

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of December 28, 2008

You know the value of prayer: it is precious beyond all price. Never, never neglect it
Sir Thomas Buxton

Prayer is the first thing, the second thing, the third thing necessary to a minister. Pray, then, my dear
brother: pray, pray, pray
Edward Payson

The Life of Prayer

The Normal Christian Life David Williamson

I have been blessed to go on many mission trips. Year-after-year God has provided me with opportunities and means of going so I can experience His power and workings. Even from the very first trip He made it clear that He would not be limited to what I thought He could and could not do. He declared by many means, He would not be limited by money, plans, timing, airlines, expectations, or anything else.

For example, on the first mission trip, which was planned for South America, but went to Europe instead, God demonstrated several ways that He was not limited in His working or power. One of the stops on this trip was in Innsbruck, Austria and over dinner I discovered that my host had planned to work with a team witnessing to people at the Olympic Center. This is where the Olympic ice events were held during the 1964 Winter Olympics and where that night they were presenting the musical Jesus Christ Superstar. The plan was to be outside the center when the musical ended and pass out tracts and talk to people. Over dinner my host stated that he had planned for me to come with the team. His wife was as shocked as I was; she had seen and heard that I did not speak very much German. I was convinced that there was nothing I could do, but I did not want to wreck the plans or limit the others faith. So I said I would love to go.

All the members of the team meet before going to the Olympic Center and we prayed. I joined in the prayer time and thought this was my main role for the night; I think there were others that had the same idea. When we got to the Olympic Center we began to give all the members of the team witnessing tracts to give to the people. It was decided that I could give out tracts and a smile; if I needed more help I could ask others on the team. The evening was a success, the team got to talk to many people and share about salvation through Christ Jesus.

After the crowd had left the area we packed up to leave and decided we wanted to get something to eat and talk about the night. Near by was a McDonald's, and as it was fast and cheap, this is where we went. While standing in line to order, we noticed that people were coming in and they all were

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

wearing jackets from the show, Jesus Christ Superstar. Most of the cast had come to McDonald's for a bite to eat after the show. The cast, as we found out, was from New York and most of them were Americans. Suddenly there was an opportunity to talk to these young people and share the Gospel. Turning to the man in line behind me I asked him, "Who are you?" Without missing a beat he said, "I am Jesus Christ." I then ask him, "Do you know Him?" For the next few minutes, members of the team who spoke English and I got to talk with these cast members and share about the true message of Jesus Christ, the real Superstar!

God had taken the impossible; I could not talk to Austrians about my faith because of limitations in my ability to speak German, and made sharing the Gospel possible. If I had acted on the impossible situation, as I saw it, and chosen not to go with the team, I would have missed the opportunity to share the Gospel and to see God do the seemingly impossible.

Living a life of faith filled prayers should be the normal life of all Christians. Faith is not something just for pastors or men and women of extraordinary prayers, it is for all Christians. It is for you and me. The life we live now should be a life of faith. The work we do now should be founded on, empowered by, and directed by faith. This is how we are to live now that we are Christians. There is no division in the Christian world. There are no second class citizens; we are Christians, won to life, by the faith and work of Jesus Christ. His infilling of life and faith is perfect for meeting the requirements of God and meeting our every need, now and forever.

It is common to see young Christians do great things. Their witness of the Gospel can be and often is very powerful. They make great members of a witnessing team. They know firsthand the power of God to change lives and they have not learned to limit God and His abilities. The promises of God are so fresh and real to them that they just naturally stand confident in Him. They well remember that they were in an impossible situation and God took them out of that situation and brought them into His Kingdom. If He can do the impossible why should we not expect Him to do it again now? With this mindset they are bold. Some how it is common for people to loose this confidence in God. They learn to limit God and His willingness and ability. They learn to not live the normal Christian life (*The Normal Christian Life* is the title of a book by Watchman Nee. It is a study on living our life in the fullness of Christ, claiming this should be the normal life for all Christians).

If we are going to do what God has called us to do, reaching our generation with the Gospel and meeting needs for abundant life, we must return to the normal Christian life. We must walk in God's supernatural abilities and power and pray; anything less that this will leave us overwhelmed by the impossible situation of self, men, and nations. The limitless power of God is at our disposal in prayer. He promises to listen if we will pray and so we must pray. Our prayers must go beyond the limits of the possible and take up His anointing to do the seemingly impossible.

Faith makes doing the seemingly impossible possible. We can and should be asking for His power in prayer and expect Him to get the seemingly unattainable, to do the out of the question, and accomplish the unachievable. God is in the "doing the impossible business" and He wants us to join

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Him as full partners in the firm. Our job is to ask. We must ask as He directs and orders. We must ask in faith, but ask we must. If we will ask God in faith for the things He wants us to do, we have His unlimited power in prayer. No matter what we face, problems, conflicts, hindrances, or anything else, we can pray, we must pray, and we must believe that God can and will make the impossible possible. We can expect our limitless Father to answer our prayers with His unlimited, situation changing power. The world is wondering, will you pray?

'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.' Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV)

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for the new year, 2009. Pray for opportunities throughout the year for sharing the Gospel. Pray that the members of your church will be bold and have opportunities. Pray that there will be many people in your town and region who are open to hearing the message and then will respond to the Gospel call. Pray that there will be good places for these new disciples to go and grow in faith. Pray that there will be good teachers ready, willing, and empowered to teach. Pray that your church will this year be a supernatural center of God's power working throughout the community.

Basic Prayer Focus

Pray for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you. Psalm 122:6 (NKJV)

Pray for the reaching of souls from every nation

Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Luke 10:2 (NKJV)

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Pray for the government of your country

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NKJV)

Pray for your home church

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Colossians 4:2-4 (NKJV)

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, Christ Church International

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. Selected articles from *Voice of Thanksgiving* are available in book form, ***Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer***.

- ✓ For an archive of past articles, copies of the German or Polish editions, short notes and studies on prayer, 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