

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of November 8, 2009

“David Brainerd was pursued by unearthly adversaries, who were resolved to rob him of his guerdon. He knew he must never quit his armour, but lie down to rest, with his corselet laced. The stains that marred the perfection of his lustrous dress, the spots of rust on his gleaming shield, are imperceptible to us; but they were, to him, the source of much sorrow and arduousness of yearning.”

From the *Life of David Brainerd*

The Life of Prayer

The Old Barn

David Williamson

The snow drifts, fueled by 50 mile an hour winds, were 20 feet deep in places. Sub zero temperatures continued for several days. People froze to death in their homes. Hundreds of people were stranded and had to wait for the storm to pass with people who kindly opened their homes to those desperate for a place to stay. This was the Blizzard of '49. Actually the winter of 1948 and 49 had several blizzards. November 18 and 19 of 1948 most of northern Colorado suffered under the grip of a massive blizzard. By Thanksgiving most of the snow had melted and December was warmer than usual. Early on January 2, 1949 and continuing for three days was the worst blizzard to hit Colorado since 1888.

In 1945 my Grandpa went to work for Consumers Oil Company driving a propane truck. He delivered propane to a wide area of northern Colorado, mostly to farmers. He had struggled through the blizzard in November of '48 working to get propane to tanks his record indicated they would be low. However, his stories of what happened in January are incredible. Once again he knew that several farms would soon be low on propane, so he joined with the county road crews working to cut lanes through the snow drifts and they began going to farm houses. They would cut their way through, taking some supplies and propane to grateful farm families.

At one farm the family was grateful for the help, and asked for help to get to his barn. He had tried to maintain a clear path, but could not keep up with the wind blown snow. Between his house and the barn there were drifts 12 feet high. They cut a path with the heavy road equipment. As they got close they could hear the cows bellowing. When they opened the doors all they saw was a wall of snow. They went around to the back of the barn to opening of the loft. The cattle were all at this level. As the snow had blown into the barn the cows had packed it down and they were now at this second level. The barn had protected these cows through the blizzard.

A good barn is important to a farmer, protection for his cattle, a workplace, and a storage place for tools and feed. Part of the value of the barn is protection from the wind and keeping the cattle warm. Filling a barn with heat takes a lot of work. You can fire up a heater, but this can be very

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

expensive and on the plains of Colorado, most barns do not have heaters. Most of the heat is from the cows and it takes the effort of a lot of cows. Little by little the heat from the cows will fill a barn with enough heat to protect them from the cold of a night or a storm. Prayer is much like a barn.

Prayer is God's provision for dealing with the conditions and elements around us. We live in a challenging world and face many difficulties. There is much to hinder our faith and work, to steal our strength and provision, and destroy of our life. However, like a barn, prayer is a tool for bringing God's life and provision to our life and the life of our neighbors. At times answers to prayers come quickly and with thankfulness we receive from God. Other prayers take longer to receive the answer.

Few people take up God's call to pray. Sure in a moment of disaster people may cry out, but the number of people who truly pray, expecting to be heard by God and have Him answer their prayers is surprisingly small. This is sad, as there is great power available to them in prayer, if they would seek God and learn to pray. Of the people who do pray, many struggle with slow or seemingly delayed answers to prayer. It takes great patience and endurance to continue in faith. Difficult as it may be this is what is needed today; men and women of prayer, who will not quit until they receive an answer from God.

It is the secret of power and life not only for ourselves, but for others, for the Church, and for the world. It is to prayer that God has given the right to take hold of Him and His strength. It is on prayer that the promises wait for their fulfillment, the kingdom waits for its coming, and the glory of God waits for its full revelation. How slothful and unfit we are for this blessed work.

From *With Christ in the School of Prayer* by Andrew Murray

Taking hold of God and His strength is the most desperately needed commodity in the world today. We do this by prayer. Prayer is by faith and by faith we fill a prayer bowl for the area of need or concern. In my example, this is filling the barn a prayer at a time. For a prayer to help fill the barn it must be prayed in and filled with faith.

