Chapter 9
Worship and Suffering

I wonder … it scares me, but … do we ever
get to know God but through suffering?
—Glenn Hansen

Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble … " (John 16:33). He was right, of course. If you haven't yet experienced tragedy and trauma, someday you will. Life is no picnic. Instead it feels at times more like a series of problems, both large and small. As soon as one problem is solved, another one pops up. One bumper sticker reads: "Life is hard and then you die."

So that's it, is it? This chapter's going to be nothing more than a series of miserable reinforcements of the endurance race that we call *life*? No. You see, life in Christ is not futile. While traveling this worship journey we will suffer collisions, accidents and sickness. We may be robbed or raped. We may end the race prematurely and leave behind a church full of bewildered mourners. But, among all these unknowns about the way ahead, one thing is sure: there is a way to worship throughout the journey, no matter how hard it gets.

God has provided us with a manual for getting through tough times. The laments that we find among the Psalms reflect the true feelings of a range of people who struggle and honestly pour out their pain to God. We see people being unfairly treated and attacked, and others tormented by physical sickness.

It's amazing that only a minority of the Psalms focus on joyful praise and thanksgiving. Based on the songs we hear in church, you would think that ninety percent of the Psalms would have a joyful tone. But at least sixty of the one hundred and fifty Psalms are laments, and some scholars even classify seventy percent of the Psalms as laments. The moods of the Psalms swing wildly from vengeful anger to joyful praise, from self-righteousness to depression and back to joy again. One thing they are not is a continual multi-mix of hi-tempo happiness.

God includes so many laments in the Psalms because he knows we need him in our discouraging and devastating times. He made us and the world we live in; he knows we're going to suffer. God affirms us in our frailty by giving us the language of the laments. They show us how to cry out to Him for help, to pour out our complaints, and even to be angry with him.

Tough situations in life cause despair, frustration, depression, anger at God and at people, and feelings of abandonment and rejection. The psalmists' shocking freedom of expression gives permission to let our hair down before God, not to pretend or put on a

façade. No matter what we're going through, there is a Psalm to help us be honest with him.

A Series of Personal Letters to God

Philip Yancey gives some very helpful guidelines for reading the Psalms in his book "The Bible Jesus Read." Yancey explains that the psalms are "not meant to be studied as much as to be absorbed … it is more about forming us and less about teaching us. In reading the Psalms, it is "as if we are looking over the shoulder of the writer, seeing their spiritual journals."[1]

The laments give us an up-close look at people in pain and in danger who are trying to reconcile their beliefs about God with the seeming contradiction of being abandoned by him. When we see the psalms as personal journals, the vacillating emotions of the psalmists make sense. Life is like a roller-coaster—always up and down.

Seeing God's acceptance of people in pain in the Psalms takes the pressure off me to always feel happy. God calls us to be joyful but doesn't expect me to always feel a bubbly sort of happiness. The laments help us stay on the path of worship even in "the valley of the shadow of death." We grow closer to God in the process.

Glenn's Story

The best way I can illustrate worshipping through suffering is to tell you the story of my friend, Glenn Hansen. His journey is a beautiful example of someone who goes into the depths of despair and comes out on the other side loving God. In a fourteen-year period, Glenn's life was punctuated by all kinds of family sickness and death. He suffered violent ups and downs through these years. But he kept his heart soft and pliable before God. Looking back, he thanks God for the gift of a soft heart.

In Glenn's response to tragedy we see a living example of worship and lament. We see the importance of real gut-level honesty. We see that it's not wrong to be mad at God. We see a "life-of-Job" type of teachable heart. We see that being in a "school of suffering" is part of God's choice for us. We see the question God puts before us: Is our love for him conditional on things always going well for us?

We see that we're ultimately not in control. We have to make the choice—will we worship even when it feels like God has pulled the carpet out from under us? Even while grappling with devastating loss, Glenn found a way to worship. In Glenn's life we also see numerous examples of God's presence "showing up" in response to his making a tough choice to worship. Finally, we see the heart of a warrior who refuses to be stomped on by the evil one.

