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## Intercession, A Way to Stretch Beyond our Status Quo

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Executive Director of The Warrior Class



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Growing up through the TWC intercession process is one aspect of my journey I will always treasure. To see the Promises of God poured out over and over as they hit the mark, took me to new places of passion for the One I/we serve. The training ground of intercession helped me develop closer communication with the Lord. This connection is something valued beyond anything else.

Looking back, I remember sitting in different events with an outline of Intel we developed for that community. As I listened, watched and prayed, I highlighted the statements that seemed to be accurate. I would also talk with, and gather feedback from, any boots on the ground for other events I couldn't attend. I had such a passion to see if we had connected to God's heart for that situation. At the time, there were few other ways to know if we were tracking, but to my delight, we did manage to hit the mark time and again.

I also recognized the responsibility for my part in the process. To explore innovation and prototype means not everything will fall into place every time. But, here is the permission granted...I missed some, too. I could have played it safe and chosen to just put down what seemed most supported. I could have chosen not to include my own revelation, either.

### **Where's the risk in that? How will playing it safe stretch me/us? How will we move beyond status quo if status quo is all we ever practice?**

Permission granted and freedom to fail are very important parts of our training and culture. Without it, we move into stagnation and, even something as exciting as Intel, will become an old wineskin or come to a screeching halt. So, thinking it through...what if you balance your Intel submission so that, let's say, 80-90% of what you put down is solidly confirmed and 10-20% seems like risking and stretching?

I remember getting a word one time on what Intel would become. I sat on that word and prayed into it for months...and the warfare was tremendous. The arrows of negativity and lack tried to hit every target they could find...my confidence, my level of intimacy with God, my attitude, my identity. You name it! If it was something that could be aimed at to nip this Intel thing in the bud, it got hit. BUT GOD! HA!

Continued...

Each arrow that found its mark gave me a choice. Would I believe negativity of what was “spoken” to me about my lack or would I upgrade my faith and take a risk? If we have permission to fail and there is no failure in the Kingdom, just learning opportunities...Well, no brainer! And, being a warrior... I took a deep breath, got my brave on, and took the risk.

To many of us, TWC's approach to intercession is very different. It's that way because we sought to embrace those 10-20% aspects of risk. We tried it out, got our brave on and granted ourselves freedom to learn how to do or not to do something, step by step along the way. All we needed was permission granted to try and explore what God was opening before us! Although, sometimes, a huge or radical stretch is required, the greatest gains are made over time through taking step after next step of faith.

At this point, we are excited to see the results come in, but we are sometimes risk adverse when it comes to personally sending in an Intel submission. It's one of the reasons we created groups for each Prayer Focus...so no Intel Prayer Focus is reliant on one person. We tap into the collective wisdom (everyone who gets their brave on and steps into the process) coming through all the submissions and the multiple layers we have in its processing.

Everyone in TWC has an invitation at some point to participate in an Intel gathering opportunity, so take a breath and take the risk! Intercession is and always has been our training ground. This is reflected in one of our first listed Decisions That Define Us. These powerful statements define our focus and culture. It's always good to go back and remind ourselves who we are and how we stand.

**We have decided to be a prophetic community of worshipping warriors who support and advance the Kingdom through our continued growth as a Warrior Class on the training ground of intercession.**

We are seeing Kingdom advancements in our Intel process. As in the experiences of Moses and Israel, the pillar of clouds is moving...we are following it and seeing incredible breakthroughs as we do. We get to be Joshuas and Calebs who, by faith, know God is taking us into our Promises as we enter the new land of our intercession. Will there be giants? SURE THING! But, that is when we get to see God move! The walls fall down, the giants fall, the ground is secured and we get to see the glory of God in the land of the living.

As Sharon Rudolph has been known to ask, “Are you willing to step into something you’ve never experienced before and **be someone** you’ve never been before so that God can do something new?” – That’s a great way to empower personal upgrades!

For those who have been around a while...here’s your question...What is the upgrade from who you have been and how you have show up in Intel look like? How will you take what was your “normal” into a place where you feel stretched?

- Christine





**Teresa Morrison**  
Director of New Members



## Ascending to Higher Ground!

What does transformation look like? I thought about this question while in Alaska visiting TWC-ers. The conversation with friends encircled around what transformation currently looks and sounds like in our lives. This included times of unlearning and relearning, leaning into the new and overcoming old patterns of mindsets. I've come to realize that transformation isn't always smooth or perfect. No, not in the least.

