

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of November 30, 2008

God's Word is a record of prayer—of praying men and their achievements, of the Divine warrant of prayer and of the encouragement given to those who pray. No one can read the instances, commands, examples, multiform statements which concern themselves with prayer, without realizing that the cause of God, and the success of His work in this world is committed to prayer; that praying men have been God's vicegerents on earth; that prayerless men have never been used of Him.

E.M. Bounds from *The Necessity of Prayer*

## *The Life of Prayer*

### **Endurance**

David Williamson

My mother is a runner. She began running for more than 25 years ago, has won many races, and a wall full of medals. She continues to run, but does not train for or run marathons at this time. When she ran marathons, part of her training regiment was building her endurance. It is one thing to be able to compete at a high level for a short time or even for a longer race, but it is another thing to be able to be at top level for 26 miles. To prepare for marathons she would do a lot of endurance training. She would work out several times a week doing specific exercises geared toward greater endurance. When the marathon race was run it was very hard work, but because of all her hard work she was able to be successful and run her race with endurance.

The Christian life is filled with areas where it is important to be able to run with endurance. Chief among these is an effective prayer life. If we are going to pray for this generation and for the needs of this generation we must pray with endurance. In Hebrews 10:36, we read about endurance. This word translated endurance in the New King James is translated patience in the King James.

***For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*** Hebrews 10:36 (KJV)

***For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:*** Hebrews 10:36 (NKJV)

Please note that endurance comes after we have done the will of God. We must first do those things He requires of us, then, we endure. We must do the believing in Jesus, the walking in faith, the asking according to His will, not doubting, and the rest of the things we have learned about effective prayer. After we have done these things then we must endure, if we are going to receive the promise. If we are talking about prayer, and I always am, then receiving the promise is receiving answers to prayer.

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***Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." John 6:28-29 (NKJV)***

***And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Deut. 10:12-13 (NKJV)***

I like the word endurance better than patience, and either English word would fit the definition from the Greek. However, both words have a poor connotation for our understanding of what we are to be doing in this verse. They both give the idea of just waiting. They imply the idea of; you have done these things now just hanging on until something happens. This is not the best way to think of this word. Our endurance is to be active and aggressive.

When my mom ran marathons, there were specific exercises and routines she would follow to prepare. She did more of the things she had been doing, such as running, both more often and longer distances. She also did many other exercises to prepare her body for the effort needed to run that far. She had to train her body to exchange oxygen better, to pump blood better, to burn energy more efficiently, and to deal with pain effectively. She had to move up to a higher plain for a runner.

In building an effective prayer life there are exercises and routines that we should follow to pray with endurance. Please note that in this verse there is a command for us, it says, after we have done the will of God. So endurance or patience begins with doing the will of God. If we have not done the will of God, then we are not enduring. We may not be moved by events, but it may just be stubbornness not endurance. After we have done the will of God, then we can properly endure.

Several places the Bible speaks of running a race and running to win. So we should be preparing for a race that we win in prayer. Endurance is like preparing for a marathon; it is doing the things we should be doing every day, but doing more of them and doing them better. Everything in effective prayer is by faith and faith comes by the Word of God. Our endurance training is to read, listen to, memorize, study, and meditate on the Word of God and especially on His promises. We must do more of the other keys to faithful prayer, we must forgive, we must not doubt, we must ask knowing the will of God, laying aside every problem and hindrance, etc. All this and more is needed to build our self up to the challenge of enduring.

***Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV)***

***My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect***

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*and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.* James 1:2-8 (NKJV)

Endurance in prayer is to step up further toward the high standard set by Jesus, the champion of prayer. He did everything commanded by the Bible and was the perfect man in action, faith, and prayer. The question is what about you? Will you avail yourself of the training of the Holy Spirit, doing the exercises and work required to endure in prayer? Will you give of your life, time, and effort to pray at a higher level and for as long as it takes?

*Let us Pray!*

## **A Call for Prayer**

Pray for children.

Pray for the children near you and for children in great need in other areas, for example Joyce's children. Joyce Abrahamson ministers at a private grade school in Porto Velho, Brazil. The children of the school come from the poorest of the poor families and often have only one parent or are living with grandparents or other family members. As is true with children in many parts of the world there are attacks of the world and many dangers. Pray for safety, daily supplies, a safe place to live, protection, and salvation for these children.

Requests from Pastor Daniel

- Pray for the Believers convention in December 16-18<sup>th</sup> in east Nepal, pray for safety for the participants, and anointing of the Holy Spirit, refreshing of the Spirit to all participants
- Pray for the Jan 25-29<sup>th</sup> 2009, The Annual Convention of New Life Gospel Church Ministries Nepal, we are expecting over 250 delegates from all New Life Gospel Churches. This is always special for the New Life Pastors and Leaders and Believers as well.
- Pray for conferences in Sikkim and east Nepal, the 1<sup>st</sup> two weeks in February pray for all needs and favor from God.
- Pray for the Word to World School students. We have been planning to have only 15 students, but now there are 19 students because we felt emergency need of preparing harvesters for the great end time harvest. To complete this training school with practical mission field work, we need \$5986, of that we have \$3000. We need your partnership and prayer to prepare HARVESTERS for the great end time Harvests.
- Now winter is growing day by day, we need warm clothing for our Hope for Children and Foster children and would like to give warm clothes to poor children who are not able to afford.
- At last our ministry is in immediate need of 4 fuel efficiency motorcycles, please pray for the favor and provision of God.

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- There is going to be especial event in Pattaya, Thailand in the month of March 'HIMCOE-2009' for the expatriate Nepalese around the world, where Nepalese Christians from different countries will attend this conference. This is very special and important for me to attend for I have vision for Nepal and Nepalese around the world. I need \$1000 for my air ticket and 3 days staying.. Please pry for this need.
- Pray for the Church in Nepal and all the Christian ministries working in Nepal.

## 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.

**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

**Lori Farquhar** – Children's Ministry Director

**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 Cedaredge, Colorado

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

**David Williamson** – Editor of *Voice of Thanksgiving*

## 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 and is available in book form, *Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer*.

- ✓ For an archive of past articles, copies of the German and Polish editions, short notes and studies on prayer, and other information, or to order copies of *Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer* go to [www.voiceofthanksgiving.com](http://www.voiceofthanksgiving.com)
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