

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of January 31, 2010

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.
Rev. 3:20-21 (NKJV)

The prayer closet is the arena which produces the overcomer.

From *Destined for the Throne* by Paul Billheimer

The Life of Prayer

Cruising

David Williamson

It is fun to be famous and Longmont was famous for a time. In the late 1960s there was a phenomenon in Longmont that was recognized in national magazines and people from as far away as Texas were coming to this quiet little town of 1500 people. People came on Friday nights, there was no set organization, and it truly was a “grassroots” activity. There were no set rules and anyone could take part. It was fun to do and fun to watch. The activity, people would come to Longmont to cruise in their cars up and down Main Street.

Cruising was to drive you car real slow and show off your paint, chrome, engine power, or just to be seen and see other people. It was great fun. First and foremost there were lots of wonderful cars. A national magazine ranked Longmont as one of the best places to go on a Friday night to look at cars. I know of people who came from Denver every Friday night to see the cars and of a man who came from Texas while on vacation to see the show. In a town where there was “nothing to do” cruising Main Street was the thing to do!

There were old cars and new cars, rebuilt and modified cars. Many of the cars had new engines, often with far more horsepower than when the car was new. The paint jobs were works of art and there was so much shining chrome flashing like a signal beacon to one and all, come and see the great cars. There also was great “people watching”. People would drive to Longmont, make a pass or two up the street and park in one of the lots along the street and just watch as cars and people go by. It was better than a parade. It was the place to see people, met people, and a great place for a date. This was cruising in Longmont.

Cruising is a word that has many meanings and has in some circles in recent years taken on a negative connotation. There was enough trouble with fights and drug problems that Longmont has an ordinance banning cruising on Main Street. However, the term is still valid and clearly portrays a way of doing things. To cruise is to travel about for pleasure or reconnaissance. It is to move

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leisurely about an area in the hope of discovering something. It is to go or move along in an unhurried or unconcerned fashion. And for watching cars and people this is okay, but for prayer cruising is deadly.

Cruising in prayer is a disaster happening or waiting to happen. In the Christian life we must be going forward or we are falling back. Prayer is seeking God and His will with our whole heart. When we cruise in prayer we are not seeking, prayer becomes a religious ritual and loses its power.

The first definition of cruising is to travel for pleasure or just to see what you can see. This is a common practice in Christianity. Christianity becomes just another part of making life comfortable. It is walking through life just seeing what comes to us and hoping to minimize uncomfortable situations. Cruising as defined here causes prayer to be minimized. Prayer, with this view, is only a tool for adding to the pleasures of life. For many people, the perceived cost of learning and practicing prayer outweighs the benefits, so most people do not pray.

The second definition of cruising is to move leisurely about an area in hope of discovering something. Cruising in this way is waiting for something good to happen. It is like waiting to win the lottery, without even buying a lottery ticket. It is hoping to have the secret to prayer handed to them. They think that if this secret is given to them, then they will be powerful in prayer. However, in this view they will not even seek the secret. They leisurely walk about, trusting the secret will fall into their lap.

The third definition of cruising is to move in an unhurried or unconcerned fashion. Christianity and by extension prayer, has two key principles. First it is relationship with God and man, second it is recognition of and reaction to the overwhelming importance of the message. Cruising is moving through life unhurried and unconcerned about these two great principles.

Life in cruise mode is not concerned with relationship with God, unhurried and unconcerned with fighting through the hindrances to faith and trust. It fails to recognize the benefits of a close, maturing relationship and allows self, emotions, wants, worldliness, and the Devil to guide and direct their life; limiting their life, usefulness, and effectiveness in prayer.

Life in the cruise mode is unhurried and unconcerned about the Gospel message. Since it is of no great importance to them, it is not important for them to be seeking, the hearing and acceptance of the message by others. The cruise life fails to listen and hear that Hell is real and many people are going, and more importantly, many people are going who need not go. The cruise life does not seek to do something about this situation, it is unhurried (if an opportunity comes I may say or do something) and unconcerned (it is not my problem and I cannot do anything about it).

I know that none of us would ever be guilty of walking in cruise mode. We are seeking blessings, we are not waiting for something to happen, and we are concerned about people and eventualities. But, like dust that clings to our clothes or mildew seeking a place to grow, cruising is a threat to one and

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all. It is easy to cross over from diligence to diversion. It is easy to shift from working to waiting. It is easy to move from concern to complacency.

If you are concerned, let the Holy Spirit search you, your life and practices. Let Him reveal to you places and times where you have shifted into cruise. A life of prayer, a life of effective prayer that avails much, is something we should be seeking. It is a life of power and wonderful answers, just what people and nations need. We cannot slip into cruise mode and be effectual in prayer.

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the Lord, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.
Hosea 10:12 (NKJV)

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

I cannot get away from these requests for prayer. They continue to draw my attention and I feel we must continue to be faithful in prayer at this time. So I list these request again, please read and pray.

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.

William Williamson – Pray for his trip to India, Bill is a pastor in Western Colorado, who is returning to India; where there is a work of God among both pastors and people of India.

DK Limbu Daniel –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.

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Continue Faithful in Prayer

Continue to pray for the ministries listed here and use this as a spring board for praying for nations, churches, 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 – Pastors of a church in Longmont, Colorado
William (Bill) Williamson – Pastor of a church in Cedaredge, Colorado
Charles and Janice Wilson – Pastors in Wyola, Montana

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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