**It's deciding every single day to show up as you are, not in perfection, but in humility and willingness to process through towards the best possible outcome.**

It takes a solid YES in our heart to follow our dreams with everything we've got. Some days are grand and we celebrate bringing others into that space with us, while other days cause us to wish we could hide underneath the covers and begin the day again.

In Alaska, eagles were a wonderful sight. With their wings spread wide, they glide through the air in confidence, knowing that they were created to soar. To me, they represent beauty and strength. After all, they are indeed eagles who effortlessly partner with the wind to their advantage. Their ability is built into their DNA to fly beyond the clouds to a place where they can see from a higher perspective.

With our lives, God uses friends and circumstances to remind us that we are fully (100%) loved by God himself. His gift of "perfect love" reaches far beyond the depth of any self-help that we could conjure up in our own strength. We learn to trust and depend on His strong arm which fails not. He holds us up and accelerates us forward into the next chapter of our own book. We all get to decide how our story reads.

As I watched the strength of the eagles, they reminded me of what a friend used to say (paraphrased), if you want to measure your strength or maturity level, here is a gauge. How much pressure would it take to discourage one to quit and give up on their dreams, only to settle for a lower road? For some not a lot. I've seen people quit because of being easily offended. They rely on the opinion of others. When misunderstanding comes they get crushed. Yet others have been tempered by life. They know who they are and, come what may, they use circumstances as wind, propelling them in an upward motion just like the eagles use their wings and the wind to ascend to a higher place above the turbulence. I've seen many people quit right before the real story was about to begin...

So my friends, keep yourself encouraged. Don't give up. Learn to fly above the things that are meant to discourage you. Use those times as a learning process. We each have a God-given inner compass to ascend to a place where joy is the prevailing atmosphere.

- Teresa



# TWC in Alaska ~ Facebook LIVE!

[Check out Facebook page for the entire conversation.](#)

## Ray, what's your strongest evidence of transformation?

“The biggest freedom, for me, Jesus said in John, "My peace I leave you." It's in every single one of us. Pull it up. It's there. It's already there. Learning that that peace is there, was such a freedom. At conferences, people would come up ... they recognized that peace. That peace makes me grow. The fact that they recognized, blessed me. My peace blessed them, but they blessed me back by recognizing. That's powerful!

My confidence has grown, over the past year. I've grown. I still have hundreds of layers to pull off ... hundreds of layers of grace, that I don't know about. Every day, there's a new layer. You take one off, God adds another one. We take one off, He adds another one more.”

That's so true.  
We're constantly growing.



## Rod, how are you processing your identity?

“So for me processing my identity and actually stepping into The Warrior Class, I was so green that it was just very interesting for me to be able to try to be able to unlearn and relearn. I'm in a transition right now of unlearning my old identity. And no longer making those statements, "This is who I am, but now I am this." But actually, owning it and not knowing what God says just on a piece of paper, but being able to say, "This is who I am." And so whenever there's a situation that arises, how do I respond to that situation or that event in my identity in who God says I am?

I'm still learning how to do it. To pray and to talk to the Father out of my identity as opposed to out of my old identity. I came from a very humble servant mindset with the Lord, as opposed to the fact that He wants to be my friend. And we're the bride of Christ and that we have much more of an intimate relationship. And so, to speak to Him and to pray out of my identity. And so that's been a big part of what my journey's been in the last few months. So, actually owning it and saying, "This is who I am. And this is how I'm going to behave." And it's scary to step into something new.

## Meg, what are you currently learning about God as a constant in your life?

This last season involved a shift for me that was initially disconcerting. I moved from a time of feeling and experiencing Him to what I now recognize was a time of deep intimacy in silence. However, it didn't start out feeling that way, instead, it felt like I had lost hearing and revelation.

In listening to Graham's “God is Our Constant,” I came to realize that Papa is okay with times of just sitting together without words. He is okay with what seems like uncertainty and unanswered questions. He is our Certainty, and He is happy to live in the tension of the unanswered questions with us. He is more important than the answers -- or, put another way, He is the answer. God allows times of uncertainty to deepen our confidence and certainty in Him.”

