

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of January 20, 2008

You know the value of prayer: it is precious beyond all price. Never, never neglect it

SIR THOMAS BUXTON

The Life of Prayer

Grace and Mercy

David Williamson

Sometimes we receive special assignments in prayer. One aspect of prayer is praying for our personal needs and that of our family. We are not to be selfish about our personal needs, the parody of prayer that has a man praying for his family is wrong. "God bless me, my wife, my son, and my daughter, us four and no more." Our Father expects us to pray for His provision for our basic needs. "Give us this day, our daily needs" is Jesus' teaching on how to pray for this aspect of prayer. However, there is more to prayer.

A second aspect of prayer is praying for the needs of others. One feature of the *Voice of Thanksgiving* is a list of people and ministries that members of this company pray for. There are men and women around the world that have joined together to pray. We have people praying for Pastor Daniel in Nepal, Joyce in Brazil, or Marek in Poland, who have never met the person they are praying for. However, by the influence of the Holy Spirit these men and women of prayer have taken a special assignment and diligently labor in prayer for these people and ministries. When I get to travel and meet with members of this company, it is common for men and women to ask for the latest news from some far away place. How are things going, or what was the result of this meeting, is often the first question on their lips. They have taken on praying for this person or ministry, making it their special assignment in prayer. They have made a special assignment in prayer their job and diligently seek the Father for answers. Special assignments in prayer may come from participation in a company of believers, but other special assignments come from the needs around you. The Holy Spirit assigns jobs as He wills. His assignment is prayer.

Prayer in its most simple expression is working to help a person receive the grace and mercy of God. The grace and mercy of God is a powerful force. Grace is unmerited favor, God pours out favor on a person who has not earned it or warranted its reception. Mercy is not getting what you deserve. Grace and mercy is the key to prayer. Prayer asks for specific answers, these answers are reception of God's grace and mercy. The grace and mercy brings the answer specific to meet the need. When we pray we ask for grace and mercy, we give voice to a specific need and specific answer, but it is grace and mercy we need and grace and mercy we receive.

Andrew Murray is on record as having had many of what I am calling a special assignment in prayer. In one of these assignments he began to pray for four specific men to get saved. Slowly over the

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course of time, one-by-one they did get saved, the final man only after Murray went to be with the Lord. Murray's prayers were for a specific answer, salvation for these men. What he was doing was asking for the grace and mercy of God to come on these men.

***For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
not of works, lest anyone should boast.***

Ephes. 2:8-9 (NKJV)

This is what we do in specific assignment prayer. We call on the grace and mercy of God to come to an area of need. Some of these are little things and some are big. Some we may pray as individuals, others needs have a scope such that there are many thousands of men and women reserved by God for the work of prayer for the special assignment.

In the 1980s the Berlin Wall was seen by most people as a permanent symbol of the battle between the Communist World and the Free World. It was as solid as a feature as it was solid in form. However, shocking as it was by the end of the decade the world watched as the wall came down. One of the enduring images of this event was the "Mauerspechte" (wall woodpeckers); the individuals chipping away at the wall with hammer and chisel. Sections of the wall were removed by heavy equipment, but the image of these people chipping away is the image that will remain. Like these individual "wall woodpeckers" our special assignments in prayer are to chip away at everything that keeps the grace and mercy of God from coming to a person or situation.

We have been called to be like watchmen on the walls. And every day we are to climb up to our appointed place and pray. Like the "wall woodpeckers" we are to peck away at the hindrances to receiving grace and mercy. Grace and mercy may be salvation for the lost. Grace and mercy may be provision for the poor. Grace and mercy may be deliverance for the bound. Grace and mercy may be guidance for the seeker. Grace and mercy may be help in time of need. Grace and mercy may be light in times of darkness. Grace and mercy may be healing for the sick. Grace and mercy may be ... Whatever grace and mercy is for the situation of the assignment, the need is for you and me to take up His yoke, join with Jesus, and pray.

Like the men and women at the Berlin Wall, you may be just chipping away at the little rock, but if you will pray the wall will come down. At other times and possibly using many other people God will do the big things, like removal of whole sections of the wall, but He still requires that men and women respond to the Holy Spirit's command to pray. The Holy Spirit comes and says, "Here is your assignment, now pray". So today will you pray? Will you climb up on the wall and take your place? Will you day-by-day chip away at everything that would hinder the receipt of grace and mercy?

Let us Pray!

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A Call for Prayer

*Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me,
and I will listen to you.*

Jeremiah 29:12 (NKJV)

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem – Pray for the leadership of the nation of Israel. Pray they will respond to God and His plan for the nation.

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces."*

For the sake of my brethren and companions,

I will now say, "Peace be within you."

Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good.

Psalm 122:6-9 (NKJV)

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for new opportunities for planting of churches in Nepal and other regions with Nepalese speaking peoples.

Pray for the church in Belarus and Lithuania – Pray for these churches, pray for opportunities to share the Gospel.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for opportunities to meet young men and women who will respond favorably to the call of God for salvation and to be a light to their families and communities when they go home.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jacek and his church to have new opportunities and great boldness to share the Gospel in Kołobrzeg, Poland.

Marek Kaminski – Pray for Marek and his church to have new opportunities to witness to the people of Koszalin, Poland.

Bernhard and Lisa Prumbach – Pray for their ministry in Germany.

Mark Spencer – Pray for God's provision for meeting the requests to minister.

John Coon – Pray for his health and safety.

William Williamson – Pray for Bill and his church that they would stand perfect and complete in all of God's will.

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Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for the supply of the needs of the school.

Patty Spencer – Pray for completion of a new worship CD. Pray for the details of mastering the final product and the finances to get it produced.

Pray for Prayer Initiative Seminars and David Williamson – Pray for the completion of new materials on prayer.

Pray for your Home Church – Pray for your church that it would stand perfect and complete in all of God's will.

Pray for your work in Prayer – Pray that God would bless these areas where you are responsible in prayer.

*And my God shall supply all your need
according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
Philip. 4:19 (NKJV)*

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New for *Voice of Thanksgiving*, a monthly issue in Polish!

Głos Dziękczynienia w języku polskim: <http://voiceofthanksgiving.com/VoTPPage.htm>

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