

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of December 21, 2008

“How constantly, in the Scriptures, do we encounter such words as ‘field,’ ‘seed,’ ‘sower,’ ‘reaper,’ ‘seed-time,’ ‘harvest’! Employing such metaphors interprets a fact of nature by a parable of grace. The field is the world and the good seed is the Word of God .Whether the Word be spoken or written, it is the power of God unto salvation. In our work of evangelism, the whole world is our field, every creature the object of effort and every book and tract, a seed of God.”—David Fant, Jr.

The Life of Prayer

The Gift

David Williamson

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King.*

As far back as I can remember my family has had several traditions for the Christmas season. One of them was to write a list of things we would like to receive for Christmas. I do not know when it started, but I began to list a car at the top of my list every year. I did not ask for just any car, but it was always some fancy, fast car. I do not know what a twelve year old boy would do with a Lamborghini car, but that was at the top of my list for several years. I never got a car for Christmas and I knew that I would not, but it was a fun thing to have on my list.

Christmas at our house was always a very special time. Very early in the morning my brothers, sisters, and I would wake up and assemble on the stairs going down to the living room. My dad would go into the living room and “check to see if everything was okay.” Then after waiting for what seemed like “forever”, we would go into the living room and see all of the gifts. Most of them would be wrapped and under the tree, but there would be a special gift for each of us unwrapped somewhere around the tree. With squeals of delight we would run to these special gifts (there never was a Lamborghini under the tree). Then we would begin to open gifts from family and friends.

A second tradition at our house was celebration of the advent season. The four Sundays before Christmas we would gather as a family and light a candle and have a short teaching on the coming of Jesus on that Christmas day. This tradition was a good reminder to us of the importance of Christmas and the meaning of this special day. Isaac Watts in 1719 captured the essence of the season and reasons for the celebration, “Joy to the world the Lord has come! Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room.” This is the reason for the season.

This week as you celebrate with your traditions and perhaps as you start new traditions for your family, remember the reasons for the season. Please remember that there are many people around

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the world who do not know the reason for the season. Yes they may know about Christmas and the celebration of the birth of the baby. They may know about Bethlehem and remember the words from Luke:

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Luke 2:1-14 (NKJV)

The problem is that there are too many people that know nothing of Him or only know the story; they do not know the King of kings and Lord of lords as their Lord. Like others living in Israel at the time of Jesus' birth who knew nothing of His birth, life, death, and resurrection, many do not know Him today. The joy to the world has passed them by.

As Christian men and women we should delight to give gifts at this special season of the year. As men and women of prayer we can give a very special gift. We can pray for children in schools, for young people in colleges and universities, for people in small towns and large towns, for people in places with strong traditions and for those with no traditions, for people open to hearing the Gospel and where it is not legal to share. Our prayer, that men, women, and young people would receive the joy to the world. We can pray for people to receive the greatest gift ever given, the gift given by God our Father, of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,*

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*And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.*

Isaac Watts

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for salvation, the joy of the world, to come to people we minister to around the world. Pray for school children in Brazil, and for cities, towns, and villages in Nepal. Pray for young people on college campuses and with jobs and families. Pray for people in cities and towns. Pray for open doors of opportunity for the Gospel and for labors willing and able to bring in the harvest. Pray also for members of our company who daily labor for the Gospel that they would be strong and true to the faith, working by the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

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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*.

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