Continued...



## Teresa. What scripture are you currently meditating on?



“I’ve been meditating on Ephesians 1:17 and 18. That the eyes of our understanding will be continually enlightened in the knowledge of Him.

**I started to ask the Lord for revelation because I realized from those scriptures that my heart has a set of eyes.**

And so, I’m getting clarity and understanding of the eyes of my heart. I want more than an understanding; I want experience. I understand a lot of things with the eyes of my heart. But, when my whole being steps into an experience with God, it really, really adds depth to my walk with Him. Because experiencing for me offers transformation that is unparalleled to anything.

I think right now I’m really discovering the love of God for my life. That the depth, the breadth, the height of His love for me is beyond anything that I can fully understand. That’s what I’m walking into now. And I pray that I grow exponentially from where I am now, not being where I am now next month, three months from now, six months from now. I want the eyes of my understanding of who He is and how He sees people and the Kingdom to be continually enlightened in experience. I’m going to change that scripture, sorry you guys lol, I’m changing it from knowledge to experiencing Him. And so, it’s been such an amazing journey traveling with Him.”



Rod Miller, Teresa Morrison,  
Erin Shepherd-Ham & Ray Otto

## Erin. What have you learned about unlearning?

I think that my biggest part of my unlearning is quite frankly my unlearning. I had thought that I had processed the performance mindset and was successfully done. Nope!!! That performance mindset reared its ugly head in new layers when I started the process to obtain my MBA. Before, my worth was equated with how I performed.

In 2013 I had the joy of joining TWC and relearning what my performance mindset should be. I discovered Isaiah 61 and how to flip it to the instead and establish and live out who I am in Christ, In my mind, I was over that, right?!? Then started my MBA. While I am loving the learning (mostly) I thought the performance mindset had been put to rest and then the struggle became real.

I thought I had processed the performance mindset and, quite frankly, eradicated it from my life. However, I realized it is going to be a constant journey as each layer is peeled back.

TWC has provided a platform to add to my tool belt for moments such as these. I know how to shed my grave clothes and replace them with what God has intended for me in this journey.

A large part of my journey recently has been remembrance. It has been pulling out my journals, seeing who God has been for me at certain times, and celebrating who He is for me today and how incredibly faithful He has been.

I am thankful for my TWC family who has been alongside me on this journey and continuously encourages me.



**Facebook LIVE!**  
Rod Miller, Ray Otto,  
Teresa Morrison & Meg Middelstedt



We have found so much JOY on the journey,  
traveling, building and growing together.  
**Meg, Erin & Teresa**



**TWC Facebook LIVE from Alaska!**



## TAKING GROUND BY FORCE



**Sharon Rudolph**  
Director of Training



I have been exploring Matthew 12:12 in which Jesus states that “the Kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing and forceful men lay hold of it.” As my heart’s desire is to bring God’s goodness and kindness to the world around me, how do I embrace forcefully doing anything?

So Jesus and I sat on the front porch and discussed His perspective. He asked me, “What is the force of My love? What does the force of Holy Spirit’s wind accomplish?” A momma bear’s claw, an ambulance’s speed, a hammer’s whack on a nail.



### **My perspective was shifting.**

I started to look at my identity statements to see if this “forcefully laying hold of” was part of who I am and what I saw showed it did not make me dangerous except against God’s enemies. *I am a general and a strategist. I am a fire and I am on fire. I am faithful daughter who has been given authority and strength.* Ok, so yes I *am* called to forcefully take the action that the Lord has put before me to advance the Kingdom.

In TWC we are forcefully (intentionally) partnering with God to bring in Kingdom through this intel process we have developed and are taking out into the world. Your participation, no matter how small, is bringing the force of Christ’s redeeming love and Holy Spirit’s power to people and places that need the Special Forces kind of intel we are assigned to provide. Know that no matter where your place is in your training, you have a part to play in advancing God’s kingdom plans for these people to forcefully lay hold of.

My heart in my role in training is to forcefully lay hold of how Holy Spirit wants TWC to train to continue and expand our role in advancing the Kingdom, individually and corporately. I want to challenge each of you to go look up the word *force* in the dictionary and see how it connects with your identity. TWC is destined to become even more of a force for the Kingdom, for God’s glory! Let the fun begin.

