

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of March 29, 2009

We cannot do the saints a greater kindness, or exercise our love for them in a more practical and effective way, than by praying for them. Arthur W. Pink from *Gleanings from Paul*

The Life of Prayer

Well Done

David Williamson

It was easy to be proud. People from Austria, Germany, Poland, and the United States working together, had helped people in a Bosnian refugee camp. Families that had been uprooted and displaced by the fighting, today had more of the food and supply items they desperately needed, because of people working to help others. It was great to have food for the mothers to use and a supply of some of the things needed to make life a little bit more tolerable, but it was especially heart warming to see the children having fun with some little gifts. It is times like these when the Body of Christ gets together and works to help people, which can be a powerful reminder of values of doing good things. We could all be proud that day; we had helped some people and proclaimed the goodness of the Gospel.

We all have had moments when we longed to proclaim to the world of something someone has done well. As parents we have many opportunities to swell with pride at things our children do. There are things our churches have done that we are pleased to proclaim to one and all. Often there are secret things that have been done well that we long to shout about. This is good and it is important as Christians that we do things well. We are to work, as unto the Lord, and so there should be a pride in doing a job, whatever the job may be, well.

Jesus taught that the way we are to measure a job well done is by its fruit, “**every good tree bears good fruit**”. Ultimately, there is a “Well done” coming from God for those who are faithful, but until then we should measure our work by its fruit. This applies to all the work of our life. From raising children to managing stores, from taking care of the house, to taking care of neighbors and friends, all we do is our “work”. The standard set for this work is simple to announce, but a bit more difficult to do; we are to work the same as we would, if we were working for the Lord. How would you tend to His clothing? How would you tend to His business matters? How would you attend to relationships with His children and neighbors? How would you attend to His prayers?

Too often people are slack in their dealings, they make excuses and exceptions for themselves. They set a far lower standard for their own life dealings compared to that of Jesus. Jesus went about doing good. Jesus increased in wisdom and stature; He increased in favor with God and men. His expectation is that with His life in us and the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit, we should

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live as Jesus did. Actually He expects us to do greater works than He did. So He has a high standard of expectation for all of us and He has provided so we can live up to His expectations, if we choose to do so.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Luke 2:52 (NKJV)

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. John 14:12 (NKJV)

For weeks now we have been studying a prayer of Paul's recorded in his letter to the Romans. This has been a valuable study for looking at our priorities, attitudes, and activities. Today we look at the phrase, "**your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world**". What a powerful statement of faith. You can hear the pride in Paul for his fellow Christians. This is one of those times when we all can rejoice and have pride in a job well done.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. Romans 1:8 (NKJV)

When one member of the Church suffers, we all suffer and so we must bare the burden with them. Conversely, when members of the Church do things well, we are to rejoice with them. We die daily together; we triumph in Christ Jesus together, as well. When missionaries have broken through the barriers of a country, bringing the light of salvation, that is a triumph for all the members of the Church. Just as it is all the Church's responsibility to pray for and support the work of missionaries as their life was being poured out for a country.

Please note that this is not just an idle boasting, or even just polite rhetoric; these Christians at Rome had faith and it was well know through out the world. These Christians had a humble reliance on the Lord and their faith was such that it was spoken of throughout the region and world. Paul recognized that God was the giver of their faith and that they were exercising the use of the gift in a powerful way. This boasting in these saints was not just to say job well done, but to induce them, and others, to even greater works in Christ Jesus.

This is a powerful statement of the character of the Roman saints and of Paul's love for all things that are furthering the cause of the Gospel of Christ. The celebration of Roman saints' faith was more than just for their words and thoughts. Their faith was faith in action. These Christians were powerful and causing change by their faith. It would be good for us to see Paul's praise of their faith coupled with his declaration of their obedience.

