

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of January 22, 2012

Our prayer must not be self-centered. It must arise not only because we feel our own need as a burden we must lay upon God, but also because we are so bound up in love for our fellow men that we feel their need as acutely as our own. To make intercession for men is the most powerful and practical way in which we can express our love for them.

John Calvin

The Life of Prayer

Should You Decide to Accept It...

David Williamson

“Good morning Mr. Phelps.” From a hidden tape recorder and envelope of pictures, Mr. Phelps would be given an explanation of the mission and he would then be given the assignment, “Your mission Jim, should you decide to accept it...” Finally, there was the disclaimer and best wishes, “As always, should you or any of your I.M. Force be caught or killed, the Secretary will disavow any knowledge of your actions.” “This tape will self-destruct in five seconds. Good luck, Jim.” And with these famous words the Impossible Missions Force (IMF) would spring into action. These famous words and scenes are from the American TV series (and later movies) Mission Impossible; a series that ran on American TV in the late 1960s and early ‘70s. It featured a group of special agents tasked with dealing with a problem too hot or too difficult for anyone else.

The missions performed by the agents on the Mission Impossible show were a TDA (Temporary Duty Assignment). There are also TDAs in prayer. God is the voice stating “Your mission in prayer, should you decide to accept it...” There are several types of TDAs, Daily Bread TDA, In Everything TDA, and Grandma TDAs are examples. Each of these is a call to accomplish a mission by praying until the mission is complete (the answer has come).

Give us this day our daily bread. Matthew 6:11 (NKJV)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; Philippians 4:6 (NKJV)

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,
Galatians 4:19 (NKJV)

INTERCESSION TDA

The types of TDAs in prayer are similar to one another and tend to overlap in practice and use. The focus today is on the Intercession TDA, but in reality the Grandma TDA we looked at last week is one of the many forms of an Intercession TDA.

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Intercession is standing in the gap for a specific need, or for a person, event, city, or nation. Examples in the Bible of intercession are exciting accounts of the great power God attaches to prayer. Cities have been spared and others destroyed based on intercession. Kings have arisen and other fallen on the prayers of intercessions. Nations have won and other lost great battles due to intercessions. The most important events of history were settled by intercessions.

I love the account of Mary and Joseph bringing the child Jesus to the Temple for His dedication to God as the first born. While there they are met by two intercessors, Simeon and Anna. They had seen the prophesy of the coming of the Messiah, and much like Daniel did when he saw the time for the Jews to return to Israel was at hand, they began to pray. Their intercession was joined with others who had cried out, longing for the coming of the Messiah. Simeon prayed until he was near the time of his death. Anna had prayed for decades. They both saw the assignment completed.

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." Luke 2:25-32 (NKJV)

Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. Luke 2:36-38 (NKJV)

In the TV show Mission Impossible the agents are part of the "Impossible Missions Force". They were given a wide range of assignments, but all the assignments had one thing in common, they seemed to be impossible for anyone to do. Prayer and especially intercession, is dealing with impossible missions.

If there is something a person or group of people should do, but they do not, this is when you need intercessions. If there are people, cities, nations that are pursuing a wrong course, they should change directions, but if they cannot or will not, then this is when you need intercession. If there is a situation that seems to be impossible for man or nation to fix, this is when you need intercession.

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Today nations may need a new “impossible missions force”, but what is more important is to have impossible missions intercessors. Intercession changes impossible missions to possible. Will you answer the call?

Responding to God’s call to intercession comes with qualifications. First of all, intercessors must be fully convinced concerning several things, such as God is righteous and God will judge the wicked. If you think God is too kind to judge sin, then there is little reason to stand in the gap for someone, some city, or some nation.

Second, intercessors must have a deep concern for God’s glory. Moses was twice offered to be the ancestor of the greatest people on earth. However, great intercessor that he was Moses turns down the glory that would come to him, desiring that all the glory be God’s. Here is one example of this:

And the Lord said to Moses, “Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’” And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.” Exodus 32:7-10 (NKJV)

Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said: “Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, ‘He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth?’ Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people. Exodus 32:11-14 (NKJV)

Third, the intercessor must have an intimate acquaintance with God. For example, Abraham was called the friend of God. It is only the person who has a close, as we might say tight relationship with God, who can stand in the gap and speak with frankness (in reverence) to God for a person or group of people. Only a friend of God can say to God, you cannot do this; if you do then people will say you failed. That was what intercessor Moses was saying in these verses.

And fourth, the intercessor must have a holy boldness. This is a willingness to risk you life to stand for the people. Read again the narrative of Moses and Aaron and the plague.

On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, saying, “You have killed the people of the Lord.” Now it happened, when the

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congregation had gathered against Moses and Aaron, that they turned toward the tabernacle of meeting; and suddenly the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord appeared. Then Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of meeting. And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment." And they fell on their faces.

So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a censer and put fire in it from the altar, put incense on it, and take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the Lord. The plague has begun." Then Aaron took it as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and already the plague had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people. And he stood between the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped. Numbers 16:41-48 (NKJV)

Please read and take note of these words of Derek Prince concerning the intercessor, from his book *Secrets of a Prayer Warrior*.

The intercessor is God-centered. He is not problem-focused; he is not focused on what man can or cannot do. He has a vision of what God can do. When no intercessor can be found among God's people, it is the supreme mark of failure in our responsibility to God and to our fellow man.

Are you interested in being a part of God's Impossible Missions Force? It is God who calls, He makes, He molds, He empowers, but we can come to Him and ask, Lord please make me an instrument of intercession.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.
Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,
As in Thy presence humbly I bow.
Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power, all power, surely is Thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.
Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit 'till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me.

(Words: Adelaide Pollard, 1907. Music: George Stebbins, 1907.)

Let us pray!

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A Call for Prayer

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

Pray for God's favor and blessing working in these and other countries:

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

Pray for these and other Pastors:

DK Limbu Daniel – Pastor in Nepal
Jacek Gromadzki – Pastor in Kolobrzeg, Poland
Marek Kurkierewicz – Pastor in Koszalin, Poland
Sylwester Sobczak and his wife Ewa – Pastor in Bialogard, Poland
Mark and Patty Spencer – Pastors in Longmont, Colorado
Matthew Spencer – Pastor in Longmont, Colorado
William (Bill) Williamson – Pastor in Cedaredge, Colorado
Charles and Janice Wilson – Pastors in Wyola, Montana

Pray for God's working with those with Leadership over multiple Churches such as:

DK Limbu Daniel – Church planter among the Nepalese people
Marek Kaminski – Bishop of Poland

Pray for these Christian Ministries and their work

Joyce Abrahamson – Head of a Christian school in Brazil
John Coon – Ministry in Europe and the USA
Lori Farquhar – Children's Ministry
Bernd and Heike Pastor – Ministry in Germany
Markus Stoltze – Ministry in Germany
Mark Spencer – Worldwide ministry
Patty Spencer – Worship leader, and musician
David Williamson – Writer and editor of *Voice of Thanksgiving*

Calling Christians to Effective Fervent Prayer

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