



TWELVE INCHES FROM DEATH

June 2017 - By Tamara Roberts

“Pray without ceasing.” - 1Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV)

“Did you get a text from Jeremy?” My husband’s voice sounded different through the phone. Strained. Stressed. Shaken. He’s the calmest man I know. In all our years of marriage, I’ve rarely heard a tone like that.

“No.” I reached for my purse and looked for my phone, but I was already talking on it. “Let me put you on speaker so I can check.”

A text from our son sat unopened. It said, “I almost died today.” A picture from the inside of his van showed a pole at least a yard long had crashed through his windshield and landed twelve inches to his right. He was twelve inches from instant death.

The eighteen-wheeler never stopped. I doubt if the driver noticed anything flew off. Somehow, Jeremy maintained control of his van and managed to get to safety. Somehow? It was God.

In seconds, my mind rushed through two memories. First I remembered an unusual meeting years ago. My family went to a cafeteria after church. As we stood in line talking to friends, our one-year-old, Jeremy sat in the cafeteria’s rolling highchair along with his monitor. He wore it because he was a Sudden Infant Death Syndrome candidate. As a newborn, he had stopped breathing as he slept in my arms with a nurse by my side and again in the newborn nursery. I happened to work for the pediatrician who invented the very monitor my son wore. The alarm alerted us each time he stopped breathing while he slept until he outgrew the problem.

At the cafeteria, a woman we’d never met approached my husband out of nowhere and said, “You’re a minister, aren’t you.”

He nodded.

She asked, “Which one of your children is named Jeremy?” He pointed him out. After telling us that Jeremy’s name meant called of God, she looked my husband in the eye and said, “I have a word from God for you. He will be ten times greater than you in My kingdom. Satan has tried to take him before and he will try to take him again, but remember My words.”

continued



I glanced at the monitor. Yep. More than once, already.

We thanked her, and she went on her way. I looked at my husband, and he raised an eyebrow at me. We weren't sure God gave words of knowledge to Baptists.

"I'll claim that." I smiled waiting for his response.

"We don't know her from Adam. Great in God's kingdom? What does that mean?"

I patted our son's head. "Well, you just be the greatest you can be and he can be ten times greater."

I remember those words every time something wonderful or scary happens to Jeremy. Great pastors and leaders have befriended and mentored him. Now, as a pastor, he'll often have a dream for his church. Before he verbalizes it publicly, someone approaches him with the same vision and the means to make it happen.

A second memory zoomed through. It was my prayer the day before. I'd listed several people I knew were traveling and casually asked for travel protection. Jeremy was one of them.

The prayer didn't happen in a deep morning devotional time. I didn't run through the ACTS plan: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication as I sometimes do. I did start my day with, "Hi, God. I love You. Then I thanked and praised my Heavenly Father as the reasons flooded my thoughts. An interruption happened. I don't remember what it was. Prayer time ended for the moment, and I was swept into the busy-ness of the day. My prayers continued like a by-the-way kind of dialogue with God.

Was the Holy Spirit nudging me? Now, I'm sure He was. At the moment, it just seemed like a casual thought and a prayer. But, wow, I had no idea how important those few words would be.

I don't even get why God wants us to pray. He's omnipotent. He doesn't need us. He's omniscient and already knows our thoughts. But He wants us, instructs us, prompts us to pray. Why He's chosen to partner with us rather than do everything Himself, I don't know. I just know the amazing, Creator of the universe has chosen us, His created, His saved, His children to be a part of His awesome plan by praying.

God listens to us while we share our life with Him. He answers prayers that seem small at the moment. Now I wonder how many times Holy Spirit has stepped in, sent angels to protect us, or influenced the flick of the steering wheel of our life—positioning us a few inches from disaster in answer to our prayers.

Jesus said, "...I am with you always..." Matthew 28:20 (ESV)

He has been with us, just like He promised. But, even in the times He has allowed the unthinkable to happen—even when we asked for His protection and He did nothing, He was still there.

Just like He promised.

The Father watched His own Son hang on a cross.

He didn't stop it.

