

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of April 9, 2006

### *A Call to Prayer*

“It takes more of the power of the Spirit to make the farm, the home, the office, the store, the shop holy than it does to make the Church holy. It takes more of the power of the Spirit to make Saturday holy than to make Sunday holy. It takes much more of the power of the Spirit to make money for God than it does to make a talk for God. Much more to live a great life for God than to preach a great sermon.”  
from *Essentials of Prayer* by E. M. Bounds

### *Continue Earnestly in Prayer*

*And give Him no rest till He establishes  
And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*

Isaiah 62:7 (NKJV)

Pray for these men, women, and ministries. The Holy Spirit is looking for partners who will join with these ministries in prayer and support reaching nations for Jesus Christ. Pray for open doors of opportunity for the Gospel.

**DK Limbu Daniel** – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the pastors he works with in Nepal. Pray for the necessary paper work for his up coming trips.

Pastor Daniel writes:

*Please include our church building project needs in your prayers list. We have just begun last week and committed to finish by first week in June. We will be hiring more labors. Our shortcoming in budget is \$37000 for we had to spend two times more cost than our original budget. Land cost is going up because of unrest in the country people are fluxing into the capital for safety. Kathmandu city's population is 2.5 million and planners are predicting it will reach soon 5 million, if growing rate continues. This is horrible, but we have opportunity to reach the people coming [from] all corners of country; so to accommodate we need to have a big space. That's what we are doing. May God bless you,*

*In His grace,*

*Pastor Deu K. Limbu (D. K. Daniel)*

*Ambassador for Jesus Christ to the troubled world (2Cor. 5:20)*

**John Coon** – Pray for John who has ministered in Europe and Eastern Europe for more than twenty-five years and his trip to Poland May 1 through 9, 2006. Pray for the work of the ministry. Pray also for the preparations and details for a successful ministry trip.

**The Inntal Prayer Initiative** – Pray for upcoming seminars on prayer.

**The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference** – Pray for the men and women (pastors from across Europe) coming to the BBB Conference June 2006 in Poland. There is a great move of the Spirit working in Belarus.

Pray for Belarus, this is a time of great change. Now is the time for prayer. Pray for God to change this land so the Gospel will have free opportunity. The country needs government and leadership that open the way for people to hear and respond to God's call.

Pray also for the team preparing to go to Belarus from America later this year, pray for the paperwork necessary for this trip.

**Marianne and David Dean** – *Pray that the Lord would help us find balance while we invest in friendships here in the States yet remain focused on our goal of returning to East Asia in August. Pray that the Lord will bless our times in his Word and prayer.*

**Jacek Gromadzki** – Pray for Jack and his church in Kolobrzeg, Poland, pray for outreach in Kolobrzeg and this northern part of Poland.

**Marek Kaminski** – Pray for Marek and his church in Poland, pray for his ministry in his church and his duties across the region. Pray of all of the arrangements for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual BBB Conference.

**Mark Spencer** – Pray for Mark and his plans for this year's seminars and other obligations that he must fulfill. Pray for wisdom and understanding.

**Joyce Abrahamson** – Pray for the school children, their education is important and their introduction to the Lord is imperative.

**Your Home Church** – Pray for your church and its world view. Pray that they will in ever increasing measure see the nations of the world as white unto harvest. Pray for labors to be thrust forth for the nations.

**Pray for Israel** – Pray for Israel; the times are difficult for this nation and people.

### **Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer**

#### **Breakup the Fallow Ground—the World**

David Williamson

***Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy;  
Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the Lord,  
Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.***

Hosea 10:12 (NKJV)

One of the keys to success is preparation. Often things do not work out well or as expected because of poor preparation. We live in an age that is in such a hurry that preparation has become a lost art. People often act without preparation, we act like, "Do it now, if it fails, go and do something else". Many enterprises never have a chance because there was little if any preparation. People will deny this, they say we plan for months, but they worked at the thing they were attempting to do, they

were working, not preparing. Preparation is making thing ready for success. Let me show you what I mean. Look at the preparation for the coming of Jesus.

The Old Testament of the Bible is filled with record of the preparation for the Coming of Jesus. In recorded prophecies, in psalms, and many other passages we have a description of the coming event. These descriptions also prepare people for the event. King David rejoiced to see the coming of his King. Job saw his redeemer. Isaiah saw the healing and delivering power of the one who was wounded for us. These were preparations for the coming of Jesus. John the Baptist, the voice in the wilderness, called to the prepared to those longing for the redeemer, those prepared for so many generations. This was preparation of many centuries. There were those who would not respond; Pharisees and Sadducees for example, but multitudes responded to Johns call. That is preparation.

