

# Brother John Wallace Isom Jr.

The U-Can! Man LLC

## Ethel's Testimony

The U-Can! Man God Chosen Intercessory Prayer Warrior

Oct 2008

God has given me the exciting job of being a Prayer Warrior. It's a job that I wouldn't trade for any other. Now that I've worked hand in hand with my Lord, no other job holds any appeal.

Prior to 2006, I had a weak prayer life that consisted of mundane requests, generally just asking the Lord to help, bless, or heal myself and my loved ones. My connection felt powerless. I didn't see any answers.

All of this changed when I became a Prayer Warrior. Here's how it all began: My cousin Jean, who lives in LaFayette, LA, is on the music staff at her church. Major John Hauck had been a member there before being deployed to Kuwait. In April he emailed an urgent prayer request to the pastor, who in turn forwarded it to the church staff. Two soldiers of the 37<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group had been killed the day before. Jean often sends me various prayer requests, so she asked me to pray for the Major and sent his email address. I had the very distinct feeling that this was to be my ongoing prayer job—that I was to become a prayer warrior for the 37th Transportation Group. This was definitely a new experience for me.

At this time, I was a caregiver for my mother, who had dementia. Being homebound with Mama meant I had plenty of time to pray. I would be in prayer during the evenings and nights as I waited for Mama to fall asleep. Major Hauck sometimes sent particular requests, but often he just relied on me to pray a covering of protection over the convoys that go up into the Iraqi war zones every night. As they say in the Army, "Got your back," so I covered their backs with prayer. Often the Major couldn't be specific about their needs, as so many things were secret.

God showed me how to pray the Word. If God impressed me with an idea or word, I'd pray and then use my Bible's concordance to look for a relevant passage. If the concordance couldn't help me, I'd thumb through my Bible or Bible promise books until something popped out at me. I'd take that verse, send it to Major Hauck, and tell him how I was using it for a prayer covering for that night. Every night they'd need a new verse, as their situations didn't stay the same.

Psalm 34:7, for example, says that "the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that hear Him, and delivereth them." Since there were some believers among them, I claimed deliverance for the whole 37<sup>th</sup>.

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And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

Ezekiel 34:26

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I also used 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:4 from the NIV: “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.” This is what I wrote: “Think about this; the enemy only has worldly powers and weapons. We have divine power to use against the enemy. I asked that Jesus would take his divine power and breach the enemy’s stronghold so that their leaders would become confused and give orders that would cause discord among their underlings, and that any attacks would be weak and ineffective.”

This is a simple way to pray using the Word of God. I’m really just a conduit letting the Lord use me. All praise goes to Him for keeping the 37<sup>th</sup> safe for 90 days. The day after they stepped down and their replacement took over, two of those soldiers were killed. I experienced miracles during that time.

There were hijacks, kidnappings, rocket attacks, road-side attacks from small arms and rocks, trucks set ablaze... yet through all of that, the Lord prevailed and prayers were answered in mighty ways.

One particular prayer that sticks in my mind was for a hijacked convoy driver. I prayed that the captors would be blinded and confused and that their prisoner would walk away. After a long night spent in prayer, I got a praise report from Major Hauck saying that the driver was released and found walking along the road at about the time that he was sharing his fears about the situation with me. The timing was so perfect that it couldn’t have been anything other than an answer to prayer. This all took place over many hours. I felt drained by the time it was over. I truly believe that I was in the place that God wanted me, as an intercessor for the 37<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group.

When 37<sup>th</sup> went back to their home base in Germany, my job with them was finished. The only intercession that remained for me concerning Desert Shield in Iraq was a prayer covering over some soldiers from Maine and their families. One was a Ranger who was in some very dangerous situations, one was a S/Sgt in a motor pool, and the last was a 19-year-old going through basic training for the Army Reserves. I saw some visions concerning the Ranger. Since email communication was impossible with the Ranger and the Private, and very limited with the S/Sgt., I based my prayers only upon the thoughts or visions given to me by God.

Mama passed away that November. Her body was worn out. She was 95 years old and ready to meet loved ones in heaven. Then, in January, my brother Jim died unexpectedly. I sorrowed at his death. He was my only brother, and I wasn’t ready for him to leave. The Lord gave me a reprieve from intercession for a short period of grief.

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Some time in February or March of 2007, I got a call from another cousin. Joan, who lives in Massachusetts, had been walking from a parking garage in Boston to a Christian convention called "Congress." Along the way, she caught up with a soldier in uniform and asked him if he was being deployed to Iraq. She told him about my intercession for the 37<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group. That soldier was John Isom, Jr. He whipped the pictures of his wife, Karen, and their 3 children, Joshua, Caleb, and Joy (Christian hadn't been born at that time). He asked Joan if she'd send me the pictures and ask me to pray for him and his family.

I wasn't at all sure if this was a connection from God. He had given me specific prayer assignments before and I didn't want to move ahead without being sure of His will...so I told Joan that I'd pray about it. After I prayed and pondered for a month, God gave me the go-ahead to say yes. I called Joan and she sent me the pictures, along with John's email address. I contacted John around June of 2007.

Through the internet, John filled me in on his Chaplain recruiting job. From June until December, I prayed for John about things like meeting quotas and getting ready to retire by December as God required of him.

During that time, the ministry of the U-Can Man was emerging. John had that idea of "U-CAN" embedded in him. That part wasn't an overnight thing. God's perfect timing was beginning to become obvious to both of us.

At the time of his retirement, John was asked to be a member of a Four Man Chaplaincy Support Team. This included a two-star General and two Colonels. My prayer for that team was that their quotas would be filled with very special people. During that time, the Lord told me that Chaplains were His blessing for the Army.

At first, John was swamped with APC Team work, buying and moving into his and Karen's dream home, and setting up a weekly TV program...The Hour of Flour. We prayed through those things, setting aside certain times to do Army work and leaving priority time to be with God and then Karen and family. God had me show John that seeds that he had sown months or years ago were ready to be contacted again to reap as Chaplain recruits. This was God's timing. I sent up prayers and God answered with very concrete suggestions on how John was to move. Once John's time became better organized, God showed that it was His time to have John start the U-CAN MINISTRY.

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One step after another, the ministry began to take shape. God had me pray about the logo, business cards, newsletter, and brochure. Cirena and Mandie miraculously joined the team to advise us on the graphics and editing. It was seed time, reaping, harvesting, planting more seed. This was a snowball headed downhill, gathering steam and more snow as it moved. John likens the U-CAN team to a shuttle. It takes lots of force to get started, but once it is out of the earth's gravitational pull, the flying is easy.

We are in that mode right now. The U-Can Man Ministry developed from a man with an idea to a goal that is picking up steam daily all to the Glory of God. John's book is underway, with the help of a published author, Lorraine Thomas. I am praying for the right title, and for it to hit the bestsellers lists and then to become a movie. I am also praying that this book will be followed by one or more books in a series about John's life. This particular prayer stems from my love of good Christian books that come in series.

When John and I talk, we can only say "WOW" about how fast God is moving. I know that this testimony isn't done. I can only say Praise the Lord for allowing me the honor of seeing His answers to so many prayers.

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