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. Revelations 5:8 (NKJV)

Barns come in many sizes. Some are so big you could play football or soccer inside. Others are little more than the size of a shed. Obviously it is easier to fill a small shed size barn than a massive mall size barn. Some prayer assignments are shed size, others present more colossal demands. Regardless of the size, filling a prayer barn requires faith. We must know that our Father hears our prayer and listen and we must also believe that He answers prayer.

Rees Howells asked an important question when he and millions of other people from Great Britain prayed concerning the battle of Britain. The question, "What if millions prayed, but no one

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

believed?" Prayer without faith is better than not, at least if you pray you will be busy and cannot get in trouble. However, without faith prayer is just talk. The first key to success in prayer is praying in faith. There is no substitute for faith and regardless of the size of the need the answer comes only by faith.

The second key to success in prayer is continuing in faith until the answer is manifest. The highest form of prayer is praying for others. In praying for other people we must pray in faith and often must continue in our prayer and stance of faith, sometimes for a long time. The bigger the barn the tougher it is to continue in faith. The world, our flesh, sin, hindrances, all tailored made to try to stop our faith.

When you want to heat a barn the first step is to get the cattle inside and then close the door. Keeping the door closed is important; the warming effect is ruined when the door opens. Every time you open the door heat escapes and cold comes in. If you close the door quickly you might not have to start the process over, but you will have to overcome the loss of heat. When we pray and then continue in faith, we must keep the door closed on sin, must keep our mouth closed to bad confession, we must close the door to all actions that obstruct faith.

Perseverance can be the toughest thing we have to do in prayer. It is hard to not say or do a faith wrecking thing. We must wait for the answers by faith. We must put on the helmet of salvation and using the word of God, pray and then continue in faith. Then we must have self-control from those things designed to ruin our faith. Then we will see the barn, large or small, filled by prayer. We will see the prayer bowl full and ready for God to pour out His power, strength, and answers.

But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Romans 8:25 (NKJV)

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- Ephesians 6:17-18 (NKJV)

to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:6-8 (NKJV)

Let us Pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Pastor Charles, the Wyola Baptist Church, and the Crow Indians in Montana

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Pastor Mark Spencer sent out this letter on Tuesday, July 28, 2009: ...To our dear Christians friends and faithful brethren scattered throughout the world... Having just returned from meetings with our dear Christian brethren on the Crow Reservation in Montana, it has come to my attention that the entire tribe is under unusual spiritual attack. Since February, on the average of 2 tragic deaths have been occurring weekly and many of these deaths have been among their youth. This must stop. We must pray for this spiritual stronghold may be broken and that the Lord will have an opportunity to use these horrible circumstances to bring many of the Crow to Christ as well as spark revival among their churches.

Pastor Charles has been having problems with his heart, this is a carry-over of the same attack and we must pray and continue in faith.

Continue Faithful in Prayer

Please pray; your faithful prayers change situations, remove hindrances, and empower ministry

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

Joyce Abrahamson – Head of a Christian 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 – Bishop of Poland and co-founder and leader of the 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 (Bill) Williamson – Pastor of a church in Cedaredge, Colorado

Charles and Janice Wilson – Pastors in Wyola, Montana

David Williamson – Writer and editor of *Voice of Thanksgiving*

Calling Christians to Effective Fervent Prayer

Voice of Thanksgiving is sent by email to subscribers and posted on the *Voice of Thanksgiving* website www.voiceofthanksgiving.com. You may reprint and or reproduce *Voice of Thanksgiving* in any fashion, provided the article and quotes are used in context as written. For questions or other inquiries, contact writer/editor David Williamson at david@voiceofthanksgiving.com

To receive your weekly copy of *Voice of Thanksgiving* send an email to david@voiceofthanksgiving.com Please write **subscribe** in the subject line.