

Powerless And Hopeless Prayer Meeting Pastor JD Farag

KAPONO: Thank You, Lord. And yes, when we pray, it doesn't always turn out like we think it should. But it always turns out exactly the way You would have it for Your glory and for our good, Lord. So we lift up our prayers to You this evening. We thank You for this time that we can gather together and lift up those in need. Bless our time together in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen. Amen. Good evening to you.

[Cheering]

No, don't do that. Don't do that.

[Applause]

It's good to be back. I missed you. You missed me? Oh, you're just saying that. No, I really did miss you. Good to be back. And glad you're here tonight. I want to, for tonight's prayer meeting, start with a brief message, then I'll provide a prayer update of sorts on a couple of matters, chief of which, of course, is my wife's cancer.

After that, I'm going to have some others come up and share some additional updates and actually some amazing testimonies of answered prayer. Really looking forward to that then I'll come back up and close. So let's go ahead and get started.

I want to share with you something that the Lord has been ministering to me as of late concerning a unique aspect of prayer. And by unique aspect of prayer, I'm referring to those times in our lives where our prayer lives are reduced to powerless and hopeless moans and groans, if that. You know what I'm talking about?

Have you been there?

[Congregation says, "Yes."]

When that happens, we're prone to think that those prayers or even lack thereof are feckless. However, the truth is it's the opposite that's true.

In *Zachariah 4:6*, we have what is arguably one of the most stunning declarations in all of Scripture as it relates to the power source, the power supply, if you prefer, so much so that it serves as a much needed reminder, lest in any way we fancy ourselves in and of ourselves as possessing the power source of prayer, if I can say it like that.

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Doubtless you've heard it said that there's power in prayer. And yes, that's true, but it's also a misnomer, and I'll explain what I mean by that. Yes, there is power in prayer, but let's not get confused as to the source of that power in prayer. Well, I might be getting ahead of myself because if you're anything like me, and I suspect that most of you are, okay, some of you are, and you know who you are, we can take the credit for answered prayer because we're the one that was in prayer. So God — well, I am getting ahead of myself, so I'm not going to do that, not yet anyway.

But I want to, before I read this well-known verse, hasten to say that we would be grossly remiss were we not to understand what preceded this within its context. Many of you know *Zachariah 4:6*. We've written songs, worship songs about it. We quote it; we know it well.

But do we know what the context of it is? Because when we slide into *Chapter 4*, Zachariah is emotionally and spiritually exhausted by all the visions that God has already shown him heretofore by the time you get to *Chapter 4*.

So what's God going to do? Show him another vision. But this time the vision is so that Zachariah, and us with him, would be reminded of the inexhaustible source of power and strength. And in so doing, God takes this self-imposed pressure of prayer performance.

I know that's kind of a packed way to say it. Let me say it again, same thing in a different way. Self-imposed: We do it to ourselves. We put pressure on ourselves to pray, and it is a duty and a performance. And we impose upon ourselves that pressure needlessly and unnecessarily as if it's on us.

And this is why it is, by the way, that prayer, sadly, has become a 'got to' and not a 'get to' where I, man, I better pray. I need to pray more. Who among us does not need to pray more?

I want to be careful when I say this because doubtless you've heard someone say this. Maybe you yourself have said this. I've actually said it too, so we're all in the same sinking boat. "I'm all prayed up."

You are? Wow! How'd you do that? Like, did you reach a certain — is there like a prayer meter where you pray and then, ding! Okay, I'm done! Wow! It's a continually praying, an

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attitude of prayer where you're in constant conscious communion, communication with God, as one author titled his writing.

So now here's God. How is He going to take this self-imposed pressure off of Zachariah, who is fatigued and exhausted? He's going to wake him up.

This is a detail that can be easily missed at first read. I mean, in order to wake somebody up, they have to be asleep, right? And why are they asleep? Because they are just exhausted. And so that's what God does. He wakes him up from his slumber.

Enter *verse 1, Zachariah 4*, where we're told, **“Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. And he said to me, “What do you see?”**

So I said, “I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps.”

Can you use your God-given imagination and picture this, paint this on the canvas of your mind so you can see this picture, this vision?

You've got seven lamps on a stand with seven pipes coming out of them to seven lamps that are lit by the pipes from and for these lamps. Did I just make it worse? That did not help at all, did it?

Now, what is the supply? *Verse 3*, **“Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.”**

So I answered [Verse 4] and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, “What are these, my lord?” Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” And I said, [No, that's why I'm asking] [No, he didn't say that] [He said] “No, my lord.”

Now, listen to *Zachariah 4:6*. This is what is answered to Zachariah with his question of: I don't know what these are. What are these? What do they symbolize, these two olive trees, these pipes, these lamps? And they're lit with seemingly an endless supply? Here's what they are. Here's what they represent.

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Here's what this means. This is the word of the Lord. "So he answered and said to me: **"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts."**

That's the power source. Those olive trees: endless supply, all of the oil to light those lamps for all of eternity. And it's nothing to do with anything you do. It's not your might. It's not your power. It's My Spirit. That's the source. That's the power source.

When the Holy Spirit came upon them on that day of Pentecost as recorded in the *Book of Acts*, they were filled and the power, "dunamis," where we get the English word "dynamite," came upon them. They were empowered.

Here's an illustration, and I hope this works. It probably won't. Whatever. We say, "I got to get my batteries recharged." Okay. Mo betta. Why don't you just plug into the source, the power source? How about that?

Yeah, I didn't think it would work. Anyway...

