

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of July 11, 2010

All great soul-winners have been men of much and mighty prayer, and all great revivals have been preceded and carried out by persevering, prevailing knee-work in the closet.

Samuel Logan Brengle

The Life of Prayer

Go In and Possess

David Williamson

As you have read before in the pages of *Voice of Thanksgiving*, I was once a football coach. I coached the defensive players of the high school where I taught classes. One year we played a very good team from the Denver area. They were very good and in the first half of the game, they scored nearly every time they had the ball, putting up 35 points at half time.

However, as we came off the field there was a feeling among the coaches that something had changed. During the half-time break, we always made a few adjustments based on what we saw the other team doing and this night we did that. Then we gathered to talk with the entire team about what we should do in the second half. We were ready to tell them that things had changed, when the team began to talk about it. Sure we had given up a lot of points; but we had taken the other teams best shot and we were still standing. The team was convinced that something had changed and we could, not just play better, but win the game.

We went out and played well. The offence was great, making long drive after long drive, most of them for a score. The defense played well, stopping the attacks of the other team. With seconds left in the game, we scored a final touchdown to win 36-35.

The same thing happened to Joshua. No he did not play for the Jerusalem Rams or for the Israeli Eagles football teams. He was the new leader of Israel and had been given the task of leading the people in their conquest of the land God had given them. For forty years Israel had wandered in the wilderness, waiting for a generation of doubters to die off. Finally the time had come, things had changed; now God was telling Joshua and Israel to go in and possess the Promised Land.

Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you. Deuteronomy 4:1 (NKJV)

Things had not gone well in the first half. God had brought them out of Egypt and through the Red Sea, but when the spies came back with a bad report, doubt, fear, and unbelief, ruled the day and

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that entire generation would not enter the Promised Land. Only Joshua and Caleb were exceptions to this lack of faith and trust in God. For forty years Israel had wandered in the wilderness. Obviously Israel was not winning; not a single man, woman, or child had entered the Promised Land, not a single acre of land had been taken. This was a time most people would feel like they were failing, but things changed.

Now a new generation began to trust God and was ready to do great exploits. Joshua, Caleb, and the people, were strong in the Lord and knew and trusted in the power of God's great might. They saw the situation, all they faced, armies, cities, walls, and obstacles, through the eye of faith in God. They agreed with God and began to say what He was saying. They walked in obedience to God and His commands. They became a force that could not be stopped and they won, they took the Land!

It is time for the same thing to happen to us. This generation must trust God and do great exploits. We must be strong in the Lord and know and trust in the power of God's great might. We must see the situation, all we face, through the eye of faith in God. We must agree with God and say what He is saying. We must walk in obedience to God and His commands. We must be a force that will not be stopped and we must win, and take the Land!

In that football game I wrote about in the beginning of this article, at half time there was a change, the coaches felt it and planned to talk to the team about it, but the players felt it to. They knew that we had taken the other teams best shot and we were still standing. So they decided to go out and win the game, and did so!

The game has changed for us as well. The world has expected the demise of the Christian faith for centuries and has not gotten their expectation. The gods of the world, money, power, science, philosophies, governments, technology, organizations, ideas, and the panoply of other gods that were going to meet every need of man, have all failed. People continue to follow in the wake of these failings because they do not know the score or they do not know where to turn for help. For a long time Christians have stood, like a fighter with his hands down, taking punch after punch, but most of the time we have continued to stand, though battered and bloody. But no more, now is the time for all of this to change.

It is time for us to ***go in and possess the land***. It is time to remove the blinders from the eyes of people so they can see their need for redemption and its sole source, Jesus Christ. It is time to pull down the walls that have held people captive to sin, destruction, and death. It is time to do battle and win!

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV)

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Around the world and in your neighborhood, there are strongholds that have an ice grip on the people. Pulling down strongholds begins with prayer. There are arguments thrown about proclaiming this and that, seeking to dismiss, disdain, and destroy Christian faith. Casting down arguments begins with prayer. There are high things that have exalted themselves over the people, churches, cities, and nations, proclaiming themselves as king. Casting down high things begins with prayer. There are thought producing factories throughout the land, seeking to fill every heart and mind with their dirty, disgusting, denigrating thoughts. Bringing thoughts into obedience of Christ begins with prayer.

We have much work to do; to the natural eye the score looks hopeless. It seems the world must win, but we do not look by the natural eye, but by the spiritual. Prayer must be by faith and faith without work is dead. However, our works have waited long enough, it is time to pray so we can work, work toward victory. Things have changed, it is time to *go in and possess the land*.

“Prayer is striking the winning blow... service is gathering up the results.” S. D. Gordon

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

Pray for Churches –We are entering a time of great change. The world and its ways are failing. As it has happened a few times before, people are becoming desperate. They are looking for help and answers. Too often they have been and may still look in all the wrong places. However, as system, ideas, theories, and philosophies fail, people will need help and answers. Jesus Christ is their only true help and answer. He is found and experienced in the church; this is the people’s only hope. Our churches must be strong in the Lord and ready to do battle against the enemy and at the same time be a safe heaven of rescue. The work of sharing the Gospel goes forth from the church, so our churches must be equipped, empowered, and effective in sharing.

Pray for the churches listed here in the section ***Continue Faithful in Prayer***. Pray also for your church and the churches of ministries and works, you regularly support in prayer. The effective work of the church begins with prayer, continues with prayer, and is completed with prayer. There is much work for us to do, so we must pray.

Pray for Israel and the Peace of Jerusalem

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. Isaiah 62:6-7 (NKJV)

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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 in Nepal
Jacek Gromadzki – Pastor in Kolobrzeg, Poland
William (Bill) Williamson – Pastor in Cedaredge, Colorado
Charles and Janice Wilson – Pastors in Wyola, Montana
Ewa and Sylwester Sobczak – Pastors in Bialogard, Poland
Mark and Patty Spencer – Pastors in Longmont, Colorado

Pray for the Churches

Churches in Belarus
Churches in Poland
Churches of Germany
Churches in Nepal
Churches in USA
Churches in your nation and on your heart

Pray for Leadership over multiple Churches

DK Limbu Daniel – Church planter among the 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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