But, He was there.

The Great Jehovah has His own plans, and they are often beyond our understanding. He wants us to pray and trust Him anyway.

So, let's keep on partnering with God through prayer. Let's keep an open dialogue going with God throughout our waking hours. Listen to the nudges and act on them right away. Pray when He brings needs to our minds. We may never know how important those little prayers are.

Mighty, Loving, Father, Thank You for honoring us to partner with You in prayer. Thank you for providing the power to our prayers through that partnership. Help us bring glory to You all the days of our lives.

Pray for our Church Family

NRHBC Hospital Board & Prayer Sheet as of May 25, 2017: Darlene Rushing, Steve Slaughter, Charlie Nelson, Claudia Bone, Family of Jennifer Hester (Susan Hester Mincey's daughter), D. D. Seely (Harriet's husband), Bilenda Karnes, Kathy Engeling (Ben White's daughter), Lewis Filewood, Mike DeArmond (Jean Riddle's son-in-law), Ladena Sullivan, Family of Jay Jackson (Nathan's father), Doug Anderson, Mike Thomas and Linda Andruss.

Pray for these with continuing needs: Alice Abbott, Darlene Anderson, Carol Barbee, Connor Bayless, Trish Bean, Darlene Blackburn, Sam Bollinger, John Boone, Martha Bradford, Maxine Calvert, Al Cardenas, Evelyn Carpenter, Delbert Cason, Judy Cherne, George & Pat Clark, Mike Cobb, Karen Coker, Anne Coleman, Rick Collins, Janie Corbett, Betty Crumpler, Joan Daniel, Terry Denson, Ryan Donaghue, Ron Donahue, Brent Doyle, Jean Doyle, Judy Earley, Martha English, Jan Farr, Clint Frisby, Judy Gangwere, Barbara Gant, Lupe Garcia, Jan Giles, Mike Green, Larry & Anita Griffey, Bill Griggs, John Heath, Karen & Kemp Hoop, Brian Hostin, Mary Frances Kelley, Lee Kibbe, Sandra Kidd, Ed Kimbell, Helen Kingston, Bob Korb, Frieda Merrell, Bo Mings, Joyce Moody, Jenny Moore, Maxine Moore, Bill Norman, Ruth Osborne, Doris Pait, Carolyn Parker, Dot Piretti, Louise Pitts, Leon & Jean Pulliam, Nelda Roik, Linda Shepherd, Brenda Slaughter, Gerald Smith, Rosa Lee Smith, Doris Snider, Bea Smith, Matha Sterling, Ladena Sullivan, Karolyn Taylor, Hubert Thedford, Mike Thomas, John Tucker, Evelyn Vaughn, Bob Votaw, Homer Wallace, Eddie White, Jim Willeford, Lorene Williams, Calvin Winters, Mandi Womack, and Glenn Wright. Pray for NRHBC Staff and their families.

Pray for Ministries of NRHBC & Cross Church

Scott Maze, Senior Pastor requests prayer for:

☞ Friends, family & co-workers who are lost. Pray for people by name.

Danny Roberts, Executive Pastor requests prayer for:

☞ God's leadership as we finalize the calling of staff members.
☞ Cross Church influence in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Jeremy Winters, Cross Church Campus Pastor and Global Missions requests prayer for:

✚ Generous giving toward "Grow Together" building fund. We look forward to having our own building.
🌐 Effective strategy and leaders for community engagement.
🌐 God's direction in Missions & helping those in need.
🌐 Our search for a Cross Church Worship Pastor.

Music & Worship Ministry requests prayer for:

🎧 Our worship ministry during this interim time.

Hillary Ackerman, Bus Ministry requests prayer for:

🚌 Adult riders (18 yrs +) to assist each week or every other week; Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday evenings.

Jody Hayes, Wellness & Senior Adult Ministry requests prayer for:

🍷 Opportunities to share Christ with those who use the Wellness Center each week.
🍷 Vitality among senior adults as they serve Christ.
🍷 Each NRHBC widow to feel loved and experience ministry here.

