



News, Promos, and Musings for Erin's Readers

June 2012

Welcome Erin, If you would like to view in your web browser [Click Here](#)
You're receiving this newsletter because you've expressed an interest in books authored by Erin Healy.

Bridge to God's Presence



Last month, Christianity Today published an [insightful article by Kathleen Anderson](#), a power lifter reduced by illness to a shadow of her former physical self. "I have known God's presence in unique ways during my journey from physical powerhouse to pathetic patient," she writes. "These ailments have increased my gratitude for God's presence in the goodness of those who have aided me. Illness brings into sharper relief the interconnectedness of

the temporal and supernatural worlds. It magnifies the kindness or cruelty of those on whom we rely in our weakened state."

I was struck by her observation that God's presence can be revealed to us in the presence of other people. I often think of God as separate from human company, merely another entity in the room. But what if kind, good, gentle treatment from another human being during suffering can bring God into a life, perhaps in the same way that the Holy Spirit brings us supernatural comfort?

Today, I feel surrounded by suffering. I have family members grappling with mental illness, a flawed justice system, marital strife, chronic physical pain, and separation from loved ones. I have friends coping with the death of a child, multiple military deployments, life-threatening health problems, sexual identity confusion and ostracism, and crises of faith. I have an elderly neighbor who lives alone, another neighbor whose mentally ill adult son causes disruptions, and yet another neighbor who recently lost his wife to a tragic medical accident, leaving behind two young children. I have problems of my own.

The world is steeped in trouble that I can't explain and can't fix, though I want to do both. But Kathleen's article reminds me that maybe I should be focused less on what to do and more on how to be. Kind. Good. Gentle. Patient. Hopeful. A vehicle for God's love, for God's presence in someone else's life. Of course, a certain kind of doing arises from this way of being. But I am finding that it's easier to pray for someone, to cry with someone, to smile at

someone, when I'm not worried about fixing the situation or blaming someone for it. Also, it's easier to access God's peace, which enables us to endure suffering nobly, when I drop the ridiculous notion that I can be God and cure suffering. But I can show others to the power and the love of God, our only means of enduring pain nobly.

I hope never to be a magnified cruelty to someone in a weakened state. I would far rather be a magnified kindness, as so many good people have been to me. If my life will be a bridge between the temporal and supernatural worlds, I mean to make it one that transports people into the loving arms of God. Now that's something worth doing.

Triad Winners

I received so many great entries for my recent contest. (See my [May 2012 newsletter](#) at www.erinhealy.com if you're curious about the details.) These three winners have been selected to receive an Advance Reader's Copy of my upcoming novel *House of Mercy*, in stores August 4.



I thought Heather's best exemplified the "wholeness" of a good triad. Triads are about being memorable, and the mnemonic patterns if this one are strong: never, sometimes, always and move you, challenge you, lead you. Also, it embodies a worthy principle.

Three ways to stay true to you:
Never let pressure move you.
Sometimes let fear challenge you.
Always let your heart lead you.
—Heather Young

I was drawn to the simple truth of Kim's triad, which touches on a familiar human struggle. This one, too, has a sturdy structure. It also prompted me to think about what a mirror principle might look like. How would you write a triad for "three gifts of an open heart"?

Three problems with a closed heart:
love cannot enter
hatred cannot exit
peace cannot be obtained
—Kim Haun

Lauren had fun with humorous triads. I loved the freshness, laughed aloud, and I must confess—this one appealed to the editor part of my brain.

The three biggest problems with pirates:
They use swords when they also have guns,
They can't see on account of their hats,
They always start fires on water.
—Lauren Godfrey

Thank you to everyone who participated. I'll be highlighting some of the other submissions I received in newsletters to come.

What I'm Reading Right Now

I don't usually have this many books going at one time, but this list reflects at least two truths: (1) It's summertime! (2) I'm eclectic. Or is that eccentric?

- House of Prayer No. 2, by Mark Richard (memoir)
- Protection for Hire, by Camy Tang (suspense)
- The Pursuit of Lucy Banning, by Olivia Newport (historical romance)
- The Power of Now, by Eckhart Tolle (spirituality)
- Waking the Dead, by John Eldredge (spirituality)
- Great Expectations, by Charles Dickens (classic)



Releasing August 4: House of Mercy



When a cowgirl makes a fatal mistake that jeopardizes her entire family, making things right will take nothing less than a miracle. When God doesn't give her the solution she wants, she goes on a journey to find it for herself—in an estranged grandfather, a mysterious wolf, and a supernatural gift of healing that she can't control. Contemporary supernatural suspense as viewed through a soft-focus lens, from Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Watch my website for free sample chapters, which will be posted there June 8!

Please tell me what you might want to see in future newsletters. My goal is to share my thoughts with you from time to time, keep you informed of my projects, specials, and contests, and share ideas that might interest you.

If you liked this newsletter and want to share it with a friend, please feel free to [forward to a friend](#).

Erin M. Healy

erin@erinhealy.com

[To stop receiving these emails please unsubscribe.](#)

Thomas Nelson Publishers, 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214 www.erinhealy.com