I met Glenn Hansen in 1985 shortly after moving from California to British Columbia. He and his wife, Ann, were good friends to Linda and me. Glenn is a gregarious, fun-to-

be-with sort of a guy, and Ann was a lovely quiet personality. Soon after we met, Glenn finished his college degree and was honored with the title of class valedictorian. Their lives as a young married couple were full of joy and promise for a great future. At that time they knew nothing of the depths of heartache and suffering they would undergo in the years to come.

The Hansen family moved to New Zealand in 1987 where Glenn became a pastor in a small, rural Assemblies of God church. They had three beautiful daughters, Leah, Erika and Abby, and a baby boy named Dominic. Then Grace, their fifth child, was born with Down's syndrome.

Glenn describes the time of Grace's birth: "Surprise and shock. This was huge. It's grief. Your world has been altered significantly. I came face to face with the reality that we are not ultimately in control of our lives … that bad things happen to good people."[2]

As a pastor who was comfortable in the role of teacher and counselor, all of a sudden Glenn knew he didn't have all the answers: "I can remember feeling like I was exposed as a hypocrite. 'Here's pastor Glenn, he knows how life works.' Then, wait a minute … this wasn't part of the plan." Glenn says,

> At that time I drove twenty-five minutes everyday to the hospital where Ann and Grace were staying after the emergency C-section that brought Grace into the world. During that daily ride I poured out my heart to God over and over again through the song, "Will You Worship."[3]
>
> Deep in my soul is a tug of war, I'm struggling to know what this life is for
>
> I try so hard to stay in control, to hold back the tears, to not let go
>
> I don't know why I hang on so long
> When I know the question you are asking me
>
> Will you worship, will you bow down before your Lord and King?
>
> Will you love me, will you give me your heart, your everything?
>
> Right here and now, I make my choice, with all my love I will answer You
>
> I will worship, I will bow down, before my Lord and King
> I will love You, I will give You My heart, my everything

Glenn knew that God was asking him, even in your suffering, "Will you worship, will you bow down?"

This song gave Glenn a way to say "yes, I will worship" in his time of great pain. He relates, "To have words and melody that can connect your heart to God is life in that moment. It does us good to speak, even better to raise our voice in song." Glenn chose to humble himself despite the seeming unfairness of it all. In effect, he was saying, "God, I can't understand why you are allowing this but I believe you are good."

The birth of Grace was just the first of many dark valleys that Glenn and Ann would walk through. Shortly after Grace was born, Glenn's two-year old Dominic suffered bouts of illness for six months. He started to have seizures and shortly after that he was diagnosed with an aggressive and rare cancer of the brain lining. He died less than 48 hours after the diagnosis and there was never any chance of treatment. This was a couple of months before his third birthday. I remember that Glenn called me from New Zealand when Dominic's body was still lying on the bed. He was cherishing every moment and memory of Dominic's short life. He was slowly saying goodbye. You can imagine their sorrow in losing their only boy.

Glenn explains the progression of tragedies,

> It was really, really difficult. Dominic died on March 1st, and we buried him March 5th. At the same time, one month-old Grace had battled near fatal pneumonia, was on life support for eight days and in intensive care for three weeks. My parents flew out (from Canada to New Zealand) on March 17. That same night, Grace was again rushed to the hospital. There were firemen administering oxygen in my house as I stood shaking on my front porch. Shortly after this, Grace was diagnosed with Leukemia. Six months of intensive chemotherapy was required.

Honesty with God

Rather than clamming up and letting his feelings stay buried inside of him, Glenn followed the pattern of the laments; he said to God exactly what he felt. Glenn's honesty was like the writer of Psalm 88:

> … my eyes are dim with grief. I call to you, O Lord, every day; I spread out my hands to you. Do you show your wonders to the dead? Do those who are dead rise up and praise you?" (Ps 88:9-10). In effect, the psalmist was saying to God almost with a mocking tone, "How can I praise you when I'm dead!?

Glenn remembers,

> Through this I had to get real with God. I walked up Mt. Victoria in Wellington and started to talk to God: "God, are you there? Are you real? Do you see us? Our son is dead and our daughter is in the hospital."