Daniel Stafford, Singles Ministry requests prayer for:

😊 God's direction in the Singles Ministry.

D'Ann Laywell-Children's Ministry & Caren Crow-Preschool Ministry & Susan Young-KID Worship Ministry requests prayer for:

🚲 Our Vacation Bible School that is June 5-9. Pray for the leaders and the children who will attend. We will share the salvation story on Thursday.
🚲 Kid's Camp is June 19-23. We will have almost 700 in attendance and we need the Lord's protection as we travel, swim, hike and enjoy God's creation. Also pray for the many children that will make decisions for the Lord that week. Safe travels.
🚲 Susan Young needs volunteers in KID Worship.

D'Ann Laywell, Women's Ministry requests prayer for:

💞 Relationships to blossom among NRHBC women.

Ben Lacey, MS, HS, & College Ministries requests prayer for:

📖 Our students while they attend summer camp. Pray that God would save students, change hearts, and call students to full-time vocational ministry.

Stuart Pendell, Couples Ministry requests prayer for:

🍷 We are starting our new "Re-Engage Marriage Ministry" on Sunday, August 6. We need to be praying for the recruitment of marriage mentors to lead this ministry and the couples who need to come and attend. We really believe God is going to use this, but we want him to put all those pieces into place.

Numbers to call for Prayer Concerns:

International Mission Board
Prayer Line 1-800-395-PRAY (7729)
North American Mission Board Prayer
Line 1-800-554-PRAY (7729)
International Mission News
<http://www.imb.org>
North American Mission News
<http://www.namb.net>
General Prayer Requests
diane@nrhbc.org

North Richland Hills
Baptist Church
6955 Blvd. 26
North Richland Hills, TX 76180

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Let us pray for the special activities of our church

Jun 1—VBS Planning/Decorating in CMB	Academy Home School Choir	Angel Land Preschool
Jun 2—"GPS" Singles to the Ranger Game	Apartment Ministry	BSF Groups
Jun 4—All Singles SMBS in the Gym	Bus Girls Bible Study	Bus Ministry
Jun 5—Mandatory VBS Workers Meeting	Child Care Ministry	Children's Choir
Jun 5-8—Day Camp	Children's Ministry	College Bible Study
Jun 5-9—VBS at NRHBC	College Lab	College Worship
Jun 9—VBS Musical, Carnival, and Dinner	Connect Classes	Cross Church Campus
Jun 11—Lord's Supper in AM Services	Couples Ministry	Divorce Care
Jun 11—Discover NRHBC and New Discoveries New member Classes	ESL Program	Divorce Care for Kids
Jun 11-17—Vancouver Family Mission Trip	Food Pantry Ministry	Financial Peace University
Jun 12-16—Back Yard Kids Club in Haltom City	Good News Clubs	Global Focus Ministry
Jun 14—VBS Follow-Up night in the FH	Hispanic Ministry	GriefShare Ministry
Jun 14-19—High School Glorietta Camp	Kids Beach Clubs	Homebound Ministry
Jun 18—Fathers Day	Ladies Prayer Group	KID Worship
Jun 18—Cross Church "Donuts with Dad"	Men's Bible Study	Library Ministry
Jun 18—Worship Pastor Candidate comes in View of a Call	Cross Church Update	Media Ministry
Jun 19-23—KIDS Camp	Middle School Hangout	Men's Mentors
Jun 21—All-Church Business Leadership Meeting with	New Members Ministry	Men's Ministry
Jun 25—Baptism Sunday	Preschool Ministry	Music Ministry
Jun 25-Jul 1—Middle School Carolina Creek Camp	Singles Ministry	NRHBC fine Arts Academy
Tuesday Ministry Choir singing at various facilities	Upward Basketball	Senior Adult Ministry
Tuesday Morning Senior Bible Study Fellowship	Wellness Center Ministry	Singles Wednesday Book Club
Adopt-A-School Mentoring Ministry	Youth Ministry	Wednesday Night WILD
Young Singles 20s Bible Study		Women's Ministry
Young Men's Study Group		Youth Prayer Group