

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of Aug 29, 2010

We hear it said that a man will suffer in his life if he does not pray; I question it. What will suffer is the life of the Son of God within him, which is nourished not by food but by prayer...Prayer is the way the life of God is nourished.
Oswald Chambers

The Life of Prayer

Picked for the Team

David Williamson

When I was growing up I was in love with baseball; I loved playing and watching. Summers were filled with baseball, baseball, and baseball. Except for the time we were on vacation, I spent all my time with baseball. Some days I played organized ball, I was on a team in the city league for boys my age. However, this was not enough baseball for me, so most days we would play pick-up games. A pick-up game begins with a ritual that is as old as the game itself. Two boys would be the captains of the teams and then they would pick their teammates. One-by-one, they would pick a boy and then the other captain would pick. Once everyone was on a team, we would play the game.

And what about you, have you been chosen? The Father is picking people to be on His team. The Father wants everyone on His team, unfortunately, sometimes people do not respond to His picking. When He points to them to come and be on His team, they turn with their excuses and do other things. Beyond being picked to be on the team, the Father is also calling picked individuals to specific assignments in the Body of Christ. Using my baseball example, you are picked to be on the team and then you are assigned to play a position, such as playing at third base. There are, as mentioned above, people who choose not to be picked for the team. There are also people who have responded to being picked for the team, but have not responded to their assigned position on the team.

Have you ever seen the Lipizzaner Stallions, the magnificent horses who have performed their special shows of beauty and skill, to millions of people around the world? These animals are amazing and able to do things that go far beyond what most of us imagine that horses could do. These horses are doing what they were created to do.

Sometimes people do not do what they are created to do. And not doing what God has called us to do, it is like a horse with all the correct blood lines to be a Lipizzaner Stallion, being a plow horse. Now I do not mean to offend you, if you or someone you love is a plow horse. There is nothing wrong with being a plow horse, it is a noble profession, but it is not a good thing to be, if you are called to be a Lipizzaner Stallion.

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

You have been picked to be on the greatest team of all time, the Body of Christ. And beyond this, the Father has delegated to you a special assignment within the team. It is vitally important to the team and to your health and happiness that you do your assigned part within the Body. Not doing what you are called to do is like being a plow horse when you are called to be a Lipizzaner.

Beyond that there are people who are in their place, but they have not sought to fulfill the high calling of God. These people are satisfied to wander through life, picked and in place, but doing less than their God enabled best. It is like being a Lipizzaner Stallion, but just hanging around the barn, never preparing and performing.

There are three positions presented here. There are those people who choose not to be picked. There are those people who are picked, but do not work at their assigned position. And there are those people who are picked and seeking to fulfill all the Father has called for them to do.

Where do you stand today? Have you responded to the Father's picking you to be on His team? Have you said yes to salvation in Christ Jesus; repented of your sin, believed in your heart, and confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord? Have you sought to hear from the Father and responded to His call and taking your place in the Body of Christ to that position He has assigned? And are you working with the Holy Spirit to fulfill fully all the Father has called you to do? The calling and our responding to His call, is very important. Please do not be condemned about this, His invitation to salvation is open to all, His call is special to you, and His empowerment for service is geared for you, the need, and His perfect timing. But the question is have you responded?

At times He has calls a man or woman for a special time. For years they, the Father and a man or woman, have labored together. To most observers it seems that nothing is happening. Those who are quick to judge or judge with their natural sight, see nothing and declare the failure of the job. Then at that moment the Father pulls His prepared and perfect for the assignment, arrow out of His quiver and shoots that arrow to the heart of the target. This was His call, made in His perfect timing. But please note; the arrow had been prepared to be perfect for the moment and the need. It is not a store bought arrow that has sat around for years warping away from straight and gathering dust. It is fit (suitable, correctly adjusted, in a condition of readiness) for the master's use.

Some people may read *Voice of Thanksgiving* for the little stories or because they know me personally, but most people who read this newsletter know there is a call to prayer on their life. For some, the call is the wisdom of working at a job in the Body; that wisdom knows that they cannot be successful without prayer. For others the prayer is their assignment, they do many things and serve in many ways, but they are first of all called to pray. Regardless of why you read, the Father is calling you to fulfill His high calling, whatever that is for you.