You can't get that out of your mind now. But it's a continuous — unless, of course, and I mean this with all due respect to HECO who announced that there was going to be a rolling outage.

Did you?

[Laughter]

Yeah. So this is not HECO. This is God. And He has no outages, so it's a contiguous, continual power supply. That's the power. Not your power. That's where the strength comes from. That's where the might, the power comes from, My Holy Spirit, the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now, let's fast forward to the New Testament, *Book of Acts*, and two accounts, the first of which is found in *Chapter 3* where Peter and John encounter a crippled man asking for alms. Let me begin reading in *verse 1*. **"Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at [Listen to this] the hour of prayer..." [Oh] [Not the couple of minutes of prayer] [Just saying the hour of prayer] "...the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple, which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple, who, [Verse 3] seeing Peter and John about**

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to go into the temple, asked for alms. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” *[Make eye contact with us]*

So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, *[How's this for a letdown?]* “Silver and gold I do not have, *[Oh, okay, well, then, never mind]* *[I'll find somebody else.]* but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk. *[Ho!]*

And he took him *[Now, again, picture this]* *[Peter takes this guy by the hand]* by the right hand, *[Interesting detail]* and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. *[That's a miracle where I come from, they call that]* So he, leaping up, stood, and walked and entered the temple with them— walking, leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God. Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.”

To him? How about for him? In other words, they recognized — no, that can't be him. That crippled that's there at the gate every single stinking day begging, and now he's leaping and praising God? No way. Way!

Now, unfortunately, it's at this juncture that everything takes a wrong turn because as the attention is now shifting, and it's put on Peter and John instead of being on the God of Peter and John.

And so we pick it up in *verse 11*. “Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch, which is called Solomon's, *[Solomon's porch]* greatly amazed. So when Peter saw it, *[Now he's — Peter's seeing them looking at him in amazement]* *[And his response]* he responded to the people: “Men of Israel, *[What are you doing?]* why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us...”

[They were staring at them like, how did you do that?] *[And Peter says]* “Why are you intently staring at us as though by our own *[Key word]* power or godliness *[Hang on to that]* we had made this man walk?”

You think that we did that in our own might, in our own power, or because of our own godliness? Wrong! That's not why this man was healed. That's not why he's leaping and

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jumping and praising God after being the recipient of this miracle. This was done not by might or power but by the Holy Spirit. Why are you putting that on us or giving the credit to us?

The second account in the *Book of Acts* is *Chapter 27*. And I — this particular chapter has just been — become a friend to me, especially in those times of such difficulty and pain and trials.

So we find Luke and Aristarchus and the Apostle Paul on a prisoner ship going to Rome. You know the account. But unbeknownst to them, they had an unscheduled stop and layover on the island of Malta. That was not on the itinerary originally.

Now, this is going to be germane to our understanding of this chapter in this account because Paul, prior, had already been in three shipwrecks prior to this one. This was not his first rodeo / shipwreck. He had a Ph.D. in shipwrecks.

Now, why is that going to be germane? Because of what we're about to see in *verse 20 of Acts Chapter 27*. Now Luke is recording. See, Luke was there with the Apostle Paul and Aristarchus on that same ship. So I want you to notice and pay attention to two particular words that I want to point out.

“Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.”

“We,” word one; “finally,” word two, gave up all hope.

Paul? Where he had a promise, a word from God that he would go to Rome and stand before Caesar, did that get thrown overboard with everything else, including their food?

Of course, nobody was hungry. If you can imagine all of the equipment for the ship thrown overboard, just trying to keep the thing together before it just got busted apart, even before being shipwrecked. And they're going days, and they see no sun. They see no stars, only storm. And not only are they seeing the storm, they're getting beaten by this storm. And they finally just give up all hope. Yes, Paul.

Wait a minute. This is Paul we're talking about.

I know.

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This is the man of God.

I know.

This is the Apostle Paul.

I know.

And he has in his hip pocket, so to speak, this promise from God that he's going to go to Rome and stand before Caesar.

I know. But he's given up. He has no hope. And this word, "finally" is interesting because it kind of carries with it the idea of that they just finally threw up their hands and said, we're not getting out of this one. We're not surviving this one.

Now, what's my point here? Well, the common denominator with all three accounts is that Zachariah, Peter, John, Luke, Aristarchus, and last but certainly not least, the Apostle Paul, were all powerless and / or hopeless. They had no power, and they had given up all hope.

But God, as only He can, does what only He does by showing Himself faithful and all-powerful in His time, His way, and for His glory. And He does this so that we, like them, come to that place where we have no power or hope in and of ourselves.

Because when we have no power or hope in and of ourselves, where do we go to for said power and said hope? Him. That's the whole point.

I mean, think about it. There was nothing that they could do. There was nothing that they could bring to the table of being saved, or the cripple being healed. It was not anything to do with them or what they did. It was everything to do with God and what He did.

Now, this dovetails into what I wanted to share personally as it relates to my wife's cancer, which, as it turns out is as serious as it is aggressive. And we need a miracle. We need God to heal her. Conventionally, natural, conventional treatment? No.

Why?

Because then you give the credit to the natural treatment, or you give the credit to the conventional treatment. And the physicians now are the ones who get the glory for being cancer-free, not God. It was something they did or something we did.

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If I could be so candid, I'm at the place in my life with my wife where I find myself completely helpless. And that's a good thing.

That's a good place to be. Because in and of my own strength and again, I won't look at anybody when I say this because I know that a lot of you, and you know who you are, you're like me. You're very strong personalities.

