

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of May 11, 2008

“It takes more of the power of the Spirit to make the farm, the home, the office, the store, the shop holy than it does to make the Church holy. It takes more of the power of the Spirit to make Saturday holy than to make Sunday holy. It takes much more of the power of the Spirit to make money for God than it does to make a talk for God. Much more to live a great life for God than to preach a great sermon.”—EDWARD M. BOUNDS

The Life of Prayer

His Warm Embrace

David Williamson

In an old movie I enjoy, there is a line spoken by the main character that I love. He says, we warm ourselves in that embrace. I know you have enjoyed moments like this as well. The morning after the great snow storm when the clouds clear and the sky is so blue it takes your breath away. When the fresh snow covers everything; sparkling like tiny firework and is so bright and white you nearly have to cover your eyes. The day in the mountains when you come to that spot where the stream is bubbling by, the trees are green, and the mountains vista overwhelms our senses. The evening on the patio or deck with good friends; the conversation and food is so good you hope the moment never ends. These are examples of a warm embrace of a moment. We all need moments like these, they refresh and inspire us. We need moments like these in prayer as well.

We see moments like this in the Bible. David bringing the Arch of the Tabernacle back to Jerusalem, when he danced with all his might was a warm embrace of a moment. Jesus on top of the mountain with His Disciples and the Father said this is my Son listen to Him; this was a warm embrace moment. We need these moments, the world and its troubles wear us down. We come to times of frustration and despair. We labor long and hard. We suffer loss and hardship. With all of that we need times of refreshing. In prayer there are moments like this and we need them.

Much of a prayer life is work. It takes faithful walking out of our prayers. This is the daily battle we face. Every morning, every afternoon, day-after-day, we must go out and work at prayer. We live in an age that worships fast rewards. We love to have things and to have them now. The Bible has many of these moments. In 2 Kings we read of a great suddenly of God. Here we read that Elisha said, tomorrow about this time flour will be cheap. This was a time when the people were starving because of a famine and the siege of an enemy. There was no food available at any price, let alone a low price. An officer of the king said that it was impossible to make Elisha's claim happen. However, the next day the enemy had been routed and the people plundered the tents of the Syrians, who had fled the area. This was a suddenly of God. The festive time that followed the plundering of the Syrians was a warm embrace of a moment.

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Warm embrace moments are very special. I cannot give you a specific means of gaining one, they come from God. However, I know that they never come to people who discount God. This officer said it could not happen and then missed the moment when it came. If we are faithful in prayer we will see moments like this. They may not be as spectacular as this example, but they do come.

Prayer has moments of the so called suddenly of God, where He moves quickly, but most of the time prayer is hard work. The work of prayer can be equated to filling bowls. We need to pray and continue to pray until the bowl is full (see Revelations 5:8). We have seen this before, for example when the prayer bowl for tearing down the Iron Curtain was full, the wall came down. When men and women have prayed and filled the prayer bowl, revival has come. Read this review of how the Second Great Awakening came to America.

In New England, there was a man of prayer named Isaac Backus, a Baptist pastor, who in 1794, when conditions were at their worst, addressed an urgent plea for prayer for revival to pastors of every Christian denomination in the United States. Churches knew that their backs were to the wall. All the churches adopted the plan until America, like Britain was interlaced with a network of prayer meetings, which set aside the first Monday of each month to pray. It was not long before revival came.

When the revival reached the frontier in Kentucky, it encountered a people really wild and irreligious. Congress had discovered that in Kentucky there had not been more than one court of justice held in five years. Peter Cartwright, Methodist evangelist, wrote that when his father had settled in Logan County, it was known as Rogue's Harbour. The decent people in Kentucky formed regiments of vigilantes to fight for law and order, then fought a pitched battle with outlaws and lost.