> I was walking up the switch-back trails towards the music conservatory at the top and I cried out to God, "Could you *just give me a sign*?" The words hadn't even left my mouth when I heard someone from a distance say, "How is your little girl?"
>
> I saw that a woman had parked her car nearby. I said to her, "how do you know I have a little girl?"
>
> She said, "I work in the hospital; I'm a security orderly." Then she just jumped in the car and left. It hit me that God had answered my prayer for a sign. *I put my face in my hands and wept uncontrollably because God showed up."*

Glenn's cries of agony remind us of the psalmist:

> My God, my God! Why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help? Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer. Every night you hear my voice, but I find no relief … Do not stay so far from me, for trouble is near, and no one else can help me" (Ps 22:1-2;11).

Pouring out our complaints to God is part of our genuine worship, along with asking for deliverance, and telling him we trust him.

Moving to Canada

The Hansen family returned to Canada in May of 1999 after being in New Zealand for 12 years. Several months after the turmoil of an international move with four children, they were beginning to get settled. But one year after the move, Ann was diagnosed with cancer. For six months she received chemotherapy treatments, then radiation therapy.

Glenn shares a remarkable story of God's intervention during this heartbreaking time:

> In the aftermath of Dominic's death, a stressful international move, and after Jane, Ann's twin-sister's death following a long battle with cancer, I was working at Trinity Western University. Ann was through with her chemotherapy treatments and finally I could let down a little bit, and I became the weak link in the chain. I was gutted. I had to face my own stuff.
>
> One day I came home and was absolutely racked with anxiety. I walked into a neighbor's garage and I was doubled over in pain. I could barely straighten up. I said to my friend, "I think I'm going to need you to take me to the hospital to get a tranquilizer." At that moment I was a complete wreck; I thought I was going to end up in a mental institution. I thought, "there's no way I'm going to be able to provide for my kids." But then I went into my house and I was all alone.

Then God broke through. Glenn says:

> Something inside me *just spoke*. I started to prophesy. I stood in the room and yelled, "No way, Satan! I am Glenn Hansen! I am a blood-bought son of the most high God! I have a unique destiny! I am making unique footprints on this world!" I just stood up and walked out of the house and said to my neighbor, "Look at me, I am clothed and in my right mind."

Glenn was experiencing demonic oppression mixed with depression and post-traumatic stress. In that moment, the Holy Spirit gave him a word of life, bubbling up from inside of him. By speaking this word, he took a stand against the devil's schemes. Instead of acting like a victim, he rose up like a warrior, proclaiming a word of defense and a proclamation of victory.

Again Glenn recalls the gift of God's presence, "When you get *real* with God, he is there. *I was delivered*."

The Last Chapter

Glen's story skips ahead to 2008. After several years of being free and clear of cancer, Ann was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive type of cancer, the sort that Vancouver General Hospital only treats about four times a year. Glenn says:

> We knew this was really bad. The day after I took Ann to VGH, I was at home sitting on the red couch when someone sent me an "e-card" about Ann's situation. I expected a lot of "cheese." But I opened the audio e-card and heard the sound of rushing waves. The caption read, "as the waves of the sea, he comes to us with grace upon grace for our every need." In that moment I lifted my hands and the presence of God came to me. I didn't want to admit what I was doing, but I knew I was letting Ann go. God was gracing me to let Ann go."

Even in receiving a digital greeting card, Glenn was quick to respond to the tender initiative of God's comfort.

In this period of time after the discouraging diagnosis, Glenn is honest with God about his inability to handle this trauma:

> One day Ann was sleeping upstairs because she was uncomfortable. I was downstairs on the couch. I was thinking, "Ann is going to die." I was trying to imagine "what will it be like?" I said, "God, I don't know how to do this because I'm just a man. I don't know how to watch my wife die." Somehow I found comfort in speaking those honest words.

God Is Good

Through these ordeals, Glenn learned to relinquish control of his life to God:

> We spend so much of our time trying to control everything and trying to manipulate God to bless us. How often do we worship to somehow place God in our debt? Then we have to come to grips with the question "who is the real God" and "is he good?" And I say, "*he is good."*

In spite of all of Glenn's grief, his conclusion was, "he is good."

