

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of February 8, 2009

The possibilities of prayer cover not only individuals but reach to cities and nations. They take in classes and peoples. The praying of Moses was the one thing which stood between the wrath of God against the Israelites and His declared purpose to destroy them and the execution of that Divine purpose, and the Hebrew nation still survived. Notwithstanding Sodom was not spared, because ten righteous men could not be found inside its limits, yet the little city of Zoar was spared because Lot prayed for it as he fled from the storm of fire and brimstone which burned up Sodom. Nineveh was saved because the king and its people repented of their evil ways and gave themselves to prayer and fasting.

From *The Possibilities of Prayer* by E.M. Bounds

The Life of Prayer

The City of Our God

David Williamson

God has blessed me with opportunities to travel and everywhere I go people ask me where I am from. And even though I know what they will say, I always tell them the same thing; I am from Longmont, Colorado. This always gets a response of, "Where is that?" Then I respond with, "It is near Boulder". People then respond by saying that they know Boulder. Although it is not the capital of the United States, or even the capital of Colorado, people everywhere have heard of Boulder. Boulder is famous.

There are many famous cities around the world. These are places that most people have heard of, know where it is, or something about it. These are cities like New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Beijing, Berlin, Innsbruck, Rio de Janeiro, and many more, each know for its location, an important product or industry, as a political or cultural center, as an important crossroads, or for other reasons, but it is famous none the less. Some are famous for good things, other are famous in a negative way. All have had good times and bad, but they are well know. They are famous, but there is one city more famous and important than all the rest, it is Jerusalem, the city of our God.

And to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there.

1 Kings 11:36 (NKJV)

Jerusalem is known by people around the world. The name brings thoughts of reverence and awe or anger and hatred. This city has been the center of the greatest kingdom of all time and the battle ground for many conflicts and wars. It is noted for great events that have taken place within its walls. For King David and Solomon it was the center of their great kingdom. For the rulers of the Roman Empire it was a stumbling block to the rule of the Middle East. For Jesus it was the place of

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great sacrifice and ultimate triumph. For the last two thousand years great nations have fought over it and fallen because of it. Politicians have wrangled and fought, but have not been up to the difficulties of dealing with Jerusalem. This city has been afflicted by everything except peace. Wars, destruction, massacres, and oppression have been the norm, not peace. However, through all its comings and goings, God has called for prayer, for peace, for this city.

God has called us to pray for Jerusalem. This call has not ended or been amended, God is still seeking men and women who will pray for this special place. It is important to pray for Jerusalem for many reasons, but chief among these is obedience. It is impossible to have power in prayer if we do not obey God's call and command. This company of prayer is made up of people willing to pray, but if we will not be obedient to God what good is our praying. Without obedience our prayers are just noise. The willing and obedient will get answers to their prayers.

If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; Isaiah 1:19 (NKJV)

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget its skill! If I do not remember you, Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth--If I do not exalt Jerusalem Above my chief joy.
Psalm 137:5-6 (NKJV)

God has called us to pray for Jerusalem and we should pray to repay a great debt. We owe so much to the Jews and what God has done through them. It is only right that we should pray for Jerusalem. From the Jew we have the Old Testament and examples of great men of faith like Abraham. The city itself came through the Jewish nation with Kings David and Solomon. Jesus, are Lord, was born and raised as a Jew; His life of obedience and faith came through a Jewish family and was impossible any other way. We are indebted to the Jews and Jerusalem for so much, surely we should pray.

What shall I render to the Lord For all His benefits toward me? Psalm 116:12 (NKJV)

It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.
Romans 15:27 (NKJV)

God has called us to pray for Jerusalem and we should pray because it is good for us. It is enlightened self interest to pray for this city. There is a blessing for those who will pray for Jerusalem. God promises prosperity and good to those who will pray for Jerusalem. When we pray, God breaks through our problems and brings us His blessings.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces." For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you." Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good. Psalm 122:6-9 (NKJV)

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God has called us to pray for Jerusalem and we should pray because true peace will only come from Jerusalem. Just as salvation came from Jerusalem, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, so peace can and will only come from Jerusalem. Real peace, the peace of God, comes from this key city. The peace of God coming to Jerusalem will bring peace to the world, until then there will be wars and conflict around the world.

The peace of God is true peace. Far more than just the lack of war, his peace is full and complete. The Hebrew word for peace is Shalom, it speaks of well being, completeness, and welfare. It has been described as “nothing broken, nothing missing”. For self, family, and nation to have nothing missing and nothing broken would be true peace. When this kind of peace comes to Jerusalem, then it can come to us. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come. For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, And show favor to her dust. So the nations shall fear the name of the Lord, And all the kings of the earth Your glory. For the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory. He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, And shall not despise their prayer. Psalm 102:13-17 (NKJV)

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. Isaiah 62:6-7 (NKJV)

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Pray for the ministries and outreaches of your church or fellowship. Pray that ministry and outreach will be possible. Pray for the leaders of these outreaches. Pray for open doors of opportunity. Pray for openness of the hearts of the people you are reaching to and pray for a good response to the Gospel message. Pray for planting of new converts in good churches or fellowships where these new converts can grow in the faith. Pray for men and women willing and able to disciple new believers.

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

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