spirit, The Word of God*

I would like to share with you a small sample of intercessor praise reports:

'I want to thank you so much for your book. Since I have been praying your prayers of inner healing and deliverance several people I know have decided to come out of the gay lifestyle. One client has made a commitment to the Lord and is participating in an ex-gay ministry and giving a marvellous testimony of what Jesus can do in a person's life! His life alone would have been worth your book. Thank you!'

'I am in prison, and I use your book, *The Sword of The Spirit*. There is so much evil in the prisons, but when I pray the deliverance prayers in the book, things get so much calmer and I don't experience the fear I once did. I pray that prayer a lot lately.'

'The first morning that I picked up your book and prayed the prayers of deliverance the Lord's anointing was there. Amazing! I know His blessing is on your ministry there, and I wish to encourage you in all that you are doing.'

'We used the *The Sword of The Spirit* in our chapel service (we are Methodists). We have never felt the power of God so strongly. What a blessing this has been for us. Thank you.'

'Our prayer life has been energized by your book. Due to your splendid scripture selections and your topics going to the heart of prayer, it is a fine tool to have for years to come. Intercession is the most rewarding service of all, that has been my experience, and it is certainly more so since using your book.'

I am a member of Catholics in Action. We have been praying for families, Government leaders, Church leaders and all needs of each other. I have passed *The Sword of The Spirit* around and need more. What miracles are happening!'

'I want to express my thanks to you for offering your book of scriptural references, *The Sword of The Spirit*, to use with

time I pray! Thank you for sharing this gift with me and all of us. CHM represents to me one of the most balanced and powerful ministries. I feel privileged to pray and be part of the healing and reaching out to the many people who are searching for Jesus these days.'

'I am writing you to thank you for the privilege of being one of your new intercessors. The first time I made intercession for the request sent to me as part of my morning devotion, I felt lightened and blessed, and I continue to feel good about it.'

'My wife and I minister regularly at prisons. Recently we have been ministering in the realms of deliverance. Your book fits like a piece of a puzzle in the midst of all that we are doing. Your book, *The Sword of The Spirit*, has definitely been inspired by the Spirit of God.'

'I am soaring each morning as I pray with the *The Sword of The Spirit*.'

'Your book *The Sword of The Spirit* has been a great inspiration to me - and great help. Recently, while sharing the deliverance prayer with a friend, he asked how we could get more copies. I am an ex-gay involved in an ex-gay ministry and we feel this book could be of great benefit to all our leaders and members.'

'I am in prison for life. I am holding the book *The Sword of The Spirit* in my hand right now. I cannot tell you what this book has meant to me. It seems God has already started doing a mighty work in my life. I would like to send a letter to the young generation and let them know that they can stop and turn their life around before it is too late or they end up in a situation like I am in. However, it seems I'm okay now. I have this feeling of hope. Thank you again for this book.'

'Years ago when looking for a scripture text that would

describe the task of an intercessor, I opened 'by accident' to Isaiah 62:6-7 and I've often used the text in writing or in preaching and then recently a copy of the excellent book *The Sword of The Spirit* fell into my hands. CLICK - all the parts all fit together. Your book and 'my' text seem made for each other. The book is made up of God's promises. The Isaiah text calls on us to remind God of his promises. We have been given a voice that He must heed - namely His Word. I look forward to mounting the walls of Jerusalem to do my round of duty!

'For the past 30 days I have been reading *The Sword of The Spirit*. I cannot begin to tell you the wonders the book has done for me. I became a Jewish believer in "Yeshua" (Jesus) over one year ago. I have been in prison over 14 years and only after being born again, have I finally found peace.'

The 'Answered Prayers' (p148) are testimonies of people who have written or called in for prayer. Our intercessors prayed Scripture for them using *The Sword of The Spirit*. We have hundreds of these testimonies, a true blessing from our Lord, but I feel that this is only the beginning of what He is about to do as we turn to Him in His Word.