Many Christians believe that "God is an angry judge. If you do well, you will be blessed; if you sin, you will be punished."[4] There's a line in the movie *Sound of Music* that is spoken from this perspective. Julie Andrews' character has just realized that the "captain" and father of the seven children she was caring for is in love with her and that she will be spending the rest of her life married to him. She sings, "Somewhere in my youth our childhood, I must have done something good" to deserve this blessing.

Is that the heart of God? Are we rewarded for good deeds and punished for bad deeds? The Bible teaches us that the righteous are rewarded, but there is no promise that God's people will be spared from suffering and that we can earn such things as a good spouse.

Jesus addressed this question in the gospels. He explains that whether suffering is caused by human cruelty or a natural disaster, the root cause is *not* the sin of those who suffer:

> About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. "Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?" Jesus asked. "Is that why they suffered? Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God. And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too (Luke 13:1-5 NLT).

Again in the gospel of John, when a boy is born blind, Jesus was asked by his disciples:

> Rabbi … why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?
>
> "It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him (John 9:2-3 NLT).

Jesus saw it as an opportunity for God to be glorified in the healing of the blind man.

Who Are We Going to Worship—God or Our Agenda?

To believe that our good behavior will guarantee God's blessings is tantamount to believing we can control God and our world. God didn't give me eight healthy children

who are still strong today because I was an especially good Christian. Nor did Glenn lose a child and his wife because of his bad behavior. That's not the way it works. In fact, Jesus says that our Father " … causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matt 5:45).

Why would God set up his universe in this way? What kind of a response is he looking for? We can answer that by looking at the lives of people who witnessed many miracles yet never learned to please God by trusting him. The Hebrews who followed Moses into the desert saw wonders upon wonders of God: a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night, manna from heaven, water from a rock, the Red Sea parting. What kind of fruit did this string of miracles produce in their lives? Not much, evidently, because they never stopped grumbling about the discomfort of living in the desert. They never stopped doubting that God would provide, even though he had proven himself over and over again. They never grew to trust God, and they never entered the promised land because of their unbelief.

"Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Heb 11:6). God is looking for a people who will believe him. He is looking for mature love that is freely given even when our lives take a turn for the worse. He is looking for people that will accept the mysterious twists and turns of life and not require an answer to every question right now. He is looking for a people who will trust that He will eventually bring justice, even if it's not in this present life. "We must know God or perish. But unless we know God as ultimate mystery we do not know God at all."[5]

Glenn figured out that it's easy to create an illusion, a god of our own making, who we expect to serve our agenda. But that's not who God is. Glenn shares this valuable lesson:

> You have to answer the question "Is God just there to make your life good and to bless you or is God *really God*? Can he do or allow what he chooses to do and allow? Are you OK with that? I think we're going to ask that question time and time again in our lives. Who are we going to worship—God or our agenda? Are we going to worship the real God, or the god who we *thought* was God?"

After Job lost his entire family, the Bible says of him, " … Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing" (Job 1:22). Job's worship wasn't dependent on his circumstances.

Vulnerability

It would be a lot harder to swallow the bitter pill of life's tests if Jesus himself hadn't undergone the most cruel punishment of all. "Jesus not only *explains* suffering, he *experienced* suffering."[6] Even Jesus "learned obedience through what he suffered" (Heb 5:8). Jesus came down from heaven, humbly took the form of a man, and then suffered the shame and agony of crucifixion. We'll never be able to fully understand how vulnerable Jesus felt.

We get a taste of how vulnerable Glenn felt during his long ordeal. Glenn shared with me, "I think there's something about having *your heart laid bare*." He quoted the psalmist: "A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise" (Ps 51:17). In his brokenness, Glenn found God.

Jesus doesn't ask us to undergo anything he hasn't already undergone himself. And he promises to be *with us* through it all. Over and over, Glenn says, "In the moment when you *choose to worship God,* he shows up in a profound way." For many, the closest experiences with God are in the toughest times.

Though many receive a touch from the "God of all comfort" in their grief, herein lies another mystery: some of us won't always experience such a tangible touch of God's love when we say "yes" to God in our pain. Though the Father will never forsake us, sometimes we may *feel* forsaken. God tests us in different ways.

