

# Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of March 28, 2010

“Prayer from God’s side is communication between Himself and His allies in the enemy’s country.”

S. D. Gordon

## *The Life of Prayer*

### *Partners*

David Williamson

The style and beauty of their movements made them the best. Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers were for many years, recognized by one and all as the great partnership of the dance floor. At a time when dance had beauty and flowed across the floor with a flare of elegance, when great dancers were held in high esteem, Fred and Ginger were unsurpassed. Even today shows like “Dancing with the Stars” present a variety of dance partners and if dance partners are very good they are compared to the standard of Fred and Ginger. Fred Astaire was recognized as the best dancer of all time, although many say Ginger Rogers must have that distinction, after all, she did everything he did and she did it backwards and in high heels!

There have been great partnerships since the beginning of time. When I was a little boy one of the great partnerships was responsible for the Greatest Show on Earth. This was self proclaimed title for the circus of Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey. And as a boy of five I thought they had a great claim to the title. This partnership was the result of a merger of the great circuses of America in the early 1900s. From 1919 on they were a partnership bringing fun and joy to children young and old for years. I still remember the night my Aunt and Uncle took me to the circus in Denver. The sounds, smells, lights, the feats of daring, the animals, performers, and the food, all fill my head with memories of The Greatest Show on Earth.

The Bible also has many great partnerships: David and Jonathan, Moses and Aaron, Peter, James, and John, and Paul and Timothy. These partnerships helped walking out God’s plan and will. In more recent times there have been many famous partnerships for the Gospel: John and Charles Wesley, William Wilberforce and William Pitt the Younger, William and Catherine Booth, D.L. Moody and Ira Sankey, Billy Graham and George Beverly Shea and many others.

The greatest partnership of all times, bar none, is that of God the Father and Jesus Christ. Jesus described this partnership, He simply said, **“I and My Father are one”** (John 10:30 (NKJV)). That is a tight knit partnership and a partnership of great power. This partnership created the universe and brought salvation to fallen man. This partnership delivers the bound, heals the sick, frees the captive, provides for the poor, loves the unloved, and comforts those who mourn. And while men and women have enjoyed the benefits of many partnerships down through history, there have never been so many so deeply touched as by the great work of this, the greatest partnership.

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The partnership had and continues to have great success. One part of their achievement is from prayer; Jesus was and is a Man of prayer and in Him we see the power and effectiveness of prayer. He reveals all prayer can be and should be, not just as He prays, but for all of His followers. Jesus' power in prayer is available to all Christians who will follow His example and be guided and taught by the Holy Spirit. The keystone to His success in prayer was partnership with the Father. The same is true for us.

The Father would like to form a partnership in prayer with each of us. This begins with salvation, which opens the door of opportunity for a man or woman to join the partnership. God's partnership in prayer is designed to be more than just a loose association. Partnership is one party associated with another in an action. This has a wide range of applications; from dancing and playing together, to working together against an opposing force. Partnership is members in a business or organization who share a common interest or participates in achieving a common goal.

This is what we need and should desire in prayer, a partnership with the Father. Now some may object to this idea. Partnership with God, that is elevating your self to a high position and demeaning God, they proclaim. However, partnership is what Jesus wants for us and it is what He has been praying for us. The problem is finding a willing partner, a partner like you or me.

***Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.*** John 17:11 (NKJV)

***that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*** John 17:21 (NKJV)

Where there is a man or woman who will work with God in prayer, He initiates in their heart a prayer. It is His love, concern, desire, longing, or seeking that wells up in the heart of the man or woman of prayer bringing a prayer. In His partner, this God given impartation, swells until it is given voice. God's partner now speaks, in faith and love, the prayer. God hears and responds with His power and in His love and mercy. From this partnership with God come incredible prayers.

So what do we do to be partners with God? First, and foremost, we must walk with God. The partnership of Abraham and God is a good guide for us here. Abraham and God were friends and Abraham believed God, so when it came to prayer the partners talked and Abraham prayed.

***And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.*** James 2:23 (NKJV)

***And the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,*** Genesis 18:17 (NKJV)

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***Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?"*** Genesis 18:22-24 (NKJV)

Partners do what they see and hear from the Father. This is what Jesus did in His partnership. Can we do anything different and be successful? Our prayers must be what we hear our Father say. This includes God's initiation of our prayers, belief in His faithfulness, and seeking His will over our own.

***I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*** John 5:30 (NKJV)

Partners seek to have a soft heart before God. We work to keep all hindrance from our heart, so we can hear Him. The hindrance of things like iniquity is a barrier that blocks hearing from God and God hearing from us.

***If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.*** Psalm 66:18 (NKJV)

Partners have faith. We know that God is faithful to His promises and plans. We have faith that moves mountains because our faith comes from knowing His will and His nature. The faith filled man or woman walks in the faithfulness of God.

***By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.***

Hebrews 11:11 (NKJV)

Today is a time of great difficulties and challenges. The answer to this great need is the prayer of partnership. The partnership of a man or woman of prayer with God yields the answers we so desperately need. Will you be a partner with God?

*Let us pray!*

## **A Call for Prayer**

**Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem** Pray for protection and safety for the Jewish people.

**Pray for the Lost.** Pray for ministries reaching out to the lost. Pray for the work of people willing to share the Gospel with people. Pray for opportunities for sharing. Pray for soft hearts willing to receive the Gospel message.

**Pray for Opportunities.** Pray for opportunities for the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for hearts of men and women to be prepared to receive the Word. Pray for open doors for

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witnessing. Pray for willing ministers of the Gospel (not just pastors, but all who are Christians. Pray that we will reach this generation with the Gospel.

## **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 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 Nations and the Churches of Nations**

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

### **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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*Prayer: A Force that Causes Change – A Call to Prayer, A Life Of Prayer, and Faithful In Prayer*

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