

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of May 10, 2009

***Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart!***

Psalm 119:2 (NKJV)

## **The Life of Prayer**

### **A Tapestry of Prayer**

David Williamson

A wooden spool, four nails, a knitting needle, and scraps of yarn, these are the requirements for hours of fun. I freely admit it was a different time. Things were much simpler and electronics were new and still not fully a part of everyday life. The new thing was the transistor radio. We had enjoyed radio before, but they were big bulky things that you would not think of carrying around with you. They set on a table and some of them were even floor models, the size of a small refrigerator. These new transistor radios were so small and they were portable. It was amazing to hear the sound you could get from a box about the size of a sandwich. So I would admit that this was a simple time, especially if you can get excited about a transistor radio. However, one source of hours of fun, before computer games, and the fun things we have today, was the knitwit.

The knitwit was very simple to make. Take a wooden spool, put four nails in the top, bring your yarn up through the hole in the middle of the spool, wrap the yarn around each of the nails and begin. It was easy and anyone could do it, just take a knitting needle, wrap the yarn, pull the previous loop over the nail, and repeat on the next nail. Soon out of the bottom of the spool, you would see coil of knit material. Some kids would make little things with the material they produced, but mostly they just made a long string of material. It was fun, but not very useful or beautiful.

By contrast, in many of the places where readers of *Voice of Thanksgiving* live, there are people who make beautiful tapestries. Their skill and artistry is amazing; with just thread or yarn they can make beautiful works of art. Tapestries from some of these regions are famous, collected, and prized by people world wide. There is great beauty created in taking a few threads and intertwining them in a pattern. Many of the skills for making tapestries have been handed down from generation to generation. An early account of great skills of this type is recorded in the Bible. The craftsmen, Bezalel, Aholiab and the others, made the furniture, clothes, and tools for the Tabernacle.

***Then all the gifted artisans among them who worked on the tabernacle made ten curtains woven of fine linen, and of blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim they made them.*** Exodus 36:8 (NKJV)

Tapestry is beautiful and those done for the Tabernacle must have been a wonderful sight to see. Tapestry is also a great picture of the beauty of interwoven threads in other things, such as in an

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effective prayer life. One of the most important lessons for Christians to learn and master, today, is prayer. Not just prayer, but prayer as exemplified by Jesus, effective, powerful, prayer that avails much. Too few people pray and too much of what is called prayer lacks power, force, faith, and results. What is needed is to learn two things, how to pray and to pray.

Learning how to pray is not just learning the practices of prayer. We do not know how to pray because we limit our relationship with God. Prayer requires relationship, without it we have nothing, but words floating off into nothingness. With relationship we have opportunity for faith, faithfulness, and the results can be great and powerful answers from God. The key is relationship.

Relationship must be sought; it does not come without effort. First and foremost to have relationship with God we must be born again. There is no way to have access to the Father, but by believe in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We must confess and believe that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the grave. It is only with salvation, through Christ, that we can be forgiven of our sins and come into the presence of God. This is the beginning of relationship and opens the opportunity for prayer.

***that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***

Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV)

The second requirement for building relationship is spending time with God. Relationships develop and grow. They take time to mature and deepen. God does not change, His view, ideas, plans, and nature are eternal, but we must come to know them and Him. Spending time with God is like peeling back the skin of a fruit; only when we have removed the outer cover do we see the prize that we long to eat. With God there is nothing to remove, but if He was to reveal Himself fully to us all at once it would destroy us He is too good, powerful, and mighty for us to handle. Remember that He only revealed to Moses a little of Himself, and then regularly met with Moses in the tent. Today God wants to spend time with us so He can reveal more and more of His nature to us. As we spend time with Him we build relationship.

The third requirement for building relationship is to know God. This seems redundant, but it is important that we know the nature of God; this helps us to know Him. Over the centuries He has revealed Himself mankind. He did to Moses on the mountain and He has continued to make known more of who He is. There have been many revelations. Moses received, "I AM WHO I AM" the eternal God. Jesus revealed God as "Father", our Father. We must come to know God, and all He has revealed to us. This includes His nature, His faithfulness and His promises.

***And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "*** Exodus 3:14 (NKJV)

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The fourth requirement for building relationship is to know who we are. We are a new creation in Christ. We are not the people we once were and we need to know what this means. An understanding of our new nature, its values and rights, makes us walk different from those who do not have this new nature and different from those who have this new nature, but do not know who they are in Christ. As Jesus walked on this earth, in relationship with the Father and in power, so we are to walk. Too often we limit our relationship and our prayers because we do not know who we are or the power of our position in Christ.

The second part of the tapestry of prayer is learning to pray. The vertical threads in our tapestry are relationship with God. The horizontal threads are love. We do not pray because we limit our love of people. The God we serve, loves. He gave Jesus while we were sinners, to save us from our sins; now that is love. Too often we do not have this unlimited love for man. We limit our love to those we choose to love, we love when we are loved, and we withhold our love when we are threatened or something does not fit into our ideas of how things should be. The result of this is few prayers, weak prayers, and a general failure of our prayer life.

***Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*** 1 John 4:7-11 (NKJV)

***If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.***  
1 John 4:20-21 (NKJV)

To make a fine tapestry of prayer we must have both the vertical and the horizontal. Having relationship with God and love for man we can have effective prayer. There are many lessons to learn and learn must if we are going to be successful in prayer. God is looking for craftsmen of prayer who can make a beautiful tapestry of prayer; one that will touch the nations and individual people with the Gospel. Will you learn how to pray, building a relationship, deep and rich, with the Father? Will you learn to pray, giving of yourself in prayer, loving men and women in need of a touch of God?

***But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.***  
1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

*Let us Pray!*

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## A Call for Prayer

**Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem** Pray for protection and safety for the Jewish people.

**Pray for Nepal.** Pray for continued opportunities for the Gospel to be preached across this nation. Pray that forces that would stop preaching would be stopped themselves.

*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. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

1 Tim. 2:1-4 (NKJV)

**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.

**Pray for David, Marianne, and Sarah Dean.** Pray for knowledge and understanding for the new parents. Pray for adjustments to schedules and roles in ministry. Join with the Dean's in asking the Lord to bring 20 younger students to Christ this spring, who will join the campus fellowship group (there have been four already). Pray for the Christian students who are graduating this spring and transitioning to the working world.

## Basic Prayer Focus

Remember to be always in prayer for the following:

**For Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem**

**For the reaching of souls from every nation**

**For governments of your country and other countries to be open to the Gospel**

**For your home Church and the people of the church and community**

## Continuing Faithful in Prayer

Remember to be in prayer for these ministers and ministries. Ask the Holy Spirit to each week guide and direct the specifics of 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

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**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*

## *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.

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