Okay, I said I wouldn't look. But it did. But you know who you are. I would ask for a show of hands, but that would be inappropriate. I don't want to embarrass anybody.

But see, in our own strength, the energy of our own flesh, we try to muster up the strength, the energy, the power to do something.

And you know that famous verse from the Bible that's actually not in the Bible? "God helps those who help themselves." Oh, you've heard of that? It's right next to the verse that says, "Cleanliness is next to godliness," neither of which are in the Bible. Spoiler alert.

No, it's actually the opposite, right? God helps those who can't help themselves. God helps the helpless, gives hope to the hopeless, power to the powerless. It's a terrifying place to be because the fact of the matter is you have really no choice but to trust God.

So we come to those places in our lives where, like Paul, we're on that ship, and we've given up hope. We're hopeless. We're powerless to do anything. We're hopeless, and we're like that cripple.

I mean, what — can I just ask you: what did he do in terms of his part, his role in the healing there at that gate, Beautiful? Nothing. He didn't even pray. He didn't even ask to be healed. He asked for money.

No, think about it. I mean — but God did what only God does as only God can so that only God gets the glory for what He did.

And that's where we're at. If my wife is healed from this cancer by whatever means, God's going to do it in such a fashion that only He has the glory — I'm going to — gets all the glory.

I'm going to get a little bit uncomfortably personal, and I'm almost done. I am wired this way. And because I pray, I fast, but if God heals my wife, it won't be because I prayed, and I fasted.

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Because, see, again, speaking for myself, I'm very quick to take the credit. Well, God healed her because I'm a man of prayer, I'm a man of God.

Wait. Can I ask you to take that word “godliness” out of your hip pocket? When Peter says, you're looking at us like we did this in our own power or godliness — no, stay with me because I'm here like, man it's because of my righteousness, my godliness, my praying, my fasting.

Oh, so you get the credit? No, actually, let's look behind the curtain. And you were completely helpless, hopeless, and powerless. And God, like with the Apostle Paul who had finally given up all hope, reached down and healed you and saved you. And you had nothing to do with it.

Now, am I advocating for not praying because you just got done telling me that it's not by my power in praying. Not at all. When we pray, what we're saying to God is God, I don't possess the power to do that which I'm praying and asking You to do.

Did you catch that? Did you connect that? I mean, it's an admission of hopelessness and powerlessness and helplessness because just by virtue of the fact that you're praying, asking God to do something infers that you are powerless to do it yourself in your own power, in your own might.

There's nothing I can do, and I need to be okay with that. God's going to have to do this. God's going to have to do something about this shipwreck that is scheduled for us on the island of Malta. God's going to have to do something for me as the cripple by the gate, Beautiful, begging for money. God's going to have to do something like He did for Zachariah, showing him a vision of, hey, this is the source of the power, the oil, a type of the Holy Spirit, that fuels the lamp endlessly.

That's where it's going to come from. And it has to be so because the onus is neither on us nor is anything predicated upon us, nor our prayerfulness, nor our godliness, and might I add, righteousness.

Well, what about *James 5:16*? **“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much”** or accomplishes much. A righteous man.

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Oh, excuse me. Do you mean in your own righteousness? You might want to ask Isaiah about that. When James writes a righteous man who prays is powerful and effective, what he's saying is Christ's righteousness, Christ's imputed righteousness.

When you're praying in Christ's imputed righteousness, you have access to, as one so aptly said, omnipotence. It's the closest you'll ever get to omnipotence, all-powerful, being all-powerful. We'll never be all-powerful. But the most powerful person is the person who prays.

Why?

Because they've accessed the power source. The power source. But let's not again get confused about what that source of power is. It's not by my power or my godliness. God will lovingly bring you to that place in your life where you can do nothing.

I mean, if you think about it, even praying – did we see Paul pray? No. He's sitting there in the corner going: This is it. This is how it ends. It's been a good run. I guess the fourth shipwreck was the one, you know. No. He's not praying, Oh God! No, he's way past that, so is Luke, by the way, so is Aristarchus. Because “we” means “we.” Everybody on board gave up hope.

And now God's up there going: All right, it's about time. I've got you right where I want you to be. Now I can do what I want to do.

See, prior, you would have taken the credit for it. But I had to bring you to the end of yourself in order to do this so that there would be no question mark about who did this: Me. **“Not by your might, not by your power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord.”**

I'll end this way. Our trust and hope is in the Lord and the Lord alone, so that He alone receives all the glory, honor, and praise, no matter the end.

And this is true for every one of us, such that in the end, we can echo the words of *Job 13:15* where Job says, **“Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.”**

And in the original it's so much richer in its meaning. To trust Him means to wait upon Him and more importantly to have cause to hope in Him. Though He slay me, I will yet have cause to hope in Him. I have no hope, but I have cause to hope in Him. I have no power, but I trust Him in His power to do according to His will.

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“Lord, let this cup of suffering pass from Me. [Jesus would pray as He perspired His own blood] Nevertheless, not My will, but Thy will be done.”

It's not my power. It's my powerlessness. It's not my hope or even hopefulness. It's my hopelessness that becomes the catalyst for the hopefulness and the infinite powerfulness, fullness of power that comes only from the Lord.

I know it's a unique approach to prayer, but it's something that I wanted to share because my default was always praying and fasting. I still pray and fast. But my attitude now — sort of ashamed to say that it was not always this way.

