

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of February 24, 2008

Intercessory Prayer is a powerful means of grace to the praying man. Martyn observes that at times of inward dryness and depression, he had often found a delightful revival in the act of praying for others for their conversion, or sanctification, or prosperity in the work of the Lord. His dealings with God for them about these gifts and blessings were for himself the divinely natural channel of a renewed insight into his own part and lot in Christ, into Christ as his own rest and power, into the “perfect freedom” of an entire yielding of himself to his Master for His work—BISHOP HANDLEY C. G. MOULE.

The Life of Prayer

A Request

David Williamson

Today, I would like to make a request. Most weeks *The Life of Prayer* article here in *Voice of Thanksgiving* looks at practices of prayer; things like making time for prayer, preparing our heart, changes to our life, and building our faith. We have looked at things as varied as removing hindrances to prayer, to becoming a craftsman of prayer. This article is a little different; I want to make a request.

Most, if not all, of the readers of *Voice of Thanksgiving* pray. Many of you have long years of experience praying and have long term prayer habits and projects. There are people, ministries, churches, and nations that fill your prayer times and are expressions of your heart desires. Others of you are stepping into, or further into, a life of prayer. You have begun a journey that will take your prayers and intercessions to places you cannot imagine. I applaud all of your efforts and ask you to continue firm in your prayers. Your faithful, effective prayers are making a difference. However, today I make a request of you.

Perhaps it is because I am back at work at a public high school after missing a few days, but for whatever the reason, I am filled with concern for young people. I have worked with young people for many years as a teacher and administrator. With this background I tend to notice young people. When I am places around Colorado or traveling overseas, my eye is caught by young people. I often notice what they do and say. I have always enjoyed watching people, but young people take first place in my eye. Now I am more concerned than ever. In Colorado, throughout the USA, and around the world young people are under attack.

It has always been a challenge for young people to deal with growing up. It comes with many difficulties and problems. And this generation has more than its share to deal with. After World War I, many people called the generation of young people, those that were lost from many countries in

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the war, as the lost generation. The dreams and hopes of so many young people were lost on the battlefields. I am concerned that the current generation of young people may be called the destroyed generation.

Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead to deal with the needs of people, young and old alike. He came to bring life, abundant life. He contrasted His ministry with that of the thief.

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 10:10 (NKJV)

Today the thief is attempting to destroy a generation of young people. So many of the safeguards for young people have been removed or cast away, the thief is having a field day with young people. Even some churches have turned from the Gospel message of life and it abundant, so for many young people there seems to be no hope. Despair and death seem to reign supreme over the life of this generation. Evil is ripening all around and having its harvest. The vitality of life is being stolen, the living of life is being killed, and the fabric of life is being destroyed for millions of young people.

I ask you to pray. We can make a difference for this generation. The so called lost generation marched off to war with marching bands and salutes and they died. However, we need not stand by and watch this generation march off to drugs and suicide to their destruction, we can pray. Our faithful, effective prayers can make a difference. It is by prayer that this generation can know abundant life in Christ Jesus, seized from the grasp of the thief and his destruction.

I know that many of you have very full prayer lives. You have many things that you pray for daily. I know that there are great and mighty things you labor for daily in prayer. However, I ask you, to this week, add to your prayer burden this generation of young people. I am asking that this week (and as the Holy Spirit would lead you perhaps for more than just this week) you would pray and fast for young people. Before us stands a massive field of people, ready for harvest. The question is how will they be harvested, will it be the thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy or will they be gathered into the Kingdom of Heaven. Your prayers will make a difference.

Here is my request, please pray this week for young people. Pray for salvation and deliverance. Pray fervent prayers for young people desperate for answers and for life. This struggle that they are in today is life and death, pray for them to hear the good news of the Gospel and choose life. Pray that there would be confusion in the thief's camp and his mission to destroy would fail. Pray for ministry to young people. Pray for hearts of young people to be opened and receptive to the Gospel message. Pray of teachers and ministers to nurture and support these new converts as the move from death to life.

I ask you to pray for two groups of young people. First pray for the young people of your country. Each and every nation has difficult situations that face young people. Second, pray for the young

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people of another nation. This could be the young people of one of the nations mentioned in the section of *Voice of Thanksgiving, A Call for Prayer*. The Holy Spirit is teaching us more and more about prayer and one of the key lessons is to pray for others. Let Him stretch you this week and pray for the young people of another nation. There are several listed here to choose from. There are young people on campuses of East Asia and young people in a school in Brazil. There are young people in a small town in Colorado and young people in towns of Belarus. From Poland to Nepal there are young people who, as we sometimes say, “just chillin on the corner” who may not know it but they are waiting for the harvest. How will they be harvested? Will you pray?

Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer; support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down.—JOHN WESLEY

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:12-14 (NKJV)

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem – Pray for salvation to come to the people of Israel (especially for the young people of this nation).

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for new opportunities for planting churches and the means of doing so.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for open doors of opportunity to share the Gospel with the people of Kolobrzeg, Poland.

Pray for the church in Belarus and Lithuania – Pray for opportunities to reach young people in these nations.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for new opportunities to support and encourage young people of East Asia.

Marek Kaminski – Pray for young people in Marek’s church and across Poland who are confronted with the tough decision concerning life and work.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for safety for the young people of the school, as well as for the Joyce and the staff.

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Patty Spencer – Pray for her new worship CD. Pray that it will be ready for release very soon and that it will minister life and grace to people around the world.

Mark Spencer – Pray for plans for this spring and summer.

John Coon – Pray for his health and safety.

William Williamson – Pray for Bill and his church. Pray for the many young people of this area.

Bernhard and Lisa Prumbach – Pray for the supply of the needs of the family in Germany.

Pray for David Williamson – Pray for the completion of his first book on prayer.

Pray for your Home Church – Pray for your church that it would be a church of outreach to the local community and to the young people of the world.

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, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephes. 3:20-21 (NKJV)

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Prayer Initiative Seminars (If you would be interested in hosting a Prayer Initiative Seminar please contact me, David Williamson, at dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com)

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

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

Read voice of *Voice of Thanksgiving* and past articles at the *Voice of Thanksgiving Website*
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For additional information and articles on prayer visit the *Voice of Thanksgiving Blog*
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