

The MAGNIFICENT Seven



Linda Brewster, Jane Painter, Dr. Lara Zacca Sackllah

Dulce Rangel, Dr. Jessica Hwang, Amy Lee



★ **Anne Brown** ★ God is Good and with us day and night – Anne Brown’s foundational belief throughout her life was shaped through turning to God for strength and comfort. While teaching the Word of God for many years in Sunday school and Confirmation classes, Anne also wove that passion into everyday conversations with family and friends. She enjoyed serving as an Elder at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in the 80’s and also recently served as an Elder at St. Simons Presbyterian Church on St. Simons Island, Georgia. Believing that God has a plan and holds each of us in the palm of His hands certainly helped when she felt her world was turned upside down on July 19, 2019. Receiving the unexpected news of a cancer diagnosis, Anne was extremely shocked but she turned to the loving arms of her Lord and Savior, family and friends for strength and comfort. She readily shares that during her medical journey she felt God’s presence and amazing grace through the many prayers answered. Anne hopes to inspire others and be a source of comfort, love and encouragement when facing the challenges in their lives. She has always believed, “Whatever we are facing, God is bigger than any situation. I believe we can all rise, heal and overcome any situation with our Lord and Savior by our side.” *Magnificent!*

★ **Linda Brewster** ★ Linda credits her mother, Olivia Thompson, for her belief in the power of prayer, serving and giving to others. Olivia modeled trusting God for everything, in part, by how she knelt and prayed every night. Linda followed her great example by attending church faithfully, singing in the choir, and serving in several ministries. This affected the type of work she selected in order to serve other people. Olivia taught never to doubt God and Linda shares, “I experienced a profound prayer answered by God -- the gift of our son. Doctors told us that I would never be able to conceive a child because of a severe case of Endometriosis so following my mother and a friends’ recommendation, I began to pray with belief concerning conceiving a child.” What a joy it is for Linda and her husband, years later, to hear about their grown son’s coaching endeavors! Through photography and scrap-booking, Linda loves to share her gifts with families unable to afford memorabilia or graduation photos. She hopes to live out God’s message in Peter 4:10, ‘to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s grace.’ *~ Magnificent!*

★ **Jane Painter** ★ Jane feels very blessed to be raised in a home where she and her siblings learned the importance of prayer from her father. She shares that her own personal commitment to Christ came during high school with faith taking root during her college years. Jane cherishes her ministry within a high school Young Life club, able to witness many teenagers come to faith and begin to grow in their spiritual life. Over the past 40+ years of her adult life, Jane shares that while having experienced many highs and lows, through it all was the blessing of family, close friends, a wonderful church home and several ministry opportunities. She reflects on the experiences of loss of family and close friends, the heartache of broken relationships, career changes and financial uncertainty and yet, she confidently confirms -- “God in His faithfulness has sustained me. I have experienced a growing intimacy with Him through time in prayer and in His Word. In addition to the blessing of being in His presence that prayer provides, prayer has become an act of worship to me because it was and is important to our Lord.” *~ Magnificent!*

★ **Lara Zacca Sackllah** ★ In reflection, God has truly guided me through the example of people. Following the footsteps of my father, a fine physician, was not my life’s goal and yet today, I am a surgeon and obsessed with my specialty in medicine! Loving teaching Bible studies and serving others with wisdom and prayer, I set forth a plan, but a calling to medical school continued. I have often seen that when I emphatically say NO to a situation the Lord chuckles and says, “Oh my sweet Lara, the answer is YES!” Evidenced while working in research, a “chance” encounter was God’s design when at a family brunch my sister urged me to speak to a family friend who was a podiatrist, but I had ruled out specializing in foot and ankle! His passion for this vocation shook my gut and in choosing to trust God, I am now exactly where I am supposed to be. As a vessel to glorify God, in the exam room with tearful patients, I’m a voice of wisdom as they share concerns unrelated to their dear feet. In an operating room I am His hands of healing, Jehovah Rapha. In the hospital waiting room I am an instrument of peace. Before each surgery, I pray, “Heavenly Father, bless me with your wisdom, focus, and attention to detail. Take my hands in your hands and guide them with stability. Bless me with your confidence and courage. Father, may I feel you in the room, inherit your peace and may it fill me from head to toe. In Jesus name, Amen.” *~ Magnificent!*

★ **Dulce Rangel** ★ Dulce vulnerably shares her journey to an appreciation for prayer. As serious situations took place in her life, even though she was brought up knowing there was a God, she did not feel God would want to hear her prayers. She remembers a time when it was hard to be in agreement about prayer. “I was led to believe that God allowed situations so that I would return to Him, ask for Him and get closer to him.” She is grateful to have a Mother who will always encourage her; “You’ve got to pray about it...don’t forget to pray!” Dulce recalls wondering if God would want to hear her even when she felt so far away from God; “Why would he want to help me now?” Again, her anchor reminded her that God sees her heart and uses each situation to draw her close. It might be the precious prayer of her son asking God to remove his nightmare, or the times patients in the hospitals tell her, “Que Dios te bendiga,” Dulce is grateful to meet people in the heart of their prayers. She fondly whispers “Amen PaPa” to her young son as he simply asks for God’s help, or she returns the beautiful Spanish version of ‘that God will bless you.’ Dulce realizes her patients are going through so much and it is reassuring for them to hear “Que Dios te bendiga.” She readily admits that as they say it and she says it back, it is God’s prayer transforming all hearts at the same time! *~ Magnificent!*

★ **Jessica Hwang** ★ Jessica Park Hwang is a grateful child of God whose faith, being forged in the fires of sufferings, disciplines her to walk with others. She originally hails from South Korea from where she immigrated at the age of 2 and has been a Houstonian for 30 years. She is thankful to her parents – Christian missionaries for displaced Koreans in Uzbekistan – who have prayed over her for years. Looking back with perspective, she acknowledges the power of Christ in transforming brokenness into beauty. After the death of her father from hepatitis B reactivation due to immunosuppression for his kidney transplant, Dr. Hwang embarked on a career managing hepatitis B infection among cancer patients to prevent similar devastating situations. Her work has led to activities that have helped shift local and national policies to improve liver health among cancer patients. Jessica’s family is unspeakably precious to her and her deep gratitude comes forth with a beautiful compassion and faithfulness within her church and community. Hoping to live by one of her favorite verses: “So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’” Luke 17:10 *~ Magnificent!*

★ **Amy Lee** ★ “Faith over Fear!” Amy Elizabeth Hughes Lee quickly adopted this motto when diagnosed with Stage IV Diffuse Large B-Cell Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma in late May 2019. While devout and prayerful, but also a Type A personality, Amy’s cancer diagnosis took her faith to a whole new level — complete surrender to God’s plan for her and for her family. “Thy Will Be Done,” became a daily prayer. Amy has full confidence that God had the details of this diagnosis and that God has the final answer on her life and she is not going to question His plan. God, the doctors, nurses, transport team, family and friends are the true heroes in any diagnosis and have answered a calling into service to care for others in a time of need. As Amy’s faith truly deepened, congruently her desire to participate in God’s care for everyone around her continues on a grand scale! Amy’s journey has been a huge reminder of life lessons that she tries to live daily: Look for daily God winks; Look for God in all the details of the day; Always take time to be kind; Faith over fear; Always look for the silver linings; Never miss a moment to help someone; Pay it forward; and Always look for the helpers. *~ Magnificent!*