But when I would pray and fast when I was, I guess, younger believer, it was always with this notion that, man, I'm going to, you know, I'm going to move the hand of God because I'm praying and fasting. That only comes by prayer and fasting. And when God does this, it will be because of my praying and my fasting and my godliness and my righteousness. And God's like, oh, really? So now I pray and fast and I just — God, unless You do it, it ain't gonna happen because I can't. I don't possess the power.

And again, I hope this isn't uncomfortable when I am as open as this. But it's to the point where, again, your prayers are not really words. They're wordless prayers. They're not even — the tear ducts have long ago dried up, and the moaning and the groaning is waning. And now it's just a deep cry from the heart. I mean —

Oh, but Pastor JD, you're such a man of God.

Wow. You should see me. You would say, “And you're the pastor? Where's your faith? What's the matter with you? Come on, pick yourself up by the bootstraps! Buck-up buttercup!”

I hate that. No, I'm — I have no hope. I have no power.

Yeah, but you're a godly man.

Well, that is inconsequential.

Yeah, but you're a righteous man. You're a man of God.

That's inconsequential. It's immaterial. It's irrelevant. Because what you've done by saying that about me is to put the onus on me. Because now it's predicated, whatever God does is

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predicated upon me, watch this, maintaining that godliness. That sounds like works to me, maintaining that level of righteousness and holiness.

Well, what happens if — never mind, that's too much. But what happens if, well, hey, that's — I had kind of a bad week for like a month in a row. Well, I'm not so godly anymore.

Does God say, well, deal's off because you're not as godly as you were a month ago? So My hands are tied by your lessening godliness. That's works. That's works.

We have to bring something to the table.

We bring nothing to the table. We just bring our petition to the throne and cry out to God. And God's the one with the power, and God's the one who's the God of hope.

I hope this helps and encourages you in some way. And I've kind of gone a little bit over, so it's going to have to come out of somebody else's time because this time —

[Laughter]

Here's what we're going to do for the remainder of our time is I'm going to have Pastor Leitu come up first and share. Pastor Mac will come up after Pastor Leitu.

Then after Mac, we're going to have Artie come up with a great testimony. This is amazing. I can't wait. I want to — I don't want to spoil it, but talk about answered prayer, right?

And then after that, after Artie, we're going to have Wally and Maura — oh, there you are, sitting right in front — and Team Nepal come up and share. And then I'm just going to sit down, and I'll come back up.

You're not getting rid of me that easily. You thought you were rid of me last month, but you're not. I'm going to come back up and close.

So with that, where's Pastor Leitu? Oh, look at you.

[Laughter]

Oh, should I put this up here for you guys? All right. It's all yours. You have like four minutes.

[Laughter]

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PASTOR LEITU: Of course I have to follow Pastor JD. The Bible tells us in *Matthew Chapter 11:28*, Jesus speaking, He says, **“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”**

2023 is gone. 2024 is with us. But still there are people hurting, amen? Online, locally, there are many people calling out and asking for help, not only for prayers, but also for physical needs as well.

The Lord called me here in this place into the Benevolence Ministry, which means it's a ministry of helps. We're called here at Calvary Chapel, Kaneohe, to help those who are in need, whether they be material needs or spiritual needs, prayers. Please let us know what you need. And we would be blessed to assist you and to help you. God has blessed us and enabled us to pray for people.

On a Sunday, you see so many people around this place, not only pastors, but also laypeople and also just members of the church just praying for each other. And what a beautiful sight that is to see.

But God has also blessed us with the ability to help others with their physical needs. We serve a giving God. And I shared a message last week of how you are giving church, and we're blessed by you, and we're thankful for you.

We know that you're blessed because you're you sit under the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

[Congregation says, “Amen”]

So please let us know whatever need that you have. We love to pray for you, and we love to help you with whatever physical need that you have. So with that, let us pray.

Father in Heaven, we come before You. Just thank You, Lord, for just who You are, Lord. We never forget, Father, what You did for us on the cross. You sent your Son.

And we always ask forgiveness for our sin, Lord, that You had to initiate the cross. We're so sorry, Lord Jesus, that we put You through so much pain, Lord.

We thank You, Lord, that You lead us now by the power of Your Holy Spirit. And so we come before You now, Lord, and ask that if there's anyone out there, Lord, who needs help, who

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needs spiritual — who needs prayer, who needs spiritual help, Lord, who's just hurting physically, financially, Lord, that they would call out to You and pray to You first.

And then whenever we are able to help, Lord, we would help. So I come before You to just thank You, Lord, for what You're going to do because You are God, and we love You and we worship You. You're our provider Lord.

And we pray for those who are in need of healing, Lord. Your word tells us that You're the great physician. So we come before You and ask You, Lord, for that, Your touch, Lord, especially with Kellie Farag, Lord, Pastor JD's wife. We lift her up to You, Lord, and ask for Your healing hand upon her.

We love You and we worship You. We adore You, Lord. We thank You for all your blessings. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen. [Adjusting the mic]

PASTOR MAC: You got to take the mic down a little bit for me. Well, blessings to you all and peace be multiplied. And so we have a task ahead of us coming up here at the beginning of next month.

I know you guys recall that we lost a saint from our congregation, Theresa Cachuela. And so we had been requested to perform her celebration of life.

Now that's going to come with some logistical issues that we welcome in a way, but we're going to need prayer for specifically. We also ask that you pray that the Lord will raise up volunteers to help us during that time frame.

As you know, most of you anyway, we're expecting many people to come. I'm anticipating the church will probably be maxed out.