We always thank God for all of you as we remember you in our prayers. In the presence of our God and Father, we never forget that your faith is active, your love is working hard, and

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

your confidence in our Lord Jesus Christ is enduring. Brothers and sisters, we never forget this because we know that God loves you and has chosen you. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4 (GW)

Paul writes to the Thessalonians, and we would be wise to read his words just as if the letter was addressed to us, and he expresses his thankfulness for these people, (for us). He is pleased that they (we) are active in faith, working hard in love, and have confidence in Jesus. He is pleased that their (our) efforts for the team continue. Note his declaration, God so love the Thessalonians (us) that He picked them (us) for His team. And He has chosen them (us) for assignment on the team.

In an assignment it is easy to slip into something less than the Father's best and fullness. We grow weary, we get busy, we are satisfied with where we are or what we have, and slowly we slip. This is true in all kinds of assignment and seen in many places. Notice what John is told to write to the church in Ephesus. They were working, but they had begun to slip.

I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.

Revelation 2:2-5 (NKJV)

Here the Lord is focusing on their first works, but this warning is just as valid for us to focus on, we should be seeking to fulfill His high calling. In prayer there is a call for all to pray and a call for us to seek answers for our every need. There is also a call for intercession, to pray for the needs of other people, ministries, and even for nations. Are we doing what He wants in prayer? Or have we fallen from God's call to our assignment in prayer? Have we grown comfortable in prayer, not seeking to step up to the high calling of God for prayer?

The world around us is racing to its destruction. Descriptions of the horrors of the Last Days are now our daily readings in the newspapers. And yet, His promises of the power and effectiveness of prayer has not been cast aside, except by much of the church. God's promise even of revival has not passed. The problem is in God's search. Will He find a man or woman, a church or several, who will believe that the days of His power are not over and gone and that He can and will bring revival. Will He find such a man or woman, such a church of prayer?

Every revival of God has begun in a desperate, evil time. Every revival of God has come to a place that is beyond all hope. Every revival of God has come with power that changes hearts, habits, and hopes, not of just a few but throughout and even to the very core, of the entire society. Every revival of God has come in response to prayer.

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

The first love of Christians throughout the Christian era has been to pray for and receive from God His breaking through the desperate, destructive, devious, and domineering evil that has plagued a society. Christians have prayed and God has come and brought His revival to places and times where it seemed impossible. How about today, are we, especially team members assigned to prayer, ready and willing to pray for revival? How about you?

For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Hebrews 6:10-12 (NKJV)

Picked, chosen, assigned, empowered, trained, and equipped; will you pray?

Let us pray!

A Call for Prayer

The life of Jesus is one of great activity and challenges. Every day people crushed in around Him and made demands on His time and energy. There were people to heal and deliver, there were challenges from the religious leaders, and there was the ongoing training of the disciples, especially the Twelve. If every there was a man who faced the pressures of work, it was Jesus. And this was not just any work, but literally life changing work. It had to be done and no one else could do it. Jesus knew the pressure of work.

This is common for men and women today; there is more and more pressure of work. This is true in every type of work; in business, struggling economies demand more done, faster, and using fewer resources. In families, the work is greater than ever, but now most families do not have a stay at home person like an aunt or grandmother to help with the work. Everywhere we face the pressure of work.

But He Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray. Luke 5:16 (NASB)

Notice what Jesus did when He faced this great pressure. He prayed! Jesus made it a point to get away from the crowds and the pressure of the work. He went to the wilderness to pray. This is where He spent time with the Father, renewed His strength, received plans for the next day, and was empowered with the anointing of the Holy Spirit for service. If He needed wilderness time, how much more do we? **For successful work go to the wilderness and pray!**

Continue Faithful in Prayer

Please pray for needs and expenses for the Church Planters Workshops September 3rd and 4th, and another September 5th and 6th. Pray for Revival and Faith and Word Conferences September 16 and 17, and September 27th through 30th. Pray for God's provision to be released and lives changed.

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for 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 the Peace of Jerusalem

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

- ✓ *Voice of Thanksgiving* is sent by email to subscribers & posted at www.voiceofthanksgiving.com
- ✓ To subscribe or for other inquiries, contact David Williamson at david@voiceofthanksgiving.com
- ✓ You may reprint and or reproduce articles from *Voice of Thanksgiving* in any fashion, provided the article and quotes are used in context as written.