

# *Voice of Thanksgiving*

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of December 6, 2009

Let me burn out for God. After all, whatever God may appoint prayer is the great thing. Oh that I may be a man of prayer.—Henry Martyn

## ***The Life of Prayer***

### **It's Not My Fault**

David Williamson

I love to go camping with my good friend Mark. He is fun to be with and knowledgeable of camping, flowers, fauna and many other things. Beyond his skill and expertise as a camper, he is always prepared to deal with whatever comes up while camping. Let me give you an example, one time while camping with a group of young people, we hiked into a local wilderness area. The area was beautiful, the sky was deep blue and the high peaks seemed so close you could reach out and touch them. Everything seemed perfect however, being the good leader he was, when we stopped for a break, Mark asked how we were doing. Most of the people were fine, but then there were a couple of young people who when asked, noted a mild burning sensation on their feet.

As an experienced guide, Mark knew this could be a sign of trouble, so he began checking everyone's feet. Sure enough several young people had the beginnings of blisters. Mark knew what to do and was prepared. He treated the blisters and because of his diligence and preparation everyone was able to continue the trip without pain and suffering.

If we are going to respond to the call for effective prayer, we need to be prepared to be useful in prayer and ready for action. Effective prayer is by faith and whenever faith is involved there will be hindrances. Good preparation will deal with hindrances. Effective prayer brings answers from God and the Devil tries to fight against this. If we are going to be effective in prayer we must be prepared to fight and win.

One of the hindrances we all face is dealing with, what could be called, the blame game. This game has been a part of life from the very beginning of mankind. In the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve tried to put the blame on others. They said in effect, it was not my fault; he made me do it or she made me do it. Since that time, people have tried to put the blame on someone else for all their problems and sins. This blame game has grown to epidemic proportions at this time. People everywhere are pleased to throw blame on enemies and situations, anything or anyone, so they do not have to bear the blame themselves.

One of the most deadly results of playing the blame game is that it restricts receiving help. If you are not the problem, if someone else is always to blame, then you will not deal with the problem. In the world this is a concern. People are not working out solutions to problems, they just pass it off, and

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the problem is not fixed. In Christian life this is a more critical problem. The world does not have real answers to problems, but in the Christian life there are real and effective answers to problems. If we play the blame game and do not take ownership of our problems, then we do not receive the answers from God that we need. Simply put, if I do not have a problem, then the remedy prepared by God cannot work in my life. Throwing off blame is an issue in every area of Christian living. This is a big problem in prayer.

Prayer presents us with a problem, answers to prayer. It is true that in some circles this is not a problem because they either do not believe in prayer or that God answers prayers. For them there is no problem. However, for those who have taken God at His word and believe that God answers prayers, there is a problem. The problem is that there are prayers that are not answered.

One of the ways, the chief way, people deal with the problem of lack of answers is to blame others. And while the blame may be directed at people and situations, the real focus of blame is God. This is most unfortunate, because it unfairly blames God and takes the focus from the real problem. God has in the past answered prayers. His answers recorded in the Bible are eye opening and awe inspiring. If we believe the record of the Bible, we, in one form or another, think that this is how prayer should be. We have a need, we ask God for an answer, and He brings an answer that is better than we could imagine, perfect for meeting the need.

To blame God when we do not receive answers is foolish. God does not change and He still answers prayers. He is all powerful, full of love and mercy. He listens to prayer and is willing and able to answer. Blaming God denies His nature and the reality of the situation. Failure in obtaining answers to prayers is never God's fault. He is well able to bring answers today, just as He has done in Bible times. People have blamed God, but the problem with not receiving answers in prayer is with us. When we come to grips with this truth then we can make the changes we need to help us receive answers. We open the door for correcting the situation, the hindrances that have kept us from receiving from God.

Effective prayer comes from a right relationship with God in all He wants and requires. As we walk in this relationship and obedience to His command, as He reveals it to us, we can be assured of answers to prayers. When there is a blockage to answers, we need to let the Holy Spirit search us and reveal to us the areas where our walk has strayed or our obedience has lapsed. Correction puts us back in the place of receiving.

Daily answer to prayer is the proof of our spiritual maturity. It shows that we have attained the true abiding in Christ, and that our will is truly one with God's will. It also reveals that our faith is strong enough to see and take what God has prepared for us, that the name of Christ and His nature have taken full possession of us, and that we have been found fit to take a place among those whom God admits to His counsels—according to whose prayers He rules the world.

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Prayer is very blessed, but the answer is more blessed still. It is the response from the Father that shows that our prayers, our faith, and our wills are indeed as He wishes them to be.

I make these remarks with the one desire of leading you to accept the truth that when prayer is what it should be, or rather when we are what we should be, the answer must be expected.

Accepting this will bring us out from those refuges where we have comforted ourselves with unanswered prayer. It will show us the place of power to which Christ has appointed His church, that place which it occupies so little. It will reveal the terrible weakness of our spiritual life as the cause of our not praying boldly in Christ's name. It will urge us mightily to rise to a life in full union with Christ and in the fullness of the Spirit as the secret of effective prayer.

It will also lead us to realize our destiny: "And in that day...Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you...Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. *"Prayer that is really, spiritually, in union with Christ is always answered.*"

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

We can continue along the blame game or we can chose to seek corrections to the problem. We can come to Him and allow His working to changes us and make us whole, complete, holy, and filled with faith. Effective prayer comes to those who seek God. Our seeking must bring us to proof of our spiritual maturity in all things. We seek to abide in Christ, be one with God's will, strong in faith, praying in the name of Christ, being fully and utterly His.

*Let us Pray!*

## **A Call for Prayer**

**Pray for Marek Kaminski** – Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit over the nation of Poland. Pray for vision for the entire denomination he leads. "The Lord started to show me the things that I have to do for the ca. 220 churches. I want to fulfill the will of God - nothing less, nothing more". Pray for a new vehicle for Marek to use, "The van is worn out and I will need to change it. I cover many thousands of kilometers monthly". Pray for his family. "We need a lot of protection. We need good relationships for children and Ewa". Pray for help to finish his dissertation soon.

**Pray for Marianne and David Dean** – Pray for more men to be actively and regularly involved in the graduates and young professionals' fellowship. Pray for the upcoming service project Christmas program at local old folks home. Pray for wisdom in parenting for David and Marianne.

**Pray for Mark Spencer** – Pray that his three books, *A Portrait of Intercession*, *The Cry for Spiritual Reality* and *Surely God Will Do Me Good*, which have just gone to the publisher, may be used by the Lord for His purposes and glory.

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## 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

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## **A New Book on Effective Prayer**

The third volume of the book series *Prayer: A Force that Causes Change* is now available. The subtitle of this volume is *Faithful in Prayer*. For further information or to order your copy of this book or others in the series, go to the *Voice of Thanksgiving* website at [www.voiceofthanksgiving.com](http://www.voiceofthanksgiving.com)