

## Chapter 1

### Something Wonderful is Coming to You!

Pierce Arrow, California had experienced a near Pentecost! Friday nights, for months, had been filled with praise, testimonies, and thanksgiving. Many, both young and old, had been meeting in a class on Creative Prayer. Answers had filled them with joy.\*

\*You may wish to join with this class by reading our book “Delightful Discoveries in Prayer.”

#### Welcoming Others

As the series was drawing to a close, many felt an urge to continue studying this new kind of prayer, together with seven great laws of communication and soulwinning. There were those who had backslidden friends, some for whom they had prayed for many years without a sign of change of heart. It was felt that now, with this new kind of prayer, and by learning the laws of communication, something wonderful really would happen! Hence, they began contacting friends, inviting them to unite in small prayer groups, either in a home agreed upon, or in the church. You will like the way they invited them into prayer groups.

“Hello, Jack!

Something wonderful wants to happen to you!”

“Oh, you, George? What do you mean, ‘Something wonderful wants to happen to me?’”

“Have you heard about the new kind of prayer, Jack?”

“No, what is that, George?”

“Well, a number of us have found something wonderful in prayer. All our lives - before now - prayer was dull-boring, in fact. We only prayed because we knew we were supposed to. Yet we could hardly wait to get it over with. Now everything is delightfully different!”

“Oh, that sounds interesting!”

“It is more than interesting, Jack, when you pray this way. It is absolutely thrilling! It is fabulous!”

“George, you are getting me curious!”

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“That is what I called you for, Jack. A group of five or six of us are beginning a little prayer group next Monday night at 7:30. We would be happy to have you join us. We are to study a new series of lessons.”

” ‘A new series of lessons’! What do you mean?”

“Well, we have already had groups studying this new kind of prayer. Now we are ready for another series. It shows how we can use special words - a new vocabulary - as we talk with someone in trouble. These new words, together with the new kind of prayer, work wonders.”

“I’m Interested, George.”

“Think of it, Jack. With a new set of words, and a new kind of prayer, old problems vanish, and people live new lives. So you can see why I am excited!”

“I follow you, George.”

“Jack, there are several groups planning to meet. Some are ladies who meet in mid-morning once a week. Some men’s groups - especially professional men - are meeting - of all things - at 6:00 o’clock every Tuesday. They love to meet early! Can you imagine that?”

“I never heard of anything like that, George.”

“And, Jack, one of these men travels about fifty miles to get there and to his work the day the prayer group meets, rather than to miss the blessing. Amazing, isn’t it?”

“How long does the group meeting last, George?”

“Only about an hour. An hour-and-a-half at the most. But the amazing thing about it, Jack, is that the time actually flies! No one wants to close the meeting. They are all so excited about it!”

I’m Getting Excited, Too!”

Jack replies. “Tell me a little more. How is it possible for a group, especially of young people, to be in a religious meeting for an hour-and-a-half and not get bored? I can’t understand that part, George.”

“Well, it is like this, Jack. Everything about this prayer group is different - delightfully different.”

“It would have to be different for you to get so excited about it, George.”

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“Right, Jack. In the first place, the one in charge of the group does not preach. None of that. All talk. There are no lectures, addresses, sermons or anything of the kind. So it can’t be boring. And the second thing about the group is that no one acts as if he thought he was better than anyone else. When we pray for someone, we pray as if he were better than we. He just has a problem. In fact, when we have our very first meeting, we sign a pledge committing ourselves to a new philosophy and new kind of speech.” \*

\* See certificate at close of last chapter.

” ‘A new kind of speech!’ What do you mean by that, George? This is new!”

“We make a commitment not to speak a word belittling anyone. When we as a group pray for someone, we seal our lips to our discussion when we leave the prayer group. We are out to help people, not to preach at them, belittle them, or try to force them to do right. See how different it is?”

“Never heard anything like it, George. That doesn’t sound like the religion I’ve always known about!”

“It isn’t like anything I’ve known either, Jack. That is what I am saying. I know you will be delighted, Jack-just thrilled!”

“What Do They Do?”

Jack still wants to talk more. George does not necessarily always tell all about how the group meeting is conducted, but since Jack is inquisitive, he explains further:

“Jack, the whole program is different. To begin, we sing a little chorus, maybe like, ‘Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.’ Then a short opening prayer is offered. After that, we tell around the circle of answers to prayer we have had by claiming Bible promises.”

