

# *Voice of Thanksgiving*

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of August 10, 2008

“How glibly we talk of praying without ceasing! Yet we are quite apt to quit, if our prayer remained unanswered but one week or month! We assume that by a stroke of His arm or an action of His will, God will give us what we ask. It never seems to dawn on us, that He is the Master of nature, as of grace, and that, sometimes He chooses one way, and sometimes another in which to do His work. It takes years, sometimes, to answer a prayer and when it is answered, and we look backward we can see that it did. But God knows all the time, and it is His will that we pray, and pray, and still pray, and so come to know, indeed and of a truth, what it is to pray without ceasing.”—Anonymous

## ***The Life of Prayer***

### **Desire**

David Williamson

I have always enjoyed trains. When I was nine my dad bought a train set for me and we set it up on a table. It was a wonder to see that locomotive pulling the cars. This first locomotive even had smoke. After I got married I bought equipment and built a full layout in a room in the basement. This train, while a very small gauge, filled the room. It has hills and valleys, a name, a make believe function, and a history. Yes, it is true, I like trains. I like to play with them, but also to watch the real thing. I love the feel of the power of massive engines pulling a long string of cars.

It is interesting, at least to me, to think about the men who built the first railroads. These men had an idea, they noticed that water when heated turns to steam and this steam expands. They determined that they could use the power of this expansion to move a vehicle. The first locomotives were very primitive, but they worked. It was demonstrated that with this power source and a vehicle they could move goods and passengers. The early trains were very slow compared to today, but this was still a great improvement over the other options available. These men desired to tap this source of power and move goods. They also desired to make money doing this.

Desire helped these men complete the difficult task. There was much that they had to overcome. They had engineering and political problems, even some social problems to overcome. There was no train set for them to look at and model the real thing on. They had to invent or develop everything they needed. With each idea they had to go out and try it. Desire to be successful, to prove it could be done and then to make money running a railroad drove them to be successful.

The last few weeks we have been looking at a statement made by E. M. Bounds. He suggested a list of essentials for a meaningful prayer life; “The essentials of a meaningful prayer life are: faith, trust, desire, fervency, persistence, good character and conduct, obedience, and vigilance.” Third in this

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list is desire. As it was true for the builders of the early railroads, so it is true in prayer, desire is a key to success in prayer. It is an important essential for a meaningful prayer life.

In prayer desire is seeing an opportunity and seeking to make it a reality. God designed the universe we live in with consistent laws. We can depend on these laws. This allows science and industry to function. A steam locomotive is only possible and practical if water always boils, steam is produced, and it expands. When men realized this would consistently happen, then they set out to tap this reliable source of power.

God has set in place the opportunity in prayer. Just like the science of metals, steam, and power so there are consistencies in prayer. In prayer God has put in place, asking and receiving and behind our asking and receiving is His great power. He has told us and repeatedly demonstrated that He is willing and able to answer prayers. If we do what He has said to do, He has promised to do what He has said He would do. What He has promised, what He has put in place, never changes. This is the opportunity presented to Christians. Desire in a prayer life is seeking to seize the opportunity. It is seeking to receive answers to prayers from God. His power beyond compare, the wise man and woman pursue his answers.

What do you desire? The men who built the railroads desired to find a way to move heavy loads quickly and effectively. Their desire built railroads around the world and continues to provide for the needs of people today. Your desire in prayer can move heavy loads that hinder people and nations. Your desires in prayer can provide for people now and in the future. We must see the opportunity; God has promised to answer prayers. We must desire to get those answers. The men who built the railroads desired to have wealth and power. We desire to have answer to prayers; answers that will bring men and women into the Kingdom, answers that will free them from bondage and meet their needs. The essence of desire is the seeking that will not be denied. No matter the hindrance, no matter the problem, desire in prayer will obtain the answers, thus it is an essence of a powerful prayer life.

What do you desire?

*Let us Pray!*

## **A Call for Prayer**

Pray for ministries. There are many ministries list here in Voice of Thanksgiving. There are others that are close to you, please pray for them as well. Some listed here are the pastors of churches. The needs for a church are unique in some places, but there are many that are common to all. Pray for the people of these churches that they would prosper in all things and be in health. Pray for the financial needs of these churches and opportunities for outreach. There are others listed who are in ministries beyond the local church, church planting, schools, oversight of groups of churches,

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missions, and other activities. Pray for clarity of vision as to how God would have these ministries continue. Pray for supply of the needs of the ministries. Pray for the people (laborers) needed for the success of the ministry. Pray for opportunities for outreach and expansion of the ministries. Pray for confusion and defeat of adversaries to the ministries.

*For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*

1 Cor. 16:9 (NKJV)

## 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

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 in Longmont, Colorado, worship leader, and artist with a great new CD

**William Williamson** – Pastor of church in Holly, Colorado

**Charles and Janice Wilson** – Pastors in Wyola, Montana

**David Williamson**- Editor of *Voice of Thanksgiving* and author of books on prayers

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

*Voice of Thanksgiving* is published in a weekly version in English. *Voice of Thanksgiving* is also published monthly in German, Polish, and coming soon in Russian. You may want to read the new

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book on prayer, based on articles from *Voice of Thanksgiving, Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer*. To order go to <http://voiceofthanksgiving.com/Book/Book.htm>.

- ✓ For an archive of past articles, short notes and studies on prayer, and other information go to [www.voiceofthanksgiving.com](http://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](mailto:dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com)
- ✓ If you would be interested in hosting a *Prayer Initiative Seminar* contact me, Dave Williamson, at [dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com](mailto:dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com)