

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of February 15, 2009

But above all he excelled in prayer. The inwardness and weight of his spirit, the reverence and solemnity of his address and behavior, and the fewness and fullness of his words have often struck even strangers with admiration as they used to reach others with consolation. The most awful, living, reverend frame I ever felt or beheld, I must say, was his prayer. And truly it was a testimony. He knew and lived nearer to the Lord than other men, for they that know him most will see most reason to approach him with reverence and fear.—WILLIAM PENN OF GEORGE FOX

The Life of Prayer

Praying for Prosperity

David Williamson

There are signs that say you are on the road to a town and the number of meters you still have to drive to get to that town. One of my favorite is on a sign near Munich, Germany. Every time I would go to the Munich airport I would see this sign. On it was Berlin and the number of meter you would need to get there. For years I had seen this sign and thought how interesting and fun it would be to drive from Munich to Berlin. There are many famous cities in Germany; the most exciting for me are the cities of Berlin and Munich. In addition to the lure of these cities there is the drive between these two. This would be a drive through some of the key regions of Germany and a good overview of the country. So every time I saw the sign I would dream about making this trip.

A few years ago we had a group of people going on a trip to Germany and Poland. The team would fly into Germany and then driving from Germany to Poland. We had a van for the team to use, but the van was in Poland. Someone had to go to Poland and get the van and drive it to Germany and I got to be the person. This was my dream drive. It did not matter that I would be going from Poland to Berlin then Munich, the drive was the same and this was my grand chance. It was with great excitement that I made preparations for the trip and mentally prepared for the drive.

At a prayer meeting just before the trip, as people were praying for the team and for this drive I would make, a person stated that there would be a very trying time on the trip, but that God would help me. I was please to hear that God would help, but gave little thought to it at that time.

Early in the trip, before I reached Berlin, I made a mistake and nearly ruined that van. I had to have the van towed to a repair shop. The owner of this shop said that there was very little chance that the engine was not ruined. There was one thing he could try, but he did not give me much hope of success. Sitting in the waiting room I prayed. While I had been praying from the time the van would not start after stopping to getting fuel, now I was praying as fast and hard as I could. After a few minutes I suddenly remembered the prayer meeting before the trip and what this lady had said. It

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was comforting to remember that God was going to help me. This encouraged me in my faith to continue to pray.

The owner of the repair shop said that they would work on the van and then try to start it. If it started then everything would be okay, if it did not start the engine was ruined. I could hear them working, but I could not tell how the work was going. Finally after about an hour, I hear them try to start the engine. Suddenly the van started and I changed from prayer to praise! After dealing with the cost of the repairs and towing, I was finally once again on my way. I had experienced the power of prayer and God had reaffirmed His willingness to help in time of need.

Every one of us needs help at some time or the other and usually we need help all the time. It is part of life. First and foremost, we need help just to have life. Our natural birth came by the help of our mother and father. Our spiritual birth came by help from God. Salvation is God helping us; He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. What we could not do, Christ did for us. This is great help.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Romans 5:6-10 (NKJV)

God's help does not end there. He is working to help us in every step we take. Often we do not see His help, we are too busy to notice, but at other times His help is so obvious we cannot miss it. Regardless of our awareness of His presence and help, God is working to help us. He helps people and He has called for men and women to work with Him in helping people. One of the ways we are helping Him is to pray. He is calling us to join with Him in helping people in need. While I was in the repair shop praying, it was of great comfort to know that God said that He would help me. It also was very positive to remember that men and women were praying for God to help me. In the Bible John prayed for the help of God.

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. 3 John 1:2 (NKJV)

The word John used in this prayer, translated here as prosper, means, to help on the road, to succeed in reaching, or succeed in business affairs, to have a prosperous journey. This is exactly what God did for me on the road from Poland to Munich; He helped me on the road and made my trip a success. The Enemy had been whispering (actually it was more like a shout) in my ear that I had wrecked the trip and ruined things for everyone. God overcame the lies of the Enemy; God helped me.

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God loves to help us; this is what He longs to do for us every day. His plan is to assist people and He calls for men and women to join Him in His efforts to help. He has called for us to pray for our friends and neighbors. What are we to pray, very simply put; we are to pray for God to help people.

Help is what people need, they long for it and are searching for it. They desperately need God's help. This is why we pray; we pray and God helps people. He helps them along their road, He helps them to succeed in reaching their goal and needs, He helps them to succeed in business, and to have a prosperous journey. Will you pray for people? Will you pray for God to give them help? One key aspect of our prayer should be to pray for their prosperity. We should pray for prosperity for our neighbors, both near and far.

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 opportunities to share the Gospel. Pray for the hearts of people to be softened and prepared to hear the message. Pray that these people will respond positively to the Gospel message.

Pray for ministries. There are many ministries listed here in *Voice of Thanksgiving*. There are others that are close to you, please pray for them as well. Some listed here are the pastors of churches. The needs for a church are unique in some places, but there are many that are common to all. Pray for the people of these churches that they would prosper in all things and be in health. Pray for the financial needs of these churches and opportunities for outreach.

Pray for other ministries listed here, ministries beyond the local church. These ministries are planting churches, running schools, dealing with the oversight of groups of churches, and other activities. Pray for clarity of vision as to how God would have these ministries continue. Pray for supply of the needs of the ministries. Pray for the people (laborers) needed for the success of the ministry. Pray for opportunities for outreach and expansion of the ministries. Pray for confusion and defeat of adversaries to the ministries.

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

1 Corinthians 16:9 (NKJV)

Basic Prayer Focus

Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

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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
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