For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. Romans 16:19 (NKJV)

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Their faith and obedience was well known, this was what Paul was celebrating, faith by faithful obedience, which bore fruit. Too often people see faith as a nebulous unknown, but the faith of the Bible, is powerful in its working. It bears fruit. The faithful man or woman will live by faith in Jesus Christ and walk out that faith in obedience to the wishes and commands of God. One important key to success in prayer is this type of faithful walk.

Mark Spencer teaches this using a simple, but powerful expression. He teaches us to live day after day, moment after moment faithful, faithful, faithful, faithful. If we do, we will reach the moment when faithful, faithful, faithful, faithful yields fruit. This is what was happening to the Roman Christians. They were faithful and by obediently following through on their faith, fruit was the result. The principle has not changed, in whatever our pursuit, people notice and celebrate fruit.

Today, most people, Christians and non-Christians, pursue life without faith. Their direction is based on whim and the flow of life. They seek but do not find because they seek amiss, if they even seek anything at all. Instead of the phrase faithful, faithful, faithful, faithful yields fruit describing their life, they live by whatever, whatever, whatever, whatever, hoping for a pleasant surprise and what they get is endless trouble and heart ache. What a contrast between faithful leading to fruit and whatever, leading to trouble.

Say to the righteous that it shall be well with them, For they shall eat the fruit of their doings. Isaiah 3:10 (NKJV)

What does this mean for us as men and women of prayer? How can we translate this into effective fervent prayer? We can and should be about our Father's business. The Father's business is about people and their salvation. We are members of the family not just in name, but also in power and might, and so, our part, being sons and daughters of the owner, is to work the business. Daily we should walk, talk, act, and pray by faith to work for salvation for people; this is the business. Jesus as our example worked in His Father's business and continues to work today.

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. John 6:38 (NKJV)

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." John 4:34-38 (NKJV)

There are many things we do as members of the family business. There is a wide range of work that must be done and ways to accomplish all the things God has set for us to do. It is not a matter of

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who gets to do what, but that all things are being done for the completion of the job. Paul and the Romans were big names, well known to all down through the centuries, but still today, God is looking for men and women who will do the work of the business.

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:6-9 (NKJV)

While there are many things for people to do and each and everything needs to be done, please note that we cannot do the business a greater service than to pray. It is by prayer that the success of the business is brought to play day-by-day. The faith of the Christians at Rome was spoken of throughout the world because they prayed. They brought about the power and might of Jesus Christ in the work of the family business. By these prayers there was a reaching into the life of men and women for salvation and a furtherance of the work further around the world. So how about us, will we pray?

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for the Lost. Pray for ministries reaching out to the lost. Pray for the work of people willing to share the Gospel with people. Pray for opportunities for sharing. Pray for soft hearts willing to receive the Gospel message.

From Pastor Daniel Thank you for your prayers. I appreciate them.

As I arrived in Kathmandu, surprise was waiting me. Our church is 3.9Km away from ring road and on the side of dirt road, but important one. And we are not immediately connected with road, our property is around 15 meters off the road, it was little cheaper than the land connected to road. When we purchased property we gave advance money for 15x6 meter plot for the motor road connecting our property to the road. We gave to the person has been joint heir of the ownership, but we have learned that the advance money we have given had already taken his lot from property in another place and has no right though we have paper work. Ever since we have learned this we have been searching this man who is disappeared and now that land is sold and that dirt road is going to be constructed further the electricity board's substation is going to be built by Asian Development Bank, next to our property. They will put up a wall and our way to church will be squeezed to 2 feet wide and that will be very difficult to walk in to church. Now there are two options for us either to buy whole property of 60X20 Meter in front of our property towards the road that will cost us 55,00000 (US \$68,750) or buy 15X6Meter piece of land for the road for us which costs 12,50,000 (US \$15,625). At this point we opt for the second option.

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Please pray for our financial need to acquire that piece of land. We have to make deal very soon for the walling up from the electricity board and road construction is taking place further more this built ups makes raise of the price of land. You are always in our prayers.

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
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 a 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 a 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 a 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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