At one point in our chat, Glenn used the imagery of attending a school to describe his journey: "This isn't a game; we're playing for keeps. You have to decide, do you want to play in the big leagues? Do you still want to go to this school and pay the tuition?"

The "school" of hard knocks that Glenn is talking about is one that every famous Bible character attended. It's one that every leader in church history has studied in. It's a school that's attended by every devout Christian person who has lost a job, lost a loved one, or lost their health.

Attending this school develops godliness in us: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (Jas 1:2-4).

In this school of faith, God gives us tests. Life is full of tests. The book of Job teaches us about tests from God. After losing all of his children and falling ill, Job felt like he was *constantly* being tested and said to God:

> What is man that you make so much of him, that you give him so much attention, that you examine him every morning and test him every moment? Will you never look away from me, or let me alone even for an instant?" (Job 7:17-19).

Yet while Job felt hounded by God, he never cursed him.

The pathway to godly character is a long and arduous one. Philip Yancey quotes Soren Kirkegaard, who says that Christians reminded him of, "schoolboys who want to look up the answers to their math problems in the back of the book rather than work them through." Yancey says, "We yearn for shortcuts but shortcuts usually lead away from growth, not toward it."[7]

Our Father Carries Us

Glenn shares another experience of hearing from God in worship:

> I remember another time about seven or eight years ago. Grace had just about died from pneumonia, Dominic got sick and died, Jane [Ann's twin sister] got sick and died, and Grace got Leukemia. Ann had been through an earlier bout with cancer. I was in worship chapel on a Friday, and *in a moment,* God showed me through the words of a song that even though I had been through all this hard stuff, I still had a heart towards God. *But it wasn't because of me.* It was because of God's kindness leading me towards repentance. I was not bitter and twisted, and strung out, angry and bent out of shape, hating God. Why? Because *he had kept my heart*. And what did I do at that moment? I put my face in my hands and I wept and I worshiped.

When we're too weak to do all the right things, God's strength takes over: "He believes even when we cannot. He prays even when we cannot. We participate in *his* faith."[8] Paul wrote to the Galatians, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me … I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20). The phrase "by faith in the Son of God" can also mean "by the faith *of* the Son of God." It's Jesus' faith working through and for us. Sometimes we feel like Glenn did, unable even to believe. But the Father carries us, and we ride on the wings of Jesus' faith.

Knowing the God of All Comfort Through the Power of Music

I've written tons of worship songs, and a handful of them have impacted the church in many countries. Occasionally I'll receive an email from someone who has been touched by God through one of my songs. The overwhelming majority of emails I've received are from people who have been comforted and encouraged by God in a time of suffering.

One night while in England on a ministry trip I began to write a song called "Yet I Will Praise." The impetus for the song was a picture I saw in mind's eye of a mother who was terribly distraught over a tragic accident involving her child. I wrote this song from the perspective of that mother:

"Yet I Will Praise"[9]

I will praise you Lord my God
Even in my brokenness I will praise you, Lord
I will praise the Lord my God
Even in my desperation, I will praise you Lord
And I can't understand all that you allow
I just can't see the reason, but my life is in your hands
And though I can't see you, I choose to trust you

Even when my heart is torn, I will praise you Lord
Even when I feel deserted, I will praise you Lord

Even in the darkest valley, I will praise you Lord
And even when my world is shattered
And it seems all hope is gone, yet I will praise you Lord

I will trust you Lord my God, even in my loneliness,
I will trust you Lord; I will trust the Lord my God
Even when I cannot hear you, I will trust you Lord
And I will not forget that you hung on a cross
Lord you bled and died for me, and if I have to suffer,
I know that you've been there,
And I know that you're here now
And I know that you're here right now

In the aftermath of 9/11, two different people sent me videos of the burning twin towers in New York accompanied by this song. This video was played in local churches to help American Christians grieve the loss of so many lives.

I also received an email from a young lady in South Africa whose husband had been shot to death in front of her when he tried to stop a car-jacking. She and her husband were newly married when he was murdered. She wrote to say that God was helping her through her grief through this song.