There was a Scotch Irish Presbyterian minister named James McGready whose chief claim to fame was that he was so ugly that he attracted attention. McGready settled in Logan County, pastor of three little churches. He wrote in his diary that the winter of 1799 for the most part was 'weeping and mourning with the people of God.' Lawlessness prevailed everywhere. McGready was such a man of prayer that not only did he promote the concert of prayer every first Monday of the month, but he got his people to pray for him at sunset on Saturday evening and sunrise Sunday morning. Then in the summer of 1800 come the great Kentucky revival. Eleven thousand people came to a communion service. McGready hollered for help, regardless of denomination.

Out of that second great awakening, came the whole modern missionary movement and its societies. Out of it came the abolition of slavery, popular education, Bible Societies, Sunday Schools, and many social benefits accompanying the evangelistic drive.

J. Edwin Orr

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The statement God answers prayer has been true throughout the history of the church. Dr. A. T. Pierson once said, "There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer." The Great Revival and all other revivals come from hard work in prayer and they are a warm embrace of a moment, a warm embrace of God.

A warm embrace of a moment comes from God and they come from the hard work of prayer. Faithful hard work in prayer will yield answers to prayer and the warm embrace comes as a bonus. Be encouraged God has called you to pray. He has called you to the long hours and many days prayer. If you will continue with Him, He will meet you with great and mighty answers. He will give you moments of warm embrace.

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

This week I ask you to return again to your prayers for pastors. This week please focus on the finances for their family and their ministry. Pray for God to supply all of their needs according to His ability.

Pray for:

- DK Limbu Daniel – Pastor of a church in Nepal and church planting among Nepalese people
- Jacek Gromadzki – Pastor of a church in Kolobrzeg, Poland
- Marek Kaminski – Pastor of church in Kaszalin, Poland, leader in Polish churches, and co-founder and leader of BBB Conference
- Mark Spencer – Pastor of church in Longmont, Colorado, worldwide ministry, and co-founder and leader of BBB Conference
- William Williamson – Pastor of church in Holly, Colorado
- The pastors of the Churches in Belarus – Growing number of churches in Belarus
- The pastors of the Churches in Lithuania – Growing number of churches in Lithuania
- Pray for your pastor

Basic Prayer Focus

Praying for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

Praying for the reaching of Souls from Every Nation

Praying for the government of your country (so the Gospel can be preached)

Praying for your home Church

Continuing Faithful in Prayer

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Pray for these ministers and ministries. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide and direct your prayers.

Joyce Abrahamson – Head of school in Brazil

John Coon – Ministry in Europe and the USA

Churches in Belarus – Growing number of churches in Belarus

Churches in Lithuania – Growing number of churches in Lithuania

DK Limbu Daniel – Pastor of a church in Nepal and church planting among Nepalese people

Marianne and David Dean – Missionaries on college campuses in East Asia

Jacek Gromadzki – Pastor of a church in Kolobrzeg, Poland

Marek Kaminski – Pastor of church in Kaszalin, Poland, leader in Polish churches, and co-founder and leader of BBB Conference

Bernd and Heike Pastor – Ministry in Germany

Mark Spencer – Pastor of church in Longmont, Colorado, worldwide ministry, and co-founder and leader of BBB Conference

Patty Spencer – Pastor of church in Longmont, Colorado and worship leader

William Williamson – Pastor of church in Holly, Colorado

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Voice of Thanksgiving is published in a weekly version in English. There are two monthly versions, one in German and one in Polish. And coming soon is a series of books on prayer. This first book (the first of four) is called ***Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer.***

- ✓ For an archive of past articles, short notes and studies on prayer, and other information go to www.voiceofthanksgiving.com
- ✓ For a shortcut to ***Stimme der Dankbarkeit*** the German version go to: <http://voiceofthanksgiving.com/SdDPage.htm>
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- ✓ You may write to me at: dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com
- ✓ If you would be interested in hosting a ***Prayer Initiative Seminar*** contact me, Dave Williamson, at dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com