

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of December 24, 2006

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,
and the glory of the Lord shone round about them:
and they were sore afraid.
And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold,
I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be a sign unto you;
Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God,
and saying, Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

Luke 2:8-14 (KJV)

The Life of Prayer

Clean Pot Gospel

David Williamson

When I was a boy, my dad and I would do the dishes on Saturday nights. We helped with the dishes on other nights, but on Saturday nights we did it all. Most Saturdays this meant cleaning and polishing all of the cooking pots and pans. Mom had a set of copper bottomed pots and pans, and the copper would get tarnished with time and use. Some Saturday nights we would wash all the dishes and then dad would make some home made polish and we would begin to work on each pot and pan. When we were finished, with all resting in the drying rack, the copper bottoms would shine and look like new. This was always a source of pride for me that my dad and I could make those pots and pans look bright and new.

The Gospel message is that our Father and His Son makes even the foulest of us look bright and new. They wash away our sin and pain, they cleans us from all unrighteousness and make us new. Father and Son polish is perfect and complete in every case. The Bible proclaims that even the worst sinner, the one who is scarlet with evil, can be made white as freshly fallen snow. Just as I was so proud of the shine on the copper bottom pots and pans, all respond to the Gospel message are made white as newly fallen snow.

It takes your breath away, it makes you white as snow; this is the Gospel message. Far too often we let the Gospel message become tarnished. We put rules and regulations before cleansing of the

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blood and new life. Too often the message is tainted with religion and tradition; limited in power. The efficacy of the Gospel has not diminished; we have just failed to continue to preach it faithfully. With the wisdom of our words and practices of our programs, we limit the message and its effect. Like the pots and pans my dad and I cleaned; the tarnish would build up until they looked old and worthless, so the message has grown tarnished.

With pots and pans the cleaning was easy; my dad had a formula and it always worked. Rub the copper with his solution and it would shine, clean and new. With the Gospel message we must do the same. There are several parts to the rubbing compound that we should use to make our presentation of the Gospel message untarnished. We do not add to the Gospel it is complete in everyway, but we must remove the tarnish that hinders our presentation. To remove the tarnish we must have healthy doses of the Word of God. This is the power agent of the message and the power agent for the messenger. We also need to have the Holy Spirit guidance and direction. Like my dad noticing an area that had not been polished, so the Holy Spirit guides and directs the presentation and the reception of the Gospel; working on giver and receiver.

One other part to this holy rubbing compound, designed to make the message come out bright and strong is prayer. The usefulness of the Gospel comes with time in prayer. In prayer the Father makes the messenger right and sets in place the opportunities for reception. Paul the great evangelist, begged for prayer for his presentation of the Gospel message. He knew the importance of prayer in his success.

Today in far too many places there is a problem that hinders the proclamation of the Gospel. Sometimes this is due to a lack of proclamation; the message is just not preached or shared. In other places there is a hindrance due to the tarnish on the message. The Church has failed to keep clean and polished their proclamation of the message, their efforts are feeble lacking power and appropriate results. Too often Church growth is just movement from church-to-church; not real growth. We have left the power of the Gospel and the power of its message out of our presentations. The world is longing for a true and effective message of hope and change. It is begging the church to reveal God as God, and His power to transform, real for today.

We must pray for a change in our presentation of the message, so the world can see His power and might. This demands a change in pulpit and pew. This demands a change in message presented and practiced. These changes will come only by prayer; long, deep, sustained prayer. We are in the last days and more than ever we must have the full untarnished message proclaimed. Men and women, boys and girls, nations and countries are desperate for the message. Will you pray?

Let us pray!

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A Call for Prayer

*Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

Psalm 2:8 (NKJV)

Seasons Greetings to you and yours from Voice of Thanksgiving

Pray for Israel –Pray for this season of peace and goodwill to be manifest in Jerusalem and all of Israel.

DK Limbu Daniel –Pray for Daniel and his pastors, pray for protection and to boldly proclaim the Gospel message. Pray for men and women of Nepal open to the Gospel message they preach.

Thank you for praying for us. May God bless you, Pastor DK Daniel

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for the heart of young people, pray for an openness and receptivity to the Gospel message.

Thanks so much to all of you for your prayers, your love and support! You really have no idea how much it means to us!! - Marianne

William Williamson – Bill is a pastor in Eastern Colorado, Pray for their plans and commitments for this trip to India in January of 2007. Pray for this trip and the ministry in India.

The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference – Pray for the men and women who are making plans for attending the fifth annual BBB Conference.

Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths.

Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

For You are the God of my salvation;

On You I wait all the day.

Psalm 25:4-5 (NKJV)

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jacek, pray for direction and success for his ministry.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for the supplying of the needs of school, students, and families.

Marek Kaminski –Pray for Marek and his church and their continued response to God's will and direction.

*The Lord will guide you continually,
And satisfy your soul in drought,*

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*And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden,
And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.*

Isaiah 58:11 (NKJV)

Mark Spencer – Pray for God’s guidance and direction.

*For You are my rock and my fortress;
Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me.*

Psalm 31:3 (NKJV)

Pray for the Inntal Prayer Initiative – Pray for our 2007 outreaches in Germany. Now is the time for us to begin to prepare for conferences and street ministry.

Pray for your Home Church – Pray for provision for the outreaches of your church.

*Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel,
and a door was opened to me by the Lord,*

2 Cor. 2:12 (NKJV)

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To receive *Voice of Thanksgiving* the newsletter weekly by e-mail, send an email with the word JOIN in the subject line to dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com

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