And with that, other things come along with it. And so we ask that you target your prayers specifically to keep us protected, to ensure that we have everything the family needs, to ensure that God is glorified in the whole process, and we don't turn this into some spectacle or have it in any way to take away from our Lord.

Because the goal is in this celebration of life is to bring those who do not know Jesus to Jesus. That is the point.

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Pray for Pastor JD as he delivers the message and that it will be powerful and full of the Holy Spirit, and so that our Lord will indeed be honored by what is taking place here at Calvary Chapel, Kaneohe.

So I want to thank you in advance for that and appreciate your prayers. And also continue to pray for the leadership here. Pray for us. We have to execute this in the name of the Lord, and we can take no shortcuts. So we thank you in advance for those as well. God bless you.

ARTIE: I'll move it back up.

[Laughter]

Okay. So you folks might remember that last month we asked for — we had prayer, we prayed for the Philippines, for Steve White and his ministry — hey, there's Trevor — but his ministry down there in Boracay where he is administering two schools. And he's my former neighbor and my dear friend and my brother in Christ.

So when I asked him what he needed in prayer because, well, I was asked to reach out to him, then he told me that they had an issue where they needed a roof on one of their school buildings.

And the issue was that the original plans, they were mired in the process of getting plans and permits. And if any of you have ever gone to the planning and permitting office, you know what that can be like, at least here in Honolulu, I'm sure it's equally as bad or maybe even worse in the Philippines. But he was mired down with that.

Anyway, so we prayed for that too, to that end. And so I, in response — okay, so that prayer meeting, as it was happening, Steve was watching online.

And as the prayer meeting ended, he got an email immediately notifying him that the cost for the roof and the plans and drawings were covered immediately. He even sent it, and it had the time stamp on it. It was — that's only God. Only God, right?

[Applause]

And I just love it when God just shows off like that. So Steve responded. He said, "We are so humbled and honored to be such an integral part of the prayer meeting, and praise God; He did not miss a beat."

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The prayer that was prayed to allow God to do something bigger and better, to flex His muscles, so to speak, to be a witness to our faith in Him.

Well, God answered in a big way and in an immediate way. On Wednesday afternoon at 3:19 Tuesday, December 5, 9:19 Hawaii Time, immediately following your prayer meeting, I received an email stating that the funding, not only for the plans to be drawn up for the Jubilee roof, but for the entire cost of the roof to be built. Talk about above and beyond! Wow, God, You are amazing!

I hope this encourages you and God's family at CCK that God does not respond — does respond to the faithful.” And absolutely, He sure does.

[Applause]

So I reached out again. Yes. Praise clap — clap offering to God. Thanks, brother, for — I reached out to him again to ask him, hey, you know, for any kind of update because we're first of the month again, so we're ready for another prayer meeting.

And he said, “Thanks, brother. We so deeply covet and appreciate your prayers. As for the ministry, we're beginning to process the paperwork for the addition of the roof, praying that we can gain favor through the entire permitting process and that the roof would be complete before the start of the next school year that begins in August.”

Personally, he's going through some blood pressure issues that are unexplainable, spontaneously rising without activity. He's got an appointment with a cardiologist. So hopefully...

But as JD talked in his message today, I mean, I think what we saw, what we — at least what I'm taking away is that we need to just get out of the Lord's way. And we rely so much on our own effort to be our own answer to prayer when that is not the way the Book is written.

And it's our — all we need to do is just get out of the way and have the faith and to turn — but often we're stuck with this nervous energy that we feel we need to do something. But if we took that nervous energy and turned it into prayer, I mean, if we prayed as often as we worried, I mean, how much — how often would we be on our knees, right? Anyway, so join me in prayer, please, for Steve and for the Philippines.

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So Lord, we come to You again asking for blessings on the Boracay Ministry. Please help them in their search for permits and plans. I didn't mention it earlier, but the original plans were destroyed in a fire in 2015. So trying to regrow those plans is a big issue.

Thank You, Lord because as You show us over and over again, all we need to do is get out of Your way. All we need to do is have faith in You, Lord, and turn all that nervous energy into prayer and into energy pointed towards You, and just sit back and just be in awe of Your masterpiece that You create before us, always bigger and better than we could ever imagine on our own.

Thank You, Lord, so much for your grace as You shower Calvary Chapel, Kaneohe, with abundant blessings. Thank You, Lord, for having a true word here in this church. Thank You for the blessings that You are about to create here and to provide to the congregants, not only here but online. We love You and we praise You, Lord. In Jesus Christ. Amen.

MAURA: Aloha and Jai Mashim. As most of you know, Calvary Chapel, Kaneohe's Nepal Medical Mission team left Hawaii on November 29th and returned on December 16th.

We are so very grateful to our Heavenly Father, the source, for taking care of every detail. We are thankful for every prayer that was said, interceding for our protection and provisions.

Many of you were a part of the Homefront Prayer Team led by Sue Sargis, received amazing email updates and were kept abreast of our activities and our prayer needs. I just want to stress that prayer made all difference in the world, and we are so, so grateful.

Our team and the Nepali teams of New Hope Calvary churches in Narayantar and Roshi Mahadevtar and also Asha Nepal Hetauda worked excellently together.

We had six days of medical camps in four different sites. Our commutes were often breathtaking on treacherous mountain roads that were more thrilling than most amusement park roller coaster rides.

Our doctors and nurses were able to see 819 patients. They injected painful joints, checked blood pressures, dispensed, and checked blood sugars too, dispensed meds, and fit people with orthopedic braces.

