

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of December 27, 2009

Prayer is the first thing, the second thing, the third thing necessary to a minister. Pray, then, my dear brother: pray, pray, pray. Edward Payson

## *The Life of Prayer*

### *The Exchange for Prayer*

David Williamson

One of the busiest days for merchants in the United States is the day after Christmas. On this day there are some specials to lure people into the stores, but most of the activity is the exchange of gifts. One recent survey claims that more than 60% of the people getting Christmas gifts from major department stores will exchange at least one item. Exchanging gifts has become a major event. People love to exchange something that is the wrong size, color, style, or just something they want to exchange.

The exchange has been a part of life as far back as there is record. For years people exchanged the things they have for the things they want or need. Now most of the exchanges are done by using money or credits for the goods. We also exchange other things; we exchange letters and notes, phone numbers, email addresses, and even greetings. Most exchanges take something of value and give it for something else of value. However, there is one exchange that is far different from all the others; people who have a great need exchange it for something of great value. This seems strange, but it is the basis for the greatest exchange program of all time. The exchange at the cross!

At the cross Jesus exchanged His life for our blessing. He died on the cross so we could make an exchange and have life. Everyone has sinned and so all are rightfully due death. Jesus took our penalty, on Himself. In this exchange Jesus paid the penalty in full and we receive the blessing of forgiveness and much more. Deuteronomy 28 describes the blessing of God. It includes blessings in every area of life and ministry. This chapter also describes the curse. This is all-inclusive as well. The blessings and the curses are presented as a choice. We can choose to receive the blessings. He took the penalty that was due to come on us, so that we might receive all of God's blessings.

***All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*** Isaiah 53:6 (NKJV)

***Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*** Galatians 3:13-14 (NKJV)

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We know about this wonderful exchange. Our salvation is based on this exchange. Jesus died our death so we could have life. By faith we receive His blessing. One of our long term activities is to receive and walk in all of the blessings Jesus has given us. Included in these blessings is an exchange made for prayer.

To be like Jesus is our goal in prayer. The disciples saw this as something special in the life of this special man. They came and asked Him to teach them to pray. He taught them at that time and throughout the rest of His time before His crucifixion. He is the best teacher they could have and best for us as well. Jesus was and is the man of prayer; God heard and answered His prayers. His promises concerning prayer are some of the greatest promises of the Bible. Faithfully standing on these promises is the basis for effective prayer that avails much. When He teaches that we can have whatever we ask, that is a great promise.

***Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." John 11:41-42 (NKJV)***

***And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:13-14 (NKJV)***

***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)***

His promises are made good through the exchange. In the Garden of Gethsemane the champion of our faith and prayers did not receive the answer He sought. His request was, to not have to go to the cross; the cross held a horrible death and separation from God. Jesus was soon to taste the bitter cup of death and the wrath of God against sin and He asked to not have to go through this death.

***He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." Matthew 26:39 (NKJV)***

Instead of getting the answer to His prayer, Jesus surrendered His will to the will of the Father. Jesus did not receive the answer He wanted; He willingly went to the cross. He made the exchange taking the curse and giving the blessings. He gave up the answer to His prayer, so we can receive the answers we need.

We can pray and be effective in prayer because of the exchange at the cross. Just like the other parts of the exchange, Jesus gave up the answer He longed for, so we could have success in our prayers.

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Because of the exchange, the possibilities in prayer are great. Andrews Murray wrote, “By His submittal at Gethsemane, Jesus secured for His people the right to say to them, “Ask what you desire.”” We can walk in boldness of answers to our prayers, knowing that Jesus has prepared the way for us and has made our way possible. We can boldly come with our prayers, knowing the exchange has been made.

*Let us pray!*

## **A Call for Prayer**

**Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem** Pray for the Jewish people and their homeland. Pray for peace that comes through knowing the Messiah. Pray for hearts to be softened so when He is revealed, they will receive Him. Pray for understanding and wisdom so they will respond to His gift of salvation and life.

**Pray for Pastor Daniel in Nepal** – Pray for the World School of Evangelism. Pastor Daniel reports that students from previous classes are actively involved in ministry. They have planted 3 new churches and working to plant more. He ask for prayer for the school, student, and for the costs of the school, 12 months of school costs USD \$7500.

**Pray for David and Marianne Dean** Pray for David and Marianne for the finances for their ministry and family.

**Pray for Joyce Abrahamson** Pray for the students in her school in Brazil. Pray for their spiritual growth toward salvation in Christ Jesus and for their physical needs, food, shelter, and protection. Pray also for the financial needs of the school.

**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.

**Pray for opening the doors of ministry of the Word of God.** In all our ministries, personal and corporate, we have areas that are closed to the Gospel. Pray for the doors to be opened to the Gospel message and its delivery and acceptance.

## **Continue Faithful in Prayer**

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

**Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem**

**Joyce Abrahamson** – Head of a Christian school in Brazil

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**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)