

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

July 23, 2025 – The Lost Art of Intercession – James Goll & Myra Ilagan

RESTORING THE PRIESTLY ROLE OF INTERCESSION (Part 8)

The Power of Incense

Here is one story of supernatural intervention through the power of prayer and intercession.

Jackie Pullinger is a wonderful, radical, missionary states-woman serving the Lord in Hong Kong. At the age of 19 she was overcome with a passion to serve God. Though she didn't know where it was going to be, she just offered herself up unconditionally to Him for His service. God told her to get on a particular boat, so she got on the boat, not knowing where it was taking her. She got off in Hong Kong and was taken to a place called the "Walled City." There she met a man who was a kingpin of the drug lords in the Walled City. He had a brother named Alie who was studying to be a Buddhist monk. Alie was also facing court charges as an alleged accomplice with seven other men in the murder of a rival drug lord.

Jackie began to visit this particular Hong Kong jail every week to minister and to testify to these men, and specifically to Alie. Four of the men came to the Lord almost immediately. But though Jackie visited the jail every day for nine months, testifying to Alie about Jesus through a thick glass partition, he was unmoved.

Alie wouldn't admit it, but he was very afraid of dying for a crime that he did not do. Week after week, Jackie Pullinger continued to minister to him. "I know that you are afraid, Alie. I know that you are terrified of death, but I want to tell you that there is a loving God. There is a God of justice who knows all things and He is a Father of mercy. And I have enlisted Christians from all across the world to pray and fast on every Wednesday for you, Alie." Although Alie heard and understood the things Jackie was saying, he still refused to come to the Lord because his heart was hard.

One day the governor of the jail and a jail attendant passed by Alie's cell and remarked to one another that they smelled something. They did not know what the strange fragrance was, but they thought it was some kind of delicate perfume with a fragrant odor. They began asking Alie questions about the fragrance, but Alie said, "What smell?" Perplexed, the two men asked other inmates about the smell, as the entire jail cell took on the fragrant odor of this strange perfume.

Finally, the governor of the jail sent authorities into Alie's cell. They searched his body and found nothing. When they sniffed the air around him, they nodded and said, "Yes, the smell is here." Yet Alie still smelled nothing. When the guards left, Alie began to ask himself, What is that smell?

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Then a little work trickled down inside him. It was this simple message: "Oh, it is Wednesday!" Suddenly, he remembered Jackie's words. He was smelling prayer! He realized his entire jail cell was filled with the fragrant aroma of the prayers of the saints.

As Jackie continued to visit Alie, they talked of these things. One day Alie accepted Jesus as Jackie prayed for him through the glass partition. The Holy Spirit came upon him and Alie began to speak in another language. The time came for his court trial. Alie went before the judge, who released him with ever hearing the case!

Let us ponder on this story: that our prayers are incense not only to God but also to those we are praying for. Let our prayers today for the Long Beach evangelism be smelled by the people we are praying for.