

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of January 24, 2010

What the Church needs to-day is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men—men of prayer.

From *Power in Prayer* by E. M. Bounds

## *The Life of Prayer*

### *Trust*

David Williamson

There was famine in the land. These were scary words in Abraham's time. There was little to protect people in a time of famine. If there was no food in the land, there was no back-up or alternative plans and without food, people starve. In the book of Genesis we read of several times of famine. The people faced death square in the eye and had to do something or die. Abraham went with his family to Egypt. In the time of Isaac, his son, there was another famine and Isaac planned to go to Egypt as his father had done. People had to eat and there was food in Egypt. Isaac planned to go to Egypt, but God said no. Isaac broke with tradition and he trusted God.

***There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar. Then the Lord appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.***

Genesis 26:1-3 (NKJV)

***Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him.*** Genesis 26:12 (NKJV)

Isaac faced many trials along the way. His willingness to trust and obey brought blessings and even with the blessings came challenges. Abimelech (a local ruler) became jealous of Isaac and force Isaac to travel further. Don't you know this was an opportunity for people to question Isaac's leadership and the choices he made! Notice some of the other times of blessings and the many trials of this story. In a time of famine you must have water and to dig a well is one thing, but to have the well "come in" (to have water in the well) is a blessing from God. Isaac dug a well and found water; this is being blessed by God. However, the people of that area took the well from Isaac, this is a trial.

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Don't you know that after they dug the first well and were forced to leave, that people were murmuring, "You should have gone to Egypt like Abraham did". The thought probably even crossed Isaac's mind a few times. But imagine for a moment what it must have been like, the cries of the people, after the second well came in and once again they were forced to leave again. "You should have gone to Egypt like Abraham did!" "You should have followed tradition, it is the only way!" But Isaac continued to trust God; move on and dug another well. Call him stubborn, call him obstinate, maybe, but be sure to call him faithful. He dug another successful well and he was able to stay in this place and live.

***And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, "For now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land." Genesis 26:22 (NKJV)***

Last week we looked at a couple of key words from some verses in the book of Mark. These key words are doubt and believe. These words are central to having faith and effective prayer. They are so important they warrant further study. The conflict of Christian life is the dealing with these two contrasting words. The world, our flesh, traditions, emotions, our will, and sin all fight for a victory by causing doubt. Life in Christ Jesus is a victory of believe over doubt. The battle continues to rage, the forces of doubt fight on, even in the face of defeat at the cross. The rally cry is ignorance, confusion, deceit, lies, and indifference. With these, the battle can continue, people do not know or appropriate the victory of Christ Jesus and continue to fight and often lose to doubt.

In the War of 1812 the Americans lost nearly all of the battles, but due to changes in world situations and politics, they were able to reach a treaty with England ending the war. This treaty was signed in December of 1814. In January of 1815, the Americans won a great victory at New Orleans. This battle was fought because people did not know the war was over. Communication of the peace treaty would not reach America for a few more days.

The situation today is similar. Instead of a peace treaty, Jesus won a full and complete victory, but people still act as though they don't know of this victory and so they fight on. Doubt has been completely defeated; there is no reason for us to doubt any more. However, doubt and its supporters, still rule in many places, minds, and hearts. In many locals and situations there continues to be a pitched battle. As Christians, we should be walking in the victory and telling others of the war and its outcome. Read Jesus' declaration of victory over doubt that is available to us.

***So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Mark 11:22-24 (NKJV)***

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This is complete victory of believe over doubt. There is no need to doubt, unfortunately the struggle continues. One of the important battle fields of this conflict is what Isaac faced in the time of famine and what millions face today. It is a simple word, but one with breathtaking implications, trust. As we saw last week, one of the definitions of the word believe, as written used in these verses from Mark, means to trust. Every day we deal with trust issues at many different levels. Trust issues reflect on believing, our faith, our Christian walk, and success in prayer.

As Christians we claim to trust Jesus. We claim to have made Him Lord over our life, turning control of our life to Him and trusting Him with our eternal destiny. This trust is by faith. We have great and enduring confidence in this trust and it is right and reasonable to have this trust. God has promised, concerning salvation, great things and we can trust Him to be faithful and true to His word.

