

# *Voice of Thanksgiving*

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of September 28, 2008

During the great Welsh Revival a minister was said to be very successful in winning souls by one sermon that he preached—hundreds were converted. Far away in a valley news reached a brother minister of the marvelous success of this sermon. He desired to find out the secret of the man's great success.—He walked the long way, and came to the minister's poor cottage, and the first thing he said was: "Brother, where did you get that sermon?" He was taken into a poorly furnished room and pointed to a spot where the carpet was worn threadbare, near a window that looked out upon the everlasting hills and solemn mountains and said, "Brother, there is where I got that sermon. My heart was heavy for men. One night I knelt there—and cried for power as I never preached before. The hours passed until midnight struck, and the stars looked down on a sleeping world, but the answer came not. I prayed on until I saw a faint streak of grey shoot up, then it was silver—silver became purple and gold. Then the sermon came and the power came and men fell under the influence of the Holy Spirit."—G. H. Morgan

## *The Life of Prayer*

### **Vigilance**

David Williamson

One of the keys to the successful development of the United States as a country was the founding of settlements by the Puritans. This group of people came to America to live out Christianity as they believed the Bible directed, as covenant people with God. Their success in overcoming obstacles set the tone socially, politically, and religiously for the founding of the United States. Part of their success came from hard work, but time after time they had deliverance from God at strategic moments. When drought or pestilence seemed ready to wipe the settlements out of existence, God would rain down His blessing. The coming of His blessing was so notable and powerful, that often even the native tribes in the area would make note of His blessing and His working in the affairs and the life of these people.

As wonderful as this was, within a few years there was a falling away from God and failure to walk in His covenant. A new generation grew-up, they did not know the commitment of the earlier generation nor the need for close covenant with God. In the early years to be a member of the society you had to be a member of the church. At times like these there were many people who were lukewarm about the church, at best. So that these people could still be a part of the community they developed the half-way covenant. While not full members they could at least participate. This falling away continued and accelerated. Soon America was in dire straits, with seemingly no deliverance at hand. Several times this pattern was set, America was blessed, there was a falling away, they got into desperate trouble, then slowly a group of people would begin to pray and seek the Lord and several times America was blessed with great revivals. These revivals were a visitation of God that

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changed the religious practices and also the social fabric. These were true revival, not merely a renewal.

The pattern is very similar to that of ancient Israel. They would be blessed of God and then within a generation or two they had turned to the sins of the people around them and would find themselves in desperate situation. They would call on God and He would deliver them. Then the pattern would repeat itself. In this cycle, in the cases of both America and Israel, one of the keys to downfall of the society was a break in vigilance.

The last few weeks we have been looking at the essentials of a successful prayer life. The list of essentials is from a list given by E. M. Bounds to Home Hodge (Hodge is the man that brought most of Bound's books to publication). E. M. Bounds listed: faith, trust, desire, fervency, persistence, good character and conduct, obedience, and vigilance as keys to our success. At the end of this list is vigilance. Vigilance is, to keep watch, stay awake, alertly watchful, especially to avoid danger. Once again, as has been true with all of our essentials, there is much to learn about vigilance and the Christian life as well as vigilance and a powerful, effective prayer life

One of the factors in the cycles of America and Israel; where they would be blessed, fall away, have great need of deliverance, repent, and see deliverance from God, is a failure of vigilance. Time and again they would not keep watch, stay awake, be alertly watchful and thus did not avoid danger. It is great that God delivered them from disasters, but this is not His best. God plan is for us to go from glory to glory.

***But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.***

2 Cor. 3:18 (NKJV)

The effective prayer life is one of regular triumphs, receiving answers from God. A break in vigilance is a notable factor in the pattern of America and of Israel. The end of vigilance is followed by problems. This can be followed by repentance and revival. However, when they were vigilant they enjoyed great success, when they were not they were subject to great problems. The same is true in prayer; when we are vigilant we can have great successes. The break of vigilance is a first step toward less than God's best and possible failure.

In prayer we are to triumph. The triumph of David was heard throughout the land, so should ours. But this will not happen if we do not keep our vigilance. To be successful in prayer we must pray in faith, but we must day-in-and-day-out be vigilant in faith. We must keep watch to trust God and His promises. We must stay awake to the dangers that would interfere with our desires and fervency. We must be alertly watchful to continue persistent in prayer. We must avoid the dangers of pitfalls in character and conduct. We must be vigilant in obedience to God's commands. We must be vigilant.

*Let us Pray!*

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## A Call for Prayer

Pray for Israel and Jerusalem. Pray for peace and for protect for the land and city. Pray for the Jewish people to see their Messiah, Jesus Christ as Lord.

**DK Limbu Daniel** – Pastor of a church in Nepal and church planting among Nepalese people asks for special prayer. He asks, would you put these prayer matters in VoT please?

1. We have big problem of flood in east Nepal displaced over 25000 families and relief needed.
2. Our students left today for 1 month mission work; pray for safety, guidance and needs to be met.
3. God's grace for our ministry.
4. We are going to help our churches to build worship buildings; there are 9 churches in need, pray for God's provision.
5. We have up coming programs in Oct 2-4, 8-9, Nov. 25-27th, Dec. 16-20th. Pray for the meeting of all needs and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks, May God bless you! Deu K. Limbu

**David Williamson** – Editor of *Voice of Thanksgiving*, I am home from the hospital. I had several challenges while in the hospital, but God was more than enough (listening to and answering your prayers) to take me through to triumph in Christ Jesus.

*For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.* 2 Cor. 4:17-18 (NKJV)

*For You, Lord, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands.* Psalm 92:4 (NKJV)

*Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.* 2 Cor. 2:14 (NKJV)

## Basic Prayer Focus

Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

Pray for the reaching of Souls from Every Nation

Pray for the government of your country (so we can live peaceably and the Gospel can be preached)

Pray for your home Church

## Continuing Faithful in Prayer

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

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**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 and Polish. You may want to read the new 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)
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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)