- Sharon



## Confidence: Mo, Jo and Me

The world teaches that we become more confident as we do something and start getting it “right.” We’re taught that confidence comes from being an expert, having many skills, and performing well.

In the Kingdom, confidence comes not from our performance, but flows from our relationship with the King. Confidence comes from how much we receive and live in His Love. In the Bible Joseph and Moses are two case studies in confidence. Joe was a confident boy and then young man.

**Why? He was a highly favoured child. He was well loved and he absolutely knew it. He lived from a place of confidence as a beloved child.**

Mo, well, he was less confident as a young man. When God spoke to him through the burning bush, he wasn’t sure of who he was and certainly hadn’t had a revelation yet of how loved he was. That took a while, but eventually he walked with God, he talked with God, he saw God’s glory; he was the friend of God and from that place, he led the Israelites to the Promised Land.

*“The only antidote to fear is perfect love (1John 4:18). A love from the Lord that has matured into a place of complete confidence. Mature love has a settled nature to it that cannot be overcome. This is the root of fearlessness. If we know with absolute certainty that we are accepted and loved, we are not afraid to make mistakes. We try things knowing that we are covered.” From Graham Cooke’s Qualities of a Spiritual Warrior.*

We will have many opportunities in this life to keep choosing confidence, to keep leaning in to the Father’s Love. Confidence is about deciding something about the Lord; we put a stake in the ground and declare “God, this is what I am going to believe about You, come what may.” This confidence has a settled, peaceful quality that becomes unshakable as we continue to weather the storms by simply resting in His Love.

How’s your confidence level on a scale of Mo to Joe?!

Linda



**Meg Middelstedt**  
New Member Coach



## New Member Call: Songs of Ascent

One thing I love about being a coach is how often the very thing I need to hear will come from other members during a call I'm leading.

Our last call, on the importance of a lifestyle of worship at altitude, was a perfect example. Susie Marvin, Adriana Sinc and Wei Stephens joined in, providing a lovely mix of veteran and newer member voices. As we talked about how worship changes our atmosphere and allows us to see the way God is seeing and what He is doing in a situation, I was inspired to upgrade in areas where I still need to strengthen my intentionality in worship.

Susie Marvin brought a great perspective on how showing up as our true selves is worship. She spoke about not being concerned about how others see us, but rather to live in the reality that God is delighted with us. If others might be unhappy with us, we can bless those people and ask the Lord to comfort them if they are offended. What a liberating perspective! It's not up to us to fix others' impressions of us.

### **To live in the Father's smile over us is adoration and worship.**

Veteran member Wei Stephens honored us by singing one of the psalm songs that she sings to the Lord and then sings back to herself from His heart. It really is a shame that the recording for the call didn't convert properly. I wanted others to be able to experience for themselves the weight of Papa's love on her melody, which was palpable (and tear-inducing)!

Adriana Sinc summed up the call for us when she spoke about how behind every negative emotion there is a lie. The key to flipping those lies is to "lift up our head and look into His face, where all I have is His." Really, this is the heart of worship – living in the light of His smile and knowing that everything we have is from Him.

In *Living on a High Place*, Graham describes how, as we respond to the beauty of God in worship, we receive an energy and power that propels us into our new territory. It's such a rich teaching, and I love how together we tease out what it actually means to "upgrade our worship" for the TWC journey.

- Meg Middelstedt, New Member Coach



## *Intercession – His heart intentions...*



### Intercession as a Training Ground!

#### *Following the Lord in Prayer*

Have you ever wondered what we mean in describing intercession as a training ground? We know intercession is a posture of prayer where we stand in the gap for others. But, it is also a unique training ground.

**Personally:** During intercession, we seek God's heart for that focus. In the process of prayer, we learn to recognize how God communicates with us and interact with Him. We begin to understand more about His heart and how He loves.

Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart and full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

**For others:** Through our prayer process, we learn to put another before ourselves. We move our focus beyond our own lives and partner with promises and provision God releases for others. We stand in the gap and become the ones who get the delight of encouraging and urging forward, unleashing the power of the prophetic in someone's life. We help reframe the way they see and remind them they are not alone. We move into our part as the body of Christ.

I Timothy 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men.

