

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of January 7, 2007

*Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
You shall cry, and He will say, "Here I am."*

Isaiah 58:9a (NKJV)

The Life of Prayer

What do you do?

David Williamson

In the movie Chariots of Fire, there is a scene near the beginning of the film, where students of the colleges are picking the clubs and groups. There are many clubs ranging from theater to political clubs, from civic activities to debating societies, but the one that is note worthy for the movie is the athletics club. Here one set of the young men who will be central to the movie selected the events which they were interested in competing (the other young man central to the movie is Eric Liddell). The president of the club is asking each young man what he does and recording the event on his roster. After completing this process with one of the men, he turns to the next and asks, "Right, Now what do you do?"

With this question, "Right, Now what do you do?" we are challenged as well. All of the young men asked the question, were students; they all had college as main activity. However, for this club there was a question of what they do. Each one had an area where he would strive for greatness. That same week the head of their college had challenged these young men to find the area where they could be great and then give it their all. The men in the movie did just that, several of them making the Olympic team for Great Britain. In many areas of life, and in particular the Christian life, the question is, "Right, Now what do you do?"

The Christian life is all encompassing; it is not just a Sunday morning activity. The Christian life must be all consuming and all directing. This does not mean everyone must be a priest, pastor, or missionary. This means we must be consumed with Christ and the life He gives us, in all we do. History notes many Christians who were by occupation working as Christians, but far more has been done by Christians who occupationally worked outside of the church. The work of the ministry is not just for ministers. It is clear from the Bible that ministers are to work to help Christians do the work of ministering to the people they meet, and those they work and play with.

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets,
some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

Ephes. 4:11-12 (NKJV)

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This is true in prayer as well. There are people who live and work at prayer. God has placed them in situations where their normal life is the occupation of prayer. However for most people of prayer, this is not the case. Most live, work, and are active in many other areas of life beyond prayer. This is not just something they do for now, waiting for the day they can move into a new life of prayer, this is where they are placed and what they should be doing. At this same time they should be a man or woman of prayer as well.

Paul is well remembered for his Christian ministry, He longed to take the Gospel message to people who had never heard the Good News. He was very successful. Many churches of what we call Turkey and Greece, were founded by Paul. Most of the letters of the New Testament were written by Paul to these churches. However, great as these activities are, please remember that for several years Paul worked, as a tent maker, and prayed. And while he “graduated” into a new realm of responsibility, most people continue their occupations and living situation for life, and they pray; or at least they should pray.

There are men and women who have occupation of prayer, but far more work and pray. The company of prayer at the Bible college of Wales, under the leadership of Rees Howells, is a great example. Most of these people worked and prayed. They were the administrators, teachers, cooks, maids, gardeners, and tradesmen of the school and community. They worked fulltime jobs; jobs that they fulfilled in response to God’s placement. They also prayed.

Their answer to the question from the movie was, “I work my occupation and pray.” Their work was not just a way to put food on the table so they could live to pray. They had jobs that they did as unto God. The care and nurturing of the students, from what ever the position, was of great import. They were responsible for these students; who were there part-time or full-time in the care of the school workers. The man, who cared for the plumbing, was working for God, so God could work in the life of the students. This makes work noble and fulfilling, not something to be avoided and minimized. These people also prayed.

As we read about these people, and others of similar situation, we see they were men and women of prayer. Their response to the movie question; was just as varied as the answers those young men gave in the movie. Some of the athletes ran short races, some long, some jumped, some threw things, they each had areas where they were striving to be the best. When we ask the question of Christians today there should be some standard answers that we all do, but there should also be parts of the answer that are different for each of us. There should be areas where we are striving in special assignments and giving our best reaching for answers.

All Christians have basic call to prayer. We are to pray for our daily bread, our family, our friends, our church, our nation. Beyond this basic call to pray, we are called to specific assignment in prayer. We have been assigned to bring prayer into play in the life of people and nations. These assignments go far beyond the basics. There is a call to pray and intercede beyond the norm.

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This was demonstrated for us by these same people who worked at the Bible College of Wales. They were a company of people who were called to pray beyond the basic call to prayer. They had an assignment that went far beyond the confines of their Welch community and the school. Their call was to pray in response to specific assignments to fulfill the overall call of “Souls from every nation.”

Some of their assignments recorded in the book, are astonishing; both when they were assigned and as we read about them today. For example, pray to stop Hitler from his plans for conquest or pray to stop the advance of the German army across North Africa. Here as a group of people praying, often with very little knowledge of the current events, remember in those days there was no instant access to the events and there was a substantial delay in news and nothing near a full release of information. Often the full story was only revealed many years after the event. However, there is a fascinating correlation between the prayers prayed by this little company and the mighty hand of God changing situation and turning the tide of victory. These answers to prayer came from the prayers of men and women who worked and prayed; who worked and prayed extraordinary prayers.

This is the answer that is requested when the question from the movie is made today. There is a great need for men and women who will work and pray. The need is for those who will work and pray extraordinary prayers. Men and women yielded to God, and trained by the Holy Spirit, who will say yes I will pray, even when His request seems beyond all we can ask or think.

***Now to Him who is able to do
exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that works in us,
Ephes. 3:20 (NKJV)***

Will you yield yourself to Him? This is a yielding to everything He asks of you, a voluntary giving up of time and self for prayer. This is an active joining with the Holy Spirit in preparation of the vessel (you), for the work of prayer He will call you to. The training for a time of prayer may take many years. Often people do not even know what the preparation is for, but they trust that the Holy Spirit is working the Father’s plan.

Will you yield to His call to pray, no matter what He is asking for? God is an awesome God and He works awesome works, turning night to day and death to life. He asks for prayer as part of His working. He has called men and women to prayer where the answer of which is awesome. It can be difficult to listen for His call to extraordinary prayer; there are many distractions that would still His voice from our ear. It can be difficult to respond to His call to extraordinary prayer; there are many ways we limit our ability and availability to Him. So He searches near and far, looking for a man, looking for a woman, looking for a company of people, who will listen to and respond to His call.

“Right, Now what do you do?”

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)

Pray for Israel – Pray for settlement in the land and stranger to be joined with Israel.

*For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel,
and settle them in their own land. The strangers will be joined with them,
and they will cling to the house of Jacob.*

*Then people will take them and bring them to their place,
and the house of Israel will possess them for
servants and maids in the land of the Lord;
they will take them captive whose captives they were,
and rule over their oppressors.*

Isaiah 14:1-2 (NKJV)

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.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for the church in Nepal; pray strengthening and for safety.

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

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for opportunities to speak with college students.

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

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

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

The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference – Pray for the men and women who will attend 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)

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

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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