

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of March 4, 2007

“Prayer should be the breath of our breathing, the thought of our thinking, the soul of our feeling, and the life of our living, the sound of our hearing, the growth of our growing.” Prayer in its magnitude is length without end, width without bounds, height without top, and depth without bottom. Illimitable in its breadth, exhaustless in height, fathomless in depths and infinite in extension.—HOMER W. HODGE

## *The Life of Prayer*

### **The Hymn of Prayer**

David Williamson

***Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;  
And attend to the voice of my supplications.***

Psalm 86:6 (NKJV)

This is such a powerful image for all who would pray. David cries out to the Lord to listen to his prayers. This is the cry of all men and women who have prayed. If you have prayed for any length of time you know there are times when you grow weary and frustrated, wondering if anyone is listening. More specific, our concern is, is God listening. At times like this we cling to His promises and try to stand strong.

***And let us not grow weary while doing good,  
for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.***

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

We know that God is faithful and He changes not, He is there and He continues to listen to our prayers. He is attending to our prayers. Circumstances and hindrances seem to cloud the picture, but the faithfulness of God never changes.

### ***A Psalm of David.***

***Hear my prayer, O Lord, Give ear to my supplications!  
In Your faithfulness answer me, And in Your righteousness.***

Psalm 143:1 (NKJV)

The bottom line is that God does hear our prayers and He does attend to the voice of our prayers. That is very good news indeed! However, there is much more here to encourage us in our prayers. If you look at the words used in this verse (Psalm 86:6) in the Greek there is much more than first meets the eye. These words make it very graphic how God is interested in our prayers.

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*Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;  
And attend to the voice of my supplications.*  
Psalm 86:6 (NKJV)

If we look at the words used in this verse we quickly see that God works at listening to our prayers. He goes out of His way to listen when we go out of our way to pray. The phrase “Give ear” is a good place to begin, this phrase means, “to broaden out the ear (with the hand)”. This is a graphic picture that we must see. It will bring us to a new place in our prayer. Here is God busy with the work of heaven. Yet when we pray He stops, brings His hand to His ear and listens.

Not to seem irreverent, but this is like the dog in the old commercials for the RCA record player, where they claimed the sound of their recordings was so good the dog would know the sound of his masters voice. Here the sound of our prayer is so important that the Master cups His hand to hear. Wow, this takes my breath away, Our Father, the Almighty God, cups His ear to hear my prayer so He will not miss a single word! I say, let us pray!

But there is more, David asks for the cupped ear to hear his prayer. The word use for prayer here is “tephillah”, which means, “intercession, supplication, by implication a hymn”. The prayer that God cups His hand to hear is our hymn of prayer.

I love to worship and praise God. I belong to a church where this is a high priority. We worship Him with all our might. Many a week the best part of the week is our times of praise and worship. We most often worship with relatively new songs; many of which are expressions of verses of the Bible or the cry of our heart in love and adoration. They are great! However, as a historian and lover of organ music and classic harmonies, I sometimes miss the old hymns we sang when I was a boy. To join in with the saints of many centuries in the refrains of “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” or “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty” brings tears to my eyes. There is something powerful about a long held statement of faith and adoration. Joining with the saints to worship our God is very powerful.

It is very powerful to God when our prayers come as hymns. We join with the men and women of prayer who down through the ages have raised their voice in thanksgiving and prayer to God. We are joining with the faithful of all generations. When our prayer is a hymn, it is more than a prayer it is prayer wrapped in faith, love, and time. We can imagine Luther or Wesley crafting their hymn, their great adoration of God leaping from their heart to the paper. So also, hymns of prayer leap from our heart to God’s ear. This is not the flippant, casual note of request, but the heart felt cry of our heart; this is His heart beating in us crying out for meeting of a great need. This is a hymn of prayer. Let us Pray!

This is what David was asking for, this is what he wanted. David the song writer was also David the man of prayer. He knew the glory of closeness to God in worship and He also knew this same feeling in prayer. His cry was for God to cup His ear and listen again. He knew the prayer that God

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cupped His ear for was the hymn of prayer. The prayer that came from the cry of the heart wrapped in faith, nurtured by love, and dedicated by time.

John Knox knew the hymn of prayer, his was a grand expression of faith, his was a cry ripped from the love of his heart, and his was dedicated by time. His faith asked God to do what no one could do. He asked for the seemingly impossible; Scotland was too far gone to ever be saved. The wisdom of the day knew it was hopeless. However, Knox knew God; His power and might. He cried out, God do what only you can do! Knox also was close to God; in worship, he had caught the sound of God's own heart beat. Knox had learned that God's heart beats for the nations, He longs that no man may be lost. God's heart beat had become Knox's heart beat and he cried out. Knox's cry was dedicated by time; time with God, time with the people of Scotland, and time in prayer. His prayer became overwhelming, it could not be held back, even as our great hymn writers record how the hymns rush from their pens, so this prayer rushed forth; "Give me Scotland or I die!"

What great hymn of prayer is building inside of you? Where is God directing your faith, love, and time? While our hymns of prayer may not be celebrated by men and women, God is prepared to cup His hand on His ear and listen to your hymn of prayer.

Let us pray!

## ***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 and the peace of Jerusalem** – Pray for true peace to come to these people and this place. Pray that the Messiah would be seen and known by the Jewish people of this land and around the world.

**Bernhard and Lisa Prumbach** – Pray for the move to Germany and transition to living in Germany. Pray for their new home and jobs. Pray for the provision of all they need. Pray for their ministry to the young people of Germany, that God is opening for them.

**Joyce Abrahamson** – Pray for Joyce and the workers of the school.

**DK Limbu Daniel** – Pray for Pastor Daniel; for strength and wisdom to carry out the call God has placed on him.

**John Coon** – Pray for all the arrangements for John's trip to Poland in May.

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**Marianne and David Dean** – Pray for new converts to Christianity. Pray for these disciples. *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*

**Jacek Gromadzki** – Pray for Jack and his church in Kolobrzeg, Poland. Pray for outreaches with an American team in Poland this summer.

**Marek Kaminski** – Pray for Marek and all the arrangements for ministry trips and meetings including the BBB conference and trips to Eastern Europe.

**The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference** – Pray for the plans for the fifth annual BBB Conference.

**Pray for the Inntal Prayer Initiative** – Pray for the prayer seminars and ministry in the Rosenheim area of Germany in the summer of 2007.

**Mark Spencer** – Pray for clarity in Patty and my hearing the voice of the Lord concerning personal direction, His leading for the church and ministry as well as His provision clearly seen and manifest. Also that we would take full advantage of the Spirit's declaration that the year 2007 would indeed be a year of open doors and of fruitful obedience. Thanks!

**Pray for your Home Church** – Pray for abundant provision for your church.

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