**Spiritually:** We are taking ground, discovering promises and provision and fighting the good fight to bring heaven to earth. It's a battle we ultimately win, but through the process of our prayers, we learn to battle from a position as Warriors, as a Son or Daughter of the King. We grow to understand the power of prayer. We speak and declare as we partner with God to bring what is not into what is. We tap into the weapons of rest, faith, words of knowledge, wisdom, hope, healing... But most of all, we learn how to love.

The Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6: Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven....

Intercession is our weapon, Intel is the ammunition and passion is the heart of breakthrough.

# Website Feature of the Month

## Decisions That Define Us

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**The Decisions That Define Us** are an important part of our community. They are declarations of who we feel the Lord says we are.

As we read through them and declare them, we can begin to identify the promises God shares through each one. Below are just a few of our Decisions.

**Questions:** What do you see as God's part in bringing these to pass? What is our part? What promises do you feel God has in each one for you, for TWC, for those in our areas of influence?

*We have decided that intercession is not only about a result. It is about creating an atmosphere of intimacy and majesty for the permission and provisions of heaven to come to earth. It is where we are trained, educated and prepared to become His beloved Bride, equipped to rule and reign with Him.*

*We have decided to be consumed with the majesty and sovereignty of God, not obsessed by the enemy.*

*We have decided to be worshipping warriors – focused on joy, thanksgiving and rejoicing. Our key question under pressure is “What’s the level of worship needed for this battle?”*

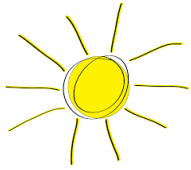
*We have decided to be a living organism, not an organization. We are a community of warrior friends ~ loving, living and laughing together on our shared journey.*

*We have decided to be a prophetic community of worshipping warriors who support and advance the Kingdom through our continued growth as a Warrior Class on the training ground of intercession.*

For more of our Decisions That Define Us, go to the footer on the website and click the link. As you consider your part, God's part and the promises each one holds, you are invited to pray them over yourself and then go back through and pray them over The Warrior Class.

Once you have gone through this process, pick the one that touches your heart the most in this season and post it on our Facebook page. Include your thoughts on the questions about it.

We look forward to seeing what you discover in your prayers of these declarations!



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*Pam Leiter*

### **In what ways are your thoughts and language being upgraded in TWC?**

When a difficult circumstance comes along I can more quickly shift into being excited about what God will give me through it. I can see it as a way to take territory – whether internal and relational with God, or external relational territory between me and others. The circumstance may be hard, but the gifts I receive from Him in the midst of it are mine forever. If it lasts longer than I want, I just look forward to how awesome Jesus will be.

### **What part of God's nature are you discovering?**

I am currently exploring deeper aspects of God's Fatherhood. He is teaching me greater confidence in His love for me and His eagerness to bring me blessings as I grow in favor with Him and my community. I can trust Him to move me through tough circumstances, step by step, even though I don't know how it will be worked out. I can relax any painful places inside as I rest and trust in Him. And while waiting to see how things will turn out, I am to practice receiving His love and enjoying His company – as a result, my internal atmosphere and ways of seeing life are upgrading. Every morning I ask, "Papa, what new thing do you want to give me today?"

### **Becoming the Beloved:**

This has been a vital part of my spiritual walk the last few years, with circumstances coming along that seemed specifically designed to practice this identity on. For instance, God has been teaching me a new understanding of obedience. He might say to me, "Would you like to do such-and-such together?" And I can say either "Yes" or "I'm not ready" – and there's no judgment either way. Relationship with God is a two-way street; He gives Himself freely and fully, with no to-do list attached. This is deeply freeing, because I am learning that God has the best ideas ever of stuff to do together.

### **My Identity Statements:**

I am His Beloved, radiant in His Goodness, and we bring light and heaven to everyone around us  
I am an ambassador of God's good heart, and we show others what's possible in relationship with God  
I am a champion receiver of God's fullness, and we release that fullness to others  
I belong in my heavenly and earthly Family, and we bring belonging to others  
I am an explorer, who discovers wisdom new and old – to become and to share  
I am a Mother in the body of Christ, who opens up space for others to be who God made them  
I am a Daughter of God, one whom creation longs for, who brings restoration to all things on earth  
I am ecstatic about who I am becoming – this is so much fun!