Another example of great preparation is seen in the ministry of Jesus. For three years He prayed and prepared for the Day of Pentecost. Daily He talked with His disciples preparing them for this momentous day. He was constantly in prayer for them preparing the way for this event. He spoke about it; He taught about it, He prayed about it. He prepared the climate; there was great expectation. Even after it looked like everything had failed, still the 120 disciples stayed in Jerusalem and waited. That is preparation.

A study of the great revivals of Christian history reveals great preparation as well. Time-after-time the reports of a so called sudden move of God, come after there had been great preparation, often months and years of preparation. In most full reports of a revival there was a powerful ministry of prayer that prepared the way. Men and women had worked and prayed until the climate was changed. An area where it was impossible for revival to come, change; then revival came. Spiritual ground so hard nothing could grow; changed and received the seeds of the Gospel.

The change in conditions does not happen very often. Instead of praying for change, people take a “whatever God will do” attitude and then wonder why nothing happens. God expects His people to prepare for God’s move. This is the work of the ministry, the ministry of all the people. When people pray for revival, not just asking for it, but taking on the ministry of praying for revival and taking responsibility for revival coming, seasons change, places change, soil and climate of the hearts change. This has been true for many centuries and is true today. Many of you who read *Voice of Thanksgiving* live in difficult places. By that I mean the preaching of the Gospel is difficult. For some there are restrictions on where and how you can preach. For most of us there are restrictions on the reception of the preaching. This can and must change. It changes by prayer; prayer that changes the hearts of men. Hearts like soil must be worked and changed to be productive.

In the Parable of the Sower we see the difference in types of soil with the corresponding difference in results of sowing. There was the wayside, the rocky soil, the thorny area, and the good ground. The good ground produced fruit, good results. The other conditions did not produce fruit. Most of us do not get to choose where we will minister. God has placed us in a place, or placed a place in our heart, this is where we are compelled to minister. From the outside other places may look like great assignments, we are tempted to long for other assignments, but God has placed in our heart the assignment, He knows that no other assignment will do. So what do we do, grin and bare it, take on the mantle of martyrdom? No, no, no! The soil of our assignment can and must be changed. God has called us to the changing of the climate, to changing of the soil, to prepare the way for the Gospel to be sown in good soil and yield a great harvest.

The job, in simple terms, is to breakup the fallow ground and prepare it for the Gospel. God is calling for men and women who will pray, who will work to prepare the ground for the Gospel, who will labor to change the soil and climate of a region to the point where revival can come. What will we pray? The answer to that question will vary from assignment to assignment, but we need to deal with the things that hinder the Gospel. In some areas we must prayer for the removal of the birds, those things that would take away the seeds of the Gospel, for example, restrictive government, culture, tradition, bad teaching, misinformation, or apathy. This is not to say that restrictive government is bad, but it must be changed if it restricts access to the reception of the Gospel. We must pray and change that type of government. Culture is not bad, but if the culture of a region restricts acceptance of the Gospel it must be changed. I am not calling for revolution, I am calling for prayer.

A few years ago there was a country in Eastern Europe that bragged about keeping the Gospel out of the country. Missionary work was nearly impossible. The “birds” use many methods to keep the people from hearing and receiving the Gospel. People began to pray. In one place where this was an assignment, prayers began to be offered like this, “Take this leader and change his heart or take him out.” A few months later this man suddenly died and the restriction on the Gospel began to fall away. Today there are many wonderful works going on in this country. What happened; men and women prayed; the climate of this country was changed. The birds were driven away. In some parts of the country there is still strong resistance to the Gospel, so many are praying for a change to the soil. They are breaking up the fallow ground. The country is changing; the opportunity for the Gospel is changing. This is what is needed in the places where you and I work and where you and I are responsible.

Birds must be drive off and soil prepared to be good soil. This is the work of the ministry of prayer. By prayer we can and must prepare the way for success of the Gospel. Will you pray? Will you prepare areas where you have been placed or areas that have been placed on your heart? Will you pray for the removal of the birds? Will you pray for a change of the soil, removal of rocks and thorns? If you will pray, change can be made in even the most difficult places, the remote place or the modern city; all can be changed for entrance of the Gospel. The question is will you pray?

### **Break Up the Fallow Ground of the World**

#### ***Home for This Company***

The home of *Voice of Thanksgiving* is at [www.voiceofthanksgiving.com](http://www.voiceofthanksgiving.com). This website has current and past issues of VoT and an archive of articles from the section *Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer*. The monthly issues of *Stimme der Dankbarkeit*, the German monthly version of VoT are also available here. Send corespondance to [dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com](mailto:dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com)

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