” ‘Claiming Bible promises!’ What do you mean by that, George?”

“Well, Jack, we have learned that there are at least 3,573 Bible promises. And we can take any one of these promises, fall on our knees before God, and ask Him to fulfill that promise (Matthew 7:7). Then tell Him we believe (Mark 11:24). Then we tell Him we have received the promised blessing (John 11:41). As surely as we have fulfilled the simple conditions, we have the answer - just like that! Oh, there is more to it than that; but that is what we study. Some of us have already studied two sets of Pastor Coon’s lessons on prayer. He calls the first set, The Prayer of Reception, because Jesus said, ‘Believe that ye

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receive.’ And that is reception! You will find this in his book entitled, A Study Guide. And the second series is entitled, Creative Prayer, because the gift in the promise is created by the Lord Himself. It is found in his book entitled Delightful Discoveries In Prayer. These are not two kinds of prayer, really; but rather a development of emphasis in claiming Bible promises.”

Amazing!

“George, this is amazing! And after you share your prayer stories, what do you do?”

“That is what I am saying. After the prayer experiences, we take about half-an-hour, or so, discussing the lesson. We all talk. We actually discuss the principles of the lesson. This way we can learn faster. We don’t just sit through an hour, as I was saying, to listen to someone ramble on and on. We all take part. We determine to learn. And it is really fun, Jack - almost fantastic.”

### Central Prayer Figure

“So you have a song, a prayer, then some stories of answered prayer, then the lesson discussion. After that, what, George?”

“Well, Jack, then we decide on one person, or a couple, or even a family as our main prayer burden. They may be ill, or backslidden, or have some other need. We each have a small loose-leaf notebook - just a little thing you can carry in your pocket. We agree together to take one name, and pray for that person at every group meeting. We call that person our central prayer figure.

“As we pray for that person, we learn new words to speak to assist him in finding a solution to his problem. He probably will not know for some time that our group is praying for him. But we don’t just pray - we study a new set of words, as I said before, to use as we visit with him. If he is a backslider, then there are special words to speak so he will not feel restless in our presence. Then there is another set of words to draw him to Christ. Then a third set of words to make him not want to wait till he has made a decision. Really, Jack, it is fabulous!”

Jack Wants to Know More

“Then, after you choose this name for prayer, what do you do?”

“Well, Jack, then we use our new kind of prayer. We kneel down with our Bibles open.”

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“George, you mean you all bring Bibles?”

“Yes, indeed, Jack. And this is what makes it fun. We open the Bible to one of the 3,573 promises. We all claim the same promise, usually. We do it for the person whom we call our central prayer figure.”

### Prayer List

“You keep on praying for just one person, George?”

“No, Jack, we receive other requests for prayer, from time to time. Someone in the group may be ill one day. We take our little loose-leaf notebook and place at the top of a page the word Healing. And under that word we place a healing promise, like Jeremiah 33:6. All of us pray, claiming that special promise for that person who is ill.

“Or, it may be, Jack, that one of our group hears of someone who needs work. He tells the group about it, and we put at the top of another page the word Employment, and with it a text like Philippians 4:19.

“Someone else wants to go to college this fall, and doesn’t know how to finance his schooling. So we title another page, Education, and place there a promise like Matthew 6:33, or Psalm 37:4 and 5.

### Whole Groups Praying

“George, I think that is real Christianity.”

“And, Jack, one thing more you will love to know. Every time a new group starts, the one in charge, whom we call a moderator, notifies the pastor, or a person who serves as a secretary of prayer groups, when they meet, where they meet, and who are in the group. If some emergency arises in the church that requires special prayer, the pastor notifies the secretary of all prayer groups, and he in turn notifies the moderators of the groups, and within an hour, many of the members are praying for that special problem, or need.”

“George, this is really something! So no preaching, no quarreling, no boredom! Well, all I can say is, I am just amazed!”

“And, Jack, no group will at any time permit anyone to start raising religious issues. That way, the old devil can’t get into the group. You know the devil likes to divide. God unites. So the whole church becomes a wonderful loving unit, everyone helping others. No one belittling, or gossiping about someone because he has made a mistake.”

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“George, this is fabulous! I am going to be with you next Monday night for sure. Where did you say we are to meet?”

“At John’s house. The address is, 1316 East Gore Street. Be seeing you then. OK?”