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We gave out hundreds of toothpastes and toothbrush and tons of donated Patagonia clothes, and even brought sugar from Hawaii to help our friends with the sugar shortage they were experiencing in Nepal.

Our volunteer Nepali dentists pulled between 250 and 300 teeth. However, the new relationships made, and the old ones strengthened through encouragement going both ways are priceless and eternal.

And I sincerely believe that the Kingdom of God will be experiencing a remarkable growth spurt, as many, maybe most of those we served were nonbelievers who the Lord brought to these free medical camps to experience the love of Jesus for the very first time.

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. So rather than saying any more, it's better to show you. Kimo has put together a video which must be worth a million words.

[Video playing]

“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him, but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

PASTOR JD: Would you join me, and let's pray for them, this amazing team that God put together? Father in heaven, thank You so, so much.

You love the people of Nepal so much that You would, from an obscure church on the windward side of the island of Oahu, assemble a team, some experienced, some in the medical community for this medical mission's trip.

And even now, You're going before them preparing the people that have the greatest needs to be ministered to. But as Maura shared, there are so many unknowns, and it's into Your hands that we commit these unknowns. We know that they are safe under the shadow of Your wings, in the palm of Your hands.

But, Lord, the onus is on us while they're there to pray for them here. And so, Lord, would You put it on our hearts each and every day? We've got the itinerary to pray specifically for

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them so that upon their return, we can look forward to a good report of all that You did because this is only something You could do. And so You get all the glory, all the glory due Your holy name, Jesus.

And so, Lord, we send them off, and it's in the name of Jesus that we do so. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MISSION TEAM: Amen.

[Music playing]

♪ O soul, are you weary and troubled? ♪

♪ No light in the darkness you see? ♪

♪ There's light for a look at the Savior, ♪

♪ And life more abundant and free! ♪

♪ Turn your eyes upon Jesus, ♪

♪ Look full in His wonderful face, ♪

♪ And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, ♪

♪ In the light of His glory and grace. ♪

♪ Oh, oh, oh ♪

♪ Thro' death into life everlasting, ♪

♪ He passed, and we follow Him there; ♪

♪ O sin over us, sin has no more dominion--♪

♪ For more than conquers we are! ♪

♪ Turn your eyes upon Jesus, ♪

♪ Look full in His wonderful face, ♪

♪ And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, ♪

♪ In the light of His glory and grace. ♪

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♪ Oh, oh, oh ♪

♪ His Word shall not fail you-- He promised; ♪

♪ Believe Him, and all will be well: ♪

♪ Then go to a world that is dying, ♪

♪ His perfect salvation to tell! ♪

♪ Turn your eyes upon Jesus, ♪

♪ Look full in His wonderful face, ♪

♪ And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, ♪

♪ In the light of His glory and grace. ♪ Let's sing that last verse again. ♪ His Word shall not fail you--He promised; ♪

♪ Believe Him, and all will be well: ♪

♪ Then go to a world that is dying, ♪

♪ His perfect salvation to tell! ♪

♪ Turn your eyes upon Jesus, ♪

♪ Look full in His wonderful face, ♪

♪ And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, ♪

♪ In the light of His glory and grace. ♪

MAURA: I can assure you that the medical missions have served to bless so many people. However, none are more blessed than we are. Try as we might, we cannot out-bless God.

Sometimes I wonder if the mission is for those in the remote villages of Nepal or for our benefit. I have come to the conclusion that it is both. Seriously, look at us. God can use anyone whose agenda is submitted to His. Could it be that the Lord is calling you?

[Music playing]

[Applause]

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KIMO: Hello, guys. My name is Kimo. I'm one of the first-time newbies that was called to this mission. And I'd like to take some time to share a profound journey that changed my perspective on faith and service.

My time in Nepal was nothing short of a revelation. I ventured there, apprehensive, yet eager, only to discover that an overwhelming sense of kindness and love within the Nepalese people, a love comparable to what we call the Aloha spirit. Despite the meticulously planned itineraries from Wally and Maura, it was evident that prayer became our compass, guiding us through unforeseen challenges.

It's incredible how God not only answered our prayers but also sustained us through every trial, be it physical, mental, or spiritual.

One of the most inspiring aspects was witnessing the deep-rooted love of Jesus among the younger generation in Nepal. Their fervent prayers and wholehearted worship were a testament to their unwavering faith.

What amazed me most was realizing that God can use anyone on these missions. Despite lacking medical expertise, I found a purpose and was humbled by the ways God utilized me.

Nepal became a sanctuary where I discovered that service isn't bound by qualifications, but by a willing heart. The memories I treasure are of those moments where I felt His presence most profoundly. The joy of serving others, the connections forged, and the lessons learned will forever be etched in my heart.

Lord willing, if given the opportunity, if we're still here, I hope to return to continue serving in whichever way God deems fit. This journey has taught me that God's plans surpass our expectations, and His love transcends boundaries.

Thank you for letting me share just a fragment of my experience in Nepal. May we all continue to serve with open hearts and willing spirits wherever God may lead us. Mahalo.

[Applause]

JEANETTE ROSEHILL: Hello. (Deep breath) I want to start off today by thanking everyone who prayed for us. We definitely felt supported, and definitely God was faithful. And He provided and sustained us, just like Kimo said.

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I'm going to just have to read my notes because I can't — I'm a little nervous. I want to say thank you to Calvary Chapel, Kaneohe, for their generous support towards this mission's trip. I found the Nepalese people to be very warm and friendly. They were easy to fall in love with.

