

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of February 7, 2010

The cause of God has no commercial age, no cultured age, no age of education, no age of money. But it has one golden age, and that is the age of prayer. When its leaders are men of prayer, when prayer is the prevailing element of worship, like the incense giving continual fragrance to its service, then the cause of God will be triumphant. E. M. Bounds from *Purpose in Prayer*

## *The Life of Prayer*

### *Humble*

David Williamson

In 2000, there was a very popular movie in theaters, *Remember the Titans*. At first glance it seemed to be a football movie; most of the characters are member of the team, coaches, or parents of team members. The movie became very popular because it was more than a football movie; it was the story of people dealing with race relations. The movie is about the football team of a school that is desegregated in 1971 and the struggles of the team, school and community to deal with racial tensions, stereotypes, and conflicts between people.

The movie takes liberties with some of the facts, but is based on a true story. The Titans football team wins all of its games, reaching the State Championship game. At halftime the team is in the locker room. The game is not going well and it looks as though they will lose this last game of the season. The reason I mention this movie is due to a line from that locker room scene. The coaches, one a great black coach and the other a Hall of Fame candidate, white coach have worked together all year, but they have been like two separate teams, one offence and the other defense. Finally, the one coach comes to the other in front of the team and says, "I sure could use some help." The team comes together as one, the defense helping the offence and offense helping the defense, coaches helping each other. The team comes out and wins the game on the last play.

The basics of prayer are faith and belief, without faith and with out believing that God listens, cares, and answers, we cannot have success in prayer. However, as is true in many activities, there are preliminaries that must be done before the activity can begin. When I coached football the basics of learning to play and play well, was blocking, tackling, running, and throwing. Every year, every team began with these basics. However, before you could begin the basics there were requirements. Each young man had to have a physical exam to certify that he was healthy enough to play. Each young man had to complete all of the paperwork and pay his fees to play. No student, regardless of how good he was, could participate in a single practice until all these requirements were done.

The Christian life is the same, we are saved by faith. We must believe that Jesus is the Christ sent by God to die in our place and that He rose from the dead. We must confess with our mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead. The person who does this is saved. However, before the faith acts of the heart and mouth there are preliminary requirements.

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Some of you may be concerned that I am adding some requirement to being saved. You know that salvation is by faith alone. Anyone who tries to add to the Gospel is in error! I agree with you fully. That being said, I must finish what I am saying, please listen carefully. There is something very important that must happen to a person before they can confess and believe.

In the movie one of the coaches said, "I sure could use some help." He humbled himself and came to the team and the other coach and asked for help. For a person to be saved he or she must recognize he or she needs help and then cry out for help. Many people are passing through life today, they are not getting saved, nor are they seeking to be saved, because they do not think they need help. The preliminary to getting saved is coming to the point of, "I sure could use some help."

For some people this is a conscious decision, for others it flies past them so fast they do not take notice, but everyone who seek salvation in Christ Jesus is asking for help. The proud do not need help, the self-sufficient do not need help, the strong in them selves, do not need help, they see things as if there is nothing really wrong with me, I do not need help. Until people humble themselves and seek God's help, they will not be saved.

One of the most important prayers we can pray for people is that they will come to the point of humbly seeking help. Those people who are seeking help are on their way to finding help. To the person who knows they need help and is seeking it, the Gospel message is good news and easily received. Your prayers are so important in this matter; it is by prayer that people come to recognize they have a need, and seek help. It is by prayer that the people seeking come in contact with people sharing the Gospel. It is by prayer that people sharing the Gospel are sent out. Will you pray?

But wait, before you can pray there is a preliminary as well. Before you can pray by faith, believe God at His promises, pray in His will, and stand firm enduring until the answer come, you must do the preliminaries of prayer. The preliminaries of prayer; there is no effective prayer without a humble man or woman praying the prayer. Until we humble are self, we cannot have success in prayer. This is God's requirement for success 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. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.*** 2 Chronicles 7:14-15 (NKJV)

Please note the main points in these verses and the order in which they are presented. First, His command is to people called by the name of His name. Today, Christians are the people called by His name, effective prayer is by Christians, who have access to the Father and are accepted into the family of God. There is no other way and there is no other access point for effective prayer. Second, we must humble our self. Please note that to pray, God please humble me, is not correct, God tell us to humble our self. It is a choice we make. This is the preliminary requirement of God for his

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people. What does God require of us? We are to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.

***He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (NKJV)***

***Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. James 4:10 (NKJV)***

Only after this comes the next step, God's command to pray. Far too often people struggle with prayer, one of the key reasons for this struggle is failure to do the preliminaries. Humility is a word that means not being proud. The humble person understands that God is the all powerful, all knowing God and we are his children. The humble person does not lean on his or her own skill, ability, or power, but leans on God, in all things. The humble person knows he or she needs God's help and needs answers to prayer, answers that come from God.

***But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. James 4:6-10 (NKJV)***

Being humble is something we choose to do. The beginning of an effective life of prayer is humbly coming to God. We let God know we have needs and ask for answers, believing that God is the one who can and will help us. We come to God in prayer and we come to God first, knowing we need His help in all we do. We seek Him, His will, and His answers to prayer; this is walking humbly with our God. "I sure could use some help."

*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 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.

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**Pray for Open Doors** Pray for ministries near to your heart, that they would have open doors of opportunity for the Gospel to be preached and people to be reached.

## **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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