

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of January 4, 2009

Prayer has to do with the entire man. Prayer takes in man in his whole being, mind, soul and body. It takes the whole man to pray, and prayer affects the entire man in its gracious results. As the whole nature of man enters into prayer, so also all that belongs to man is the beneficiary of prayer. All of man receives benefits in prayer. The whole man must be given to God in praying. The largest results in praying come to him who gives himself, all of himself, all that belongs to himself, to God. This is the secret of full consecration, and this is a condition of successful praying, and the sort of praying which brings the largest fruits.

From *Essentials of Prayer* by E. M. Bounds

The Life of Prayer

Wise Investing

David Williamson

My mother loves to read. She always has a book she is working on and reads every chance she gets. One of the things she started doing, many years ago, is to write down the title and author of every book she reads and by the end of the year she has a long list of books. She has kept book lists for years and now has a long record of read books. I won't tell you how many she reads in an average year, but few, if any of you, could keep up with her. I do not share this tidbit with you to make you feel bad about your reading habits. I wish for you to think about what you have accomplished this last year.

My mother has many talents and abilities, she accomplishes more as a "retired" person than most people, but the question still comes up, "What did you accomplished last year." This is a good question for each of us to reflect on each year. At the end of time, all of everyone's accomplishments will be judged. For the Christians this means that their accomplishments will go through the testing of the fire. When you are tested how will you do? Will you have accomplishments that come through the fire?

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (NKJV)

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Just like snowflakes, you are unique and designed like no other person. God has blessed you with great gifts and abilities. Too often we forget or downplay our unique makeup and gifting. Think about it for a moment, what has God given to you; talent, money, abilities, gifts, time. One of the most precious things He has given you is an allotment of time. You may be able to shorten your allotment, but you cannot increase your allotment. With each breath you have less time to complete your assignments from God. The big question is what will you do with what He has given.

You know the story Jesus told about the man traveling to a far country and giving talents to three men. This was giving these men money. As you remember the first earned five talents in addition to what he was given. The second man was given two and came back with an additional two. The third man received one and brought back just that one. Jesus was pleased with the first two men and angry with the third. All three men were given something that they could use. Two of the three used their gifts in a positive way.

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. Likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.

Matthew 25:14-18 (NKJV)

One man hid what he had. He was ruled by fear and hid the money he was given. Most people fall into this category, they are afraid to do anything. They are afraid that God might ask them to do something they do not like. They are afraid they will make a mistake. They are afraid they will not be successful. They are afraid they will not do what or how God wants things done. They are afraid of a thousand and one things so they do nothing.

The lost fall into this category, they are afraid that they have done something that God can or won't forgive. They are afraid that they will not be allowed to do what they want. They do not know that God has a better plan for their life than their own plans. They cannot believe that even God could do something as good as freely giving salvation. So they hid their life, talents, abilities, gifts, and time. Like the third man in Jesus' story, even what they have will be taken from them. To be lost is to be utterly lost.

Unfortunately far too many Christians fall into this category as well. They are afraid and so they have hidden all they have. They are afraid to be different from the world. They are afraid that God cannot or will not forgive them. They are afraid to trust God. They are afraid to believe that His promises are true. They are afraid to invest their life, talents, abilities, gifts, and time in the Kingdom, which would be the source of great fulfillment. They hid all they have, missing the life God has prepared for them and the blessing they should be to the Body of Christ and to the world. One of the big problems that many people face is hiding their time. Far too often people look back on their life and

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realize what they could have done. At the end of a year my mother can look through her list of books and see what she has read for the year.

How about with prayer, how much of your prayer time have you hidden? You have been called to pray and given time to pray. It might be revealing to find out how much of your prayer time you spent praying. There are several reasons for loss of prayer time. One is our choice; we simply do not make time or take advantage of the time we have. It is easy to get so busy that we do not have prayer time. It is easy to minimize the importance of prayer time in comparison with the other demands in our time. We join with the three men from Jesus' story, do we choose to invest our time or do we hid our time. The option is ours.

The second reason for loss of time is the Devil. One of the tactics the Devil likes to use to limit prayer is to steal your time. He attacks schedules and plans. He works to keep you from the most important part of your day, prayer time. We can and must fight off the problems that keep us from prayer.

The actions of the third man can teach us a great deal about prayer, but the first two men can teach us even more. The first two men, the men praised in Jesus' story, invested the money they were given and produced a good return. One of the keys to success in a Christian life and in effective prayer is investing. God has called us to come to Him with all of our heart, mind, and strength. We are to seek Him whole heartedly. This is what the first two men did, they invested the money. They invested money; we can invest time in prayer.

Investing in prayer is believing the promises of God; He is who He says He is and He can and will do what He says He will do. Investing in prayer is confessing what God says; we say the same things He says. Investing in prayer is being obedient to His commands. Investing in prayer is pouring out our heart in prayer for a person, ministry, or nation in need. We can invest in prayer or hid from prayer, the choice is ours. The world is hoping you will choose to invest in prayer.

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Please continue to pray for Israel. The situation is dangerous and may soon be desperate for this land, nation, and people. They face the scorn and condemnation of the world. They stand nearly friendless and without reliable help. They also are blind to the true answer to their plight, the Messiah Jesus Christ. We are to be watchmen on the walls praying for Jerusalem, Israel, and for the return of these people to God. Please pray for Israel, remember, if we will be about His business, He will watch over ours.

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From Pastor Daniel

- I appreciate your prayers and help in all form. I would like to share with you that what the Lord Jesus Christ has done through your prayer, sowing and care to this ministry.
- The Word to World School began in November 3rd with 17 students. Last week these students went for the gospel work and had witnessed 120 people and faced severe opposition, but many have opened their heart to receive the gospel of Jesus Christ. The 2007 students are all in the ministry full time or part time. Already two graduates are in the mission field in remote region and started 3 fellowships saving many souls. And two ready to go to new area as missionaries.
- November 15th 3 people received Lord Jesus as their personal Savior and were baptized in Rolpa. Many others are ready, but local situation is negative, but God is turning things around.
- November 29th, 10 people received Jesus Christ as their Savior and baptized in Kathmandu; 25 non Christians were watching and heard the gospel.
- I was on a mission trip for an outlaying, remote village from Dec.6th to 14th. We hiked and shared the Gospel on the trail; it was two days walk to reach our destination. I was one of speaker in convention; there were over 800 people gathered from surrounding villages. They were greatly encouraged and edified to their faith.
- We are constructing five church buildings and by February all of them would be completed although the cost is higher than we had estimated in 2007, because of world economy.

Prayer requests:

- We will be having whole church Fasting Prayer from January 4th -9th and January 10th mission day where we will make mission commitment to members pledging to send missionaries to new unreached regions.
- Pray for Word to World School's needs.
- Pray for secular, political situation in Nepal, things are turning difficult. The Communist parties are in government and have not been able to curb the political situation. There have been a lot of killings, abducting and violence and a lot of road accidents is taking its toll. Instead of peace, we have violence and demonstration, lack of law and order. The Maoist communist party seems to be trying to bring the same situation as in China in 1939, by creating anarchism and confusion in the country as a means of capturing the country. We need to see God's favor for Nepal for the growth of Christianity.
- Pray for the color laser printer costs \$650 and computer costs \$500 for the ministry.

Once again I appreciate your prayers and I remember you in my prayers for the memory of righteous is blessing (Prov. 10:7; AMP). God is in control He will sustain you in all kinds of short comings. May God richly bless you and lead you to prosperity, success and healing in the year 2009!!

Basic Prayer Focus

Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

Pray for the reaching of Souls from Every Nation

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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