At our medical clinic, I did the registration. And because I don't speak the language, I had to rely on my interpreter. I did eventually learn some words and phrases. Thank you, Adele.

I realized that if I can't talk directly with them, at least I can pray. I have their name right in front of me. So that's what I did when they came through. I remember looking over at Dr. Christopher, and he would be doing the same thing. And then later that evening, Trevor was sharing with us that he was praying as they were entering the door. So we did a lot of praying, and we did a lot of smiling.

But I want to share a story about a little girl named (Choking up with emotion) Boudimai who touched all of our hearts. Oh, gosh, I'm sorry.

And she's five years old. Her mother left her father for another man. Her father was an alcoholic, and she lives with her grandparents who are also alcoholics.

Boudimai has epilepsy. And she was brought to the clinic a couple of days after she suffered a head wound while she was having a seizure. When she arrived at the clinic, she looked so sad. Thank you, Lord.

Earlier that day, Maura was deciding what to do with the green infant snowsuit, which was donated by Patagonia. The suit was too big for an infant, so Maura decided to cut off the bottom of the snowsuit to make a jacket. She finished it before Boudi got to the clinic.

In the meantime, Boudi arrived and was at the nurses' station with Doreen, Kennedy, and Maura. They gently brushed her matted hair and cleaned her wound on the back of her head. After Kennedy braided her hair, Maura presented her with the green jacket. And as you can see in the pictures, her face lit up with big smiles.

It was like God — it was God who nudged Maura to make that green snowsuit into a jacket because He knew Boudi was coming. He wanted her to feel loved and cared for. And she was. Only God could have worked that out.

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There are so many other stories besides Boudi's, and they come to the clinic for their physical needs. But our prayer is that they will meet the greatest physician in Jesus.

How can I serve God there when I don't speak the language? And what God showed me was, is that a smile is a universal language. A hug. As long as I was willing and surrender to God, He can use me to display His great love.

Our team had unity, and every team member played a role with one purpose in mind, and that is to be Jesus, Jesus' hands and feet. It was an honor to serve Jesus with each and every one of you on the team and for the incredible hospitality of Pastor Ruben, his family, and his church congregation in Nepal. And that's another whole story.

We are so very grateful and give all the glory to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Thank you.

[Applause]

MAURA: So many have told me that the email updates they received from Sue made their experience the next best thing to being in Nepal with us.

Sue really has a gift of reporting on our mission and rallying the prayer warriors to stand in the gap for us. The whole team had no doubt that we were covered. To put a face to the name, I'd like to introduce Sue Sargis.

[Applause]

SUE: Okay. I thought I wouldn't cry. Thanks, Jeanette. And then Kennedy walks in the door. Oh, my goodness.

The team started out with someone falling on the curb just as they got to Nepal. They ended with the youngest one on the team and the nurse being very sick and wondering if she had appendicitis or if she was going to be having to stay someplace along the route home.

But God, in His grace and in His mercy, walked every one of these that you see and the ones that weren't able to be here tonight by His favor and by His grace. I don't know why, but I think this is significant.

So as I was praying about this, this morning and just saying, Lord, what can I say that could ever convey the gratitude that we have in our hearts for 280 of you, 289 who prayed? And yes, it's not our power. It's not anything that happens within us. Thank you for that

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message tonight because I will be looking even at scriptures that I know very well, very differently, including one I'm going to read to you today, tonight as our prayer for the many ministries and missions that your church is accomplishing for the sake of the glory of God so that people will come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

And it's hands and feet. And I called you, 289 of you, the Knees-on-the-ground Brigade, the Home Front Prayer Team. And I believe with all my heart, and in your heart of hearts, you understood clearly that it was not by might, not by power, but by the Spirit of God that everything that got accomplished got accomplished.

As the Lord determines whether there be another trip or whether we will be in glory before that happens, we are told to occupy until He comes. And so I know this team behind me is fully prepared for whatever God has in store for them.

So here's my prayer. It's *Psalms 20*. You'll recognize some of the parts of it because like the Zachariah scripture, we kind of have committed some of these to our heart. But this is just significant for me, and I believe it is for each one of you as you take on the challenges that Christ has given each one of us for this new year.

“May the Lord answer, may the Lord answer in the day of your trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! May He send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion! May He remember all of your offerings, and yes, all of your sacrifices.

[And I know there have been many]

May He grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans! May we shout for joy over your salvation. And in the name of the Lord of our God set up our banners of celebration and victory and joy.

Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed. He will answer from His holy Heaven with the saving might of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, some in horses, *[And you can say it with me]* but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They will collapse and fall, but we will stand tall. O Lord, our King. May you answer us when we call.”

Lord, I just want to pray for this church right now. I want to pray for every face I see. I want to pray for the leadership of this church, for the ministries that are taking place.

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Because I know; I have watched the miracles take place in this Nepal team. I've been doing this since 2006. Lord, you know that. And I've not seen the support that I have seen from this church.

And it blows me away and it honors me, and it humbles me. And I feel so incredibly blessed to be a part of what You are doing for the kingdom, Lord, in and through each one of the people that are here.

May You answer them in their times of need, Lord. May they, like all of us, see that we will raise up a banner of joy and celebration because we don't serve out of our own strength and out of our own power.

But we serve because of the name of the Lord our God, victorious, righteous, Holy One of Israel who loves us, who died for us, who set us free so that we could go and tell others about You. Thank You, Jesus, for loving us. In Your precious name. Amen.

