

From the desk of **JOHN BRADSHAW**

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Dear friend in ministry,

There isn't anything more precious to me than my family. My wife and children are the greatest gifts God has given me. If you have a family, you know what I'm talking about. *I cannot* imagine losing one of my children.

A few weeks ago I baptized a wonderful lady who has walked that difficult road. In 1980, Barbara was an active member of her church and about to give birth to a baby girl. But something went wrong in the delivery room, and four days later, her baby girl died.

God spoke to her heart.

As you can imagine, Barbara asked why this tragedy had happened to her. She became angry at a God who would take away her baby girl. As a result, Barbara walked away from God for many years. Thirty-six years later, Barbara joined her sister at an It Is Written Partnership event in Orlando, Florida. It was there that God spoke to her heart. She was reminded of the love of God, which she had learned of as a child but walked away from as a young mother. Gradually, her anger began to turn into acceptance and understanding.



Despite suffering tragic loss, Barbara renewed her commitment to Jesus Christ through baptism.

But Barbara's life was upended again when her older son passed away from cancer in August 2018. A month later, she was with her sister again at Partnership. **Overcome with grief**, Barbara soaked up the messages she heard. She wasn't angry with God this time. She

understood her Father better. In place of the anger she experienced almost 40 years earlier was a peace she knew had come from God.

Earlier this year when her sister told her about the new It Is Written series Hope Awakens, Barbara signed up. At peace with God after the tragedies she had endured, Barbara made a decision for baptism. In October this year, I had the privilege of lowering Barbara into a watery grave and raising her up to walk in newness of life. The joy of Christ filled her heart. She shared that through all those years of anger, "God never forgot me. Now I'm looking forward to seeing my babies again." I cannot wait for Jesus to return. I hope I can watch as Barbara is reunited with her son and daughter and all three of them are restored in the image of God.

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This time of year, It Is Written usually gathers with our Partners all over the country to share the exciting things God is doing to win souls through the ministry of It Is Written. These are mountaintop weekends where we rejoice in what the Lord has done and is doing through your commitment to this ministry. As the Holy Spirit works at Partnership, hearts are touched just like Barbara's was. *It was at Partnership that Barbara's journey back to faith in God began*. God reached her, and then continued to draw her. He led her through many challenging experiences, and ultimately led her to the It Is Written online evangelistic series where she surrendered her life to Jesus.



Irene was beaming as she committed more fully to God through baptism.

This December, I'm asking you for a special, year-end gift for souls like Barbara. **Barbara** represents the many, many people who are reached every day by It Is Written, a ministry that exists because of your support.

And there's another incredible story I want to share with you. Several weekends ago, I had the privilege of baptizing Irene. Irene had occasionally attended a church in her neighborhood, but the messages seemed "light." **She was looking for more.** When COVID-19 kept her indoors, she spent more time on social media and saw a Facebook ad for Hope Awakens and knew she wanted to attend.

Irene not only watched each of the Hope Awakens presentations, but she also began attending every online follow-up meeting she possibly could. "I've learned so much," she told me. "Other churches I have attended just told little stories, but this was the Bible. I knew God was speaking to me. And I couldn't wait to be baptized and become part of this church." Because of the pandemic, the first time her pastor met her in person was at her baptism! And what an occasion it was! The God of heaven had drawn another of His children into a saving relationship with Himself.

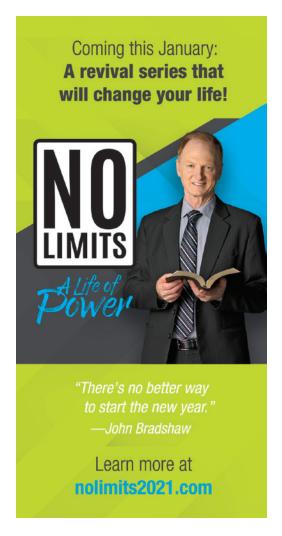
This year has taken a lot from us. People have lost peace, jobs, stability, health, and loved ones. But It Is Written has been able to provide hope because of your faithful and generous support. We've been able to stay on the front lines of ministry and evangelism. This year's loss has created desire and longing for something more, and people have found certainty and hope through It Is Written. *I thank you for giving light and hope to so many people!*

This year has also given a lot to us: new opportunities to spread the gospel, new methods of evangelism, and new hearts searching for truth and hope. I'm reminded of what Paul said about "the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts," inspiring us "to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God" as seen "in the face of Jesus

Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). This Christmas, **look into the face of the One who lay in a manger as a baby, and see the light of the knowledge of God in His face.** Then join me in inviting others to see that light too.

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Next year is already packed full of evangelistic outreach projects. ACTS 20:21 continues in January with No Limits: A Life of Power, a revival series I hope you and your church will not miss. You can learn more at nolimits2021.com. No Limits will be followed by four more outreach series that people can participate in all across the country and around the world. There is a world to reach for Jesus! There are mission trips we hope will happen and many television programs to film and produce in multiple languages. It Is Written TV airs 24 hours a day. It Is Written Bible studies are being translated into new languages and



printed. *Time is short. In fact, I believe it is shorter than ever. We are almost Home.* And that is truly good news!

But we have to take more people home with us. **Please join me this Christmas in inviting more Barbaras and Irenes to see the glory in the face of Jesus Christ.** Your generous support is going to change eternity for many people.

Yours in ministry,

Pastor John Bradshaw

President, It Is Written

P.S. Barbara and Irene both found their way to faith in Jesus through the It Is Written Hope Awakens series because of your faithful support. Now Barbara cannot wait to see her son and daughter in the resurrection, and Irene's faith in Jesus now rests upon the Word of God. There are more people than ever before searching for answers and hope. And because of your commitment to God and to this ministry, they are finding it. Please join me this holiday season in giving the gift of eternal life found in the face of a baby in Bethlehem. Your generous support right now is going to grow the kingdom of God and result in more people being in heaven.

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