

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of April 4, 2010

*Christ, the Lord, is risen today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!*

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708.

The Life of Prayer

Who Do You Sound Like?

David Williamson

For many years Nipper was the most famous dog in the world. You have never heard of this dog? Oh, contraire, you do know this dog, you just may not know his name. Nipper was the dog used by various companies for advertising the sound of their equipment. Nipper was the dog looking at the phonograph, recognizing, "His Master's Voice." The claim was the sound from their equipment was so good even a dog would know his master's voice. Beginning with the cylinders of the Edison-Bell phonograph and continuing with several other companies and their equipment, such as RCA, Nipper was the symbol of quality sound.

Few American's, who are of age to remember, can forget the sounds of Edward R. Marrow reporting, by radio, on conditions in London during World War II. Another generation knew they had heard the news when they heard, "...And that's the way it is, April 4, 1976." That was the trademark closing of the CBS Evening News by Walter Cronkite. Or if you watched NBC, you knew the famous, "Good night, Chet. Good night David. And good night, for NBC." which was the signature signoff of Chet Huntley and David Brinkley.

Famous people and actors are often known as much for the sound of their voice as they are for their look or acting. In many a movie there is a famous voice and often people know the voice and not the person behind the voice. Just like Nipper, people respond to sounds. We know the meaning of many sounds and there are sounds that illicit a response as soon as we hear the sound.

An ambassador is sent by a country to represent the country in another. The ambassador has a variety of duties from ceremonial to diplomatic. In all he or she does, the ambassador represents and speaks for the sending country. What an ambassador says is very important; it represents the views of the country. An example of this is a former Ambassador to the Court of St. James (the United Kingdom) in London, England. In the mist of the Battle of Britain, without the approval of the Department of State of America, the Ambassador, Joseph Kennedy (the father of John Kennedy

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who would later become President of the United States), stated, “Democracy is finished in England”. This was not the position of the United States, and not what the US government wanted said. This led to a national public cry in both Great Britain and America. Under great pressure Kennedy resigned a few days later. Ambassador Kennedy had only said things that other people were thinking and saying, but when he spoke as the Ambassador of the United States, he had a responsibility to speak what the President wanted said.

Christians have the opportunity and responsibility to sound like our Lord, and to say and do what our Father wants. We are called to be ambassadors, God works through us; this is especially true in prayer. God sends His guidance and direction to His ambassador on location. We express His will and do His work here. The ambassador hears from God; listening carefully to know His will and ways. The Father’s voice speaks of His great love and mercy, His power and strength. When the ambassador knows what the Father wants then he or she prays. As S. D. Gordon wrote, “Prayer is striking the winning blow... service is gathering up the results.” This is a simple phrase describing the work of the ambassador.

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV)

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
Ephesians 6:18-20 (NKJV)

The ambassador hears, prays, and then works. The work is our walking, loving, living, and speaking. So then there is an important question, who do you sound like? Remember how Ambassador Kennedy got into trouble, it was by what he said. We get into trouble by the things we say as well. We must say what God wants said; anything other than this is the fodder for trouble.

An ambassador has guidance from the State Department. They are responsible for informing their representative as to what the President wants said and done. Christians have guidance from God; it comes to us in a secret document, the guidebook for Christian ambassadors, the Bible. He also speaks to His ambassadors in prayer. Daily we read the guidebook and receive specific instructions. Then we do ambassador stuff, we pray and live as salt and light for the world around us; empowered by His Spirit, doing His will and His way. As we pray and speak, we, as good ambassadors, say what the Father wants us to say. We sound like Him.

There are many pitfalls that hinder ambassadors. And we must fight against not hearing His voice, hardening our heart, and speaking with another voice. The successful ambassador maintains clear communication with the Father. Every day a way is found to hear and speak as a good ambassador.

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From successful hearing come powerful praying and wonderful results; striking the winning blow and gathering up the results.

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. John 10:27 (NKJV)

again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

Hebrews 4:7 (NKJV)

So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." Genesis 27:22 (NKJV)

Today you are an ambassador of the greatest kingdom of all times. God has given us our credentials, sons and daughters of the God, by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. God has sought us out, having placed in us His wonderful plan, individually designed just for us, with the means for walking it out. Our Father has provided for the means of communicating His will for all we are to pray, say, and do. Ambassador what will you say and do?

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for DK Limbu Daniel – Church planter among Nepalese people.

God continues to work among the Nepalese people, saving people and planting churches. Pray for this work. God is moving powerfully among these people.

Here are a few examples of God's protection and provision: In a trip to an Emerging Leaders Workshop, driving from Kathmandu to Ghorahi Dang in west Nepal, late at night, masked robbers tried to stop Pastor Daniel's car. God protected them. The next day they heard that people had been robbed in that area, but God brought them through safely. God has also provided part of the money for getting electric power for their home church. And we need to be praying for His provision of the additional \$600 needed to complete the project.

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.

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.

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

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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 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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