MAURA: Just one last thing, and I didn't say that before.

[Laughter]

The team would like to present this plaque to Pastor JD. We thank You so much for making this successful mission possible.

[Applause]

I hope you can find some place in your office, maybe on a shelf.

PASTOR JD: Yeah, we'll see about that.

[Laughter]

PASTOR JD: This is really nice. Thank you. But you have more time. MAURA: No.

PASTOR JD: Do you want more time? All right.

[Applause]

CHRISTOPHER: Thank you.

PASTOR JD: I'm going to put this right here for now. Thank you so much. I'm going to go sit back down.

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CHRISTOPHER: Witnessing the devastating living and health conditions in remote Nepal was a wake-up call. It made me appreciate the basic necessities that much of which I take for granted, and it reinforced the importance of our mission.

In *Matthew 25:35-36*, the word of God says, **“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me.”**

I think that this mission really helped us grow. But for me in particular, it helped me to be grateful for everything that I have.

Every day became a lesson in gratitude, from the clean water that we're accustomed to here in Hawaii, to the simple act of having a roof over our heads. The experience taught me to be grateful for everything. Nothing's too big, nothing's too small.

Amidst the challenges, we encountered heartbreak that etched itself into our souls. We took care of rescued orphans from trafficking. And the stories that they told us while eating dinner we're so — just terrible. The things that humans who are evil do to other humans; I won't go into detail. It's just very, very, very dark.

These adversities really moved us, and me, in particular, taught me that through Jesus Christ, anybody can be healed. No matter what people go through in their life, no matter what experience they have had, whether it be spiritual or emotional or physical, some kind of torture, you can be healed.

And these small children at the orphanages that we took care of proved that to me, that anything is possible with God. Anything.

Isaiah 58:10 says, **“If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.”**

And so I feel that although we were there to serve others, the inspiration and the gift that it gave me was more inspiration to shine more light and to be inspiring others to go out and do the same.

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I was able to share a small bit at the church in Banepa with Pastor Ruben. And I asked that anybody who feels like they have Jesus Christ, I would ask that you think of something that you could do for Jesus.

And if you have an opportunity to share Jesus, that is the best gift that you can give to anybody. It is the only gift that we need. It is the eternal gift.

And I shared at the church in Banepa that if you're old enough to receive Jesus Christ into your heart, then you're probably also old enough to lead others to Jesus Christ. So no matter how old you are, whether you're 7 or 77, that doesn't matter. If you can give the Word, the Gospel to somebody, you've given them the most precious gift that you could ever give.

So amidst these hardships, there were lots of triumphs. We had an amazing team, and I'm just so grateful that we had this opportunity to go on this mission. And I'm hoping and praying that next year the opportunity will present itself again and I'll be able to go and serve in this way.

It was very obvious that healing, both spiritual and physical, took place on this mission, both for myself, my body, my physical body, but my team's bodies and also for the patients that we saw.

So in conclusion, this 21-day medical mission was not just about providing health care. It was a profound spiritual journey. It reshaped my whole outlook on life. It instilled gratitude, resilience, a deeper connection with my faith. And that relationship with Jesus Christ is what gives me the inspiration to keep going.

Matthew 25:35-36 and *Isaiah 58:10* remind us exactly that serving the poor and meeting their needs is not only a compassionate act, but it's also a way to let our light shine in the darkness.

Thank you for praying for us and supporting us.

[Applause]

PASTOR JD: Why don't you all stand? You've been sitting a while, yeah? You guys can stay. I showered. It's fine. Wow. I'm just speechless. That's a miracle unto itself. Thank you very much.

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The blessing was all ours. I hope you know that to be a part of what God did there in Nepal in and through you. And thank you so much that those updates were amazing, by the way.

Psalm 20. You just had to do that, didn't you? That was — that is one of my favorite psalms of all time. I just want you to know. How'd you know? It doesn't matter.

Yeah, I'm going to close in prayer, and then Kapono's going to close in song. I want to thank all of you for, first, coming tonight. But I also want to thank those of you — I mean, the support and the outpouring and just the love is off the charts, and it's overwhelming. I just am — I don't know. I guess I'm just speechless.

So that's my story, and I'm going to stick with it. Just thank you very much. I am the most spoiled pastor in the world, literally not hyperbole. I'm not complaining. I'm also, I believe, the most loved pastor, and my family's the most loved pastor's family in the entire world.

And I cannot thank you enough. And please know that doesn't go unappreciated, nor does it go unnoticed. I love you, and I thank you, and I praise God for you. So let's pray.

Father, thank You. We're just in awe of You, who You are, how You are. Lord, the — really, the bottom line from tonight is just simply that You're the one who's glorified in everything. The purpose is to glorify You only. And no flesh is going to glory in Your presence. And You share Your glory with no man.

So when we have this precious team returned from Nepal, and they themselves witnessing and experiencing personally a miracle of healing from the sickness that they had, and then to have them come back and share with us and just bless us as they did, it's for Your glory.

You're glorified in all of that. To see what You're doing, what You have done, and what You're going to continue to do yet future because You're the same God yesterday, today, and forever is just too high for our understanding. That we get to play a small part in that is just humbling.

So Lord, thank You. Thank You for what You're doing. Thank You for what You've done. Thank You for what You're, yet future, going to continue to do. We just surrender ourselves to You, and has already been said tonight, just get out of Your way, let You have Your way because Your ways are not our ways. They are higher than our ways.

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So Lord have Thine own way, we pray, all for Your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen and amen.
Thank you again very much.