Jenn from Arizona wrote me a card saying:

> Three weeks ago my husband and I gave birth to our first child (Atlee Ryan). She was only 19 weeks old … sadly she didn't live. It has been the worst period of our lives, but I have found comfort in your song "Yet I Will Praise." I have listened to it over and over. I am trying to make it my prayer during this time of intense grief.

Another type of email I receive regularly is people asking permission to record one of my songs. Most of these requests are routine, but reading Sara Richardson's email made me cry.

Here is her story. When she was 10 years old, Sara was diagnosed with a rare bone cancer, called osteosarcoma, in her leg. On her website, she says,

> My life went from music lessons, gymnastics, and schoolwork to months of chemotherapy treatments, major surgeries, and hospital stays. Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio became my second home. I lost my long, beautiful hair from the chemotherapy and I had to use crutches to get around for about a year as my leg slowly healed.[10]

Tragically, after years of cancer treatment, her doctor said there was no other choice but to amputate her leg. She was crushed to hear that report.

> Even though losing my leg is the most trying thing I have ever had to face, my life is anything BUT miserable and disabled. I have a prosthesis that I can walk with and I enjoy many adaptive sports such

> as skiing, rock wall climbing, and rifle-shooting … I love meeting other people with similar challenges as mine. It is a huge blessing to talk to new cancer patients facing amputation, answer some of their questions, and show them how they can still live life to the fullest despite a missing limb.

What a tremendous example of worship in the midst of hardship. Sara says with gratitude, "It is a miracle I am alive, and I don't want to waste any second of my life." Sara's attitude also brings to mind the words of Abraham Lincoln, who said, "people are just about as happy as they make up their mind to be." While some people seem to be "career complainers," griping at the smallest inconvenience, others are like Sara, who can see the best even in the worst of situations. As a pre-teen and teenager, Sara battled cancer, and fought her way through it with worship.

Jenn and Sara and the others mentioned here had to *choose* to be grateful. When they stepped toward God, he stepped toward them to bring his comfort. Thanks be to God for his amazing gift of the Holy Spirit working in partnership with the beauty of music. Through this channel, God's words and healing bypass the defense mechanisms of our minds and touch the deep hurts in our hearts.

We Know God Through Suffering

In my interview with Glenn, he said at one point: "I wonder … it scares me, but … do we ever get to know God *but* through suffering?" This thought is echoed by many people, including Joni Eareckson Tada who wrote: "When life is rosy, we may slide by with knowing about Jesus, with imitating him and quoting him and speaking of him. But only in suffering will we *know* Jesus."[11]

Paul said, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings" (Phil 3:10). Our intimacy with God deepens as our troubles are multiplied. Paul had such a deep connection with Christ that it often seems unattainable to the average Christian. But Jesus is just as near to us as he was to Paul. If we *really* want to say along with Paul, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain," (Phil 1:21), then we will press into knowing him in good times and in bad.

I'll close this chapter with one more Pauline-sounding quote from Glenn Hansen:

> In worship I've found out more and more that our lives are really about Him. Our lives are lived in response to his love. I realize how significant worship has been in my life—how it has been a track to run on. Because really, when push comes to shove, we are here to worship.

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3. Brian Doerksen, "Will You Worship," Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (ASCAP) / Vineyard Songs (Canada) / ION Publishing
4. James Bryan Smith, *The Good and Beautiful God* (Downers Grove, Il: InterVarsity Press, 2009), 40.
5. G.B. Caird, *Paul's Letters from Prison: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, in the Revised Standard Version: The New Clarendon Bible* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1976), 70.
6. Smith, *The Good and Beautiful God,* 48
7. Yancey, *The Bible Jesus Read,* 30.
8. Smith, *The Good and Beautiful God,* 49.
9. Andy Park, "Yet I Will Praise," ION Publishing/Vineyard Songs Canada.
10. Sara Richardson, "The Story Behind the Music," www.sararichardsoninfo.com/sara (accessed Sept 10, 2010
11. Quote by Joni Eareckson Tada, in Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing Company, 2002), 194.