The problem, for many people, is when we explore trust beyond just the areas of salvation. It is the same God, in the same Bible. He makes great promises about other things, but we struggle with trust. This struggle is found in trusting Him for provision, healing, deliverance, prosperity, peace or even answer to prayers. We have trust in Him for salvation, but do not trust Him for these other things or for answer to prayers. We make excuses, we explain away things, and we limit our faith. In other words, we do not trust God in these areas.

Examine your life and beliefs today. Do you trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Is this trust, the belief of your heart? Is this trust demonstrated in your actions and talk? If He is not Lord, today is a great time to make Him Lord.

***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)

Once this is settled, then check other areas of your life. Have you entrusted Jesus with your finances, health, provision, job, and family? And of great importance to the focus of this newsletter, have you entrusted Jesus with your prayer life and answers to your prayers? He claims to answer prayers; does He answer your prayers? Do you have confidence in answers to your prayers because you have entrusted to Him your prayer life and prayers?

***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)

*Let us pray!*

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## **A Call for Prayer**

**William Williamson** – Pray for his trip to India, Bill is a pastor in Western Colorado, is returning to India, where he and other people from his church and others have had a great work of God among pastors and people of India. The seminars they lead are very popular and productive for train pastors and workers to reach people in several areas of India. Pray for these meetings, the attendees, and the team going to India.

**DK Limbu Daniel** – Pray for the people of Nepal, there are many areas for prayers. On the practical side there is the difficulty of living, many nights the temperature goes below zero and more than 100 people have died from the cold. Pray for provision for people to deal with the cold nights.

Pray also for the Nation of Nepal. The United Maoist Party was once in power, now it sponsors nationwide strikes. This disruption is hard on the nation and is also an attempt to disrupt or stop the move of God. This makes it difficult to have meetings and training schools. It is hard for travel and for daily living. Pray for the power of God to intervene in the Maoist programs, allowing life to continue and more importantly, the move of God in Nepal to continue and grow. God is doing great things and we must pray for this to continue and expand.

**Churches in Belarus**- Please pray for the churches in this Eastern European country. Pray for them to stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. Pray for opportunities for the spread of the Gospel and for revival to come to this nation.

## **Continue Faithful in Prayer**

Continue to pray for the ministries listed here and use this as a spring board for praying for nations, church, pastors, ministries, and people close to your heart and according to the Spirit's direction. Your faithful prayers make a difference!

### **Pray for Nations and the Churches of Nations**

Israel and the peace of Jerusalem  
Churches in Belarus  
Churches in Lithuania

### **Pray for Pastors of Churches**

DK Limbu Daniel – Pastor of a church in Nepal  
Jacek Gromadzki – Pastor of a church in Kolobrzeg, Poland  
Mark and Patty Spencer – Pastor of a church in Longmont, Colorado  
William (Bill) Williamson – Pastor of a church in Cedaredge, Colorado  
Charles and Janice Wilson – Pastors in Wyola, Montana

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## Pray for Leadership over multiple Churches

DK Limbu Daniel – Church planter among Nepalese people

Marek Kaminski – Bishop of Poland and co-founder and leader of the BBB Conference

## Pray for Christian Ministries

Joyce Abrahamson – Head of a Christian school in Brazil

John Coon – Ministry in Europe and the USA

Marianne and David Dean – Missionaries on college campuses in East Asia

Lori Farquhar – Children’s Ministry Director

Bernd and Heike Pastor – Ministry in Germany

Mark Spencer – Worldwide ministry, and co-founder and leader of BBB Conference

Patty Spencer – Worship leader, and musician

William (Bill) Williamson – Leader of a mission outreach to India

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

## Calling Christians to Effective Fervent Prayer

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✓ Books on Effective Prayer:

*Prayer: A Force that Causes Change*

VOLUME 1 – A CALL TO PRAYER

VOLUME 3 – FAITHFUL IN PRAYER

VOLUME 2 – A LIFE OF PRAYER

VOLUME 4 – EFFECTIVE PRAYER (SPRING OF 2010)

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