

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of December 7, 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.”
From *The Essentials of Prayer* by E. M. Bounds

The Life of Prayer

Missed Opportunity

David Williamson

I missed an opportunity; it is as simple as that. When I was in the US Air Force, I did not get to see my Grandfather very often. One time when I was home on leave I spent some time with him and had an opportunity to share the Gospel message. I missed the opportunity and for a long time I regretted the missed the opportunity. It was the last time I saw my Grandfather alive here on earth. This weighed heavy on me for many months, until I got to talk to my brother. Bill had talked to Grandfather, shared the Gospel and Grandfather responded. It was wonderful to know that God had overcome my missed opportunity and He was gracious enough to let me know He had taken care of the opportunity another way.

How about you, have you missed opportunities? Most everyone has, but hopefully it was not something as important as sharing the Gospel. Opportunities are times when the moment is right and the Holy Spirit will nudge us and encourage us to speak or act. Sometimes we respond well, but other times we have that sinking feeling and a realization that we have missed an opportunity. Paul understood opportunities and he did not want to miss them or let anything hinder him from making the most of his opportunities.

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

1 Corinthians 16:9 (NKJV)

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:18-20 (NKJV)

There is a wide variety opportunities. Sharing the Gospel, acts of kindness, helping, and giving, are but a few of the types. We all get the chance to be faithful to our calling and respond. It is so

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important that we practice taking opportunities and making the most of them. Taking opportunities brings with it a risk factor. You could have a bad experience or things might not go as you want. However, the opportunity is presented to you because God believes you are ready and able to respond. We are just messengers and laborers, it is His message, and His working that makes the difference. If we cannot take the risk, then it would be good to evaluate if we are truly crucified with Christ. Am I a new creation in Christ Jesus or just a religious Christian protecting my image and feelings?

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21 (NKJV)

There is another realm of opportunities and these are ones we do not want to miss. We have opportunities in prayer. We have been called to prayer. We believe our prayers make a difference. We know that God listens and responds to prayer, so we should expect that we will be given opportunities to pray. Some of these opportunities will be special and specific; just like the opportunities we see in our daily life. We are confronted with an opportunity, such as sharing the Gospel. The opportunity is special, of inestimable importance, and specific, it is for this person. We face opportunities in prayer that are just as special and specific. The question, just like all opportunities, is how will we respond?

Far too often we face missed opportunities in prayer. There are one hundred and one excuses why we missed the opportunity; I missed the opportunity in prayer, because I wasn't there to get the assignment. I missed because I do not have regular prayer times or I do not go to regular prayer meetings. I missed because I did not pray that day.

I missed the opportunity in prayer because I wasn't listening. I did not listen because I did all the talking that day. I did not listen because I just complain, not pray. I did not listen because I have never learned to hear the voice of the Lord. I did not listen because I do not believe that God speaks today.

I missed the opportunity in prayer because I was not ready to hear or respond. I did not pray because I was caught up in fear. I did not pray because I was so angry I could not pray. I did not pray because I would not forgive.

I missed the opportunity because I did not believe God would speak to me. I did not believe God would use me to pray. I did not believe God would give me an assignment in prayer. I did not believe that He would trust me (is this because you do not believe He really has forgiven your sins?). I did not believe that God would answer my prayers.

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So what are we going to do? Obviously all our excuses for missing opportunities need to be changed. Making fewer excuses and taking advantage of more opportunities would be a good first step. We need to pray; as Paul asked the Ephesians to pray for him. We need to pray to remember that we are ambassadors in chains and that we will pray boldly as we ought to speak.

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Ephesians 6:18-20 (NKJV)

We need to believe God; He has made us a new creation, a new person. We can and should pray. This new person has been given an opportunity to pray in faith, praying effective, fervent prayers that avail much. Will you take the opportunity?

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Souls from Every Nation – Pray for outreach in areas predominately neglected in the past. Pray for labors to answer the call of God to go to these areas.

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem – Pray for protection from those who would destroy Israel.

Requests from Pastor Daniel

- Pray for the Believers convention in December 16-18th 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 25-29th 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 1st 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*

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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
- ✓ If you have questions you may email me at: dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com