

Voice of Thanksgiving
Calling a Company of Believers Together For Prayer
Inner Court Ministries

For the week of March 30, 2003

A Call to Prayer

You know the value of prayer: it is precious beyond all price. Never, never neglect it.
Sir Thomas Buxton

Prayer is the first thing, the second thing, the third thing necessary to a minister. Pray, then, my dear brother: pray, pray, pray. Edward Payson

This Week In Prayer

- Pray for Israel.

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.
For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say,
Peace be within thee.
Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.*

Psalms 122:6-9

- Pray for the soldiers in the War in Iraq. Pray for protection for them and quick and decisive victory.

Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause. For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land. Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it. This thou hast seen, O LORD: keep not silence: O LORD, be not far from me. Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my Lord. Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me. Let them not say in their hearts, Ah, so would we have it: let them not say, We have swallowed him up. Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me. Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.

Psalms 35:19- 28

- Pray for local outreaches.

“It is true that (many) are praying for worldwide revival. But it would be more timely, and more scriptural, for prayer to be made to the Lord of the harvest, that He would raise up and

thrust forth laborers who would fearlessly and faithfully preach those truths which are calculated to bring about a revival.” A.W. Pink

Pray for laborers for our outreaches and ministries. The fields are ready and waiting.

***Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great,
but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest,
that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.
Luke 10:2***

- Pray for mission outreaches. ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** is a conference for pastors from Belarus, Ukraine, and Lithuania. The first ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** conference will be held in June. This will be a time of great blessing and help. This is the first of many steps in further reaching these countries with the Gospel. Pray for the details of the conference and its cost. (Please pray about a van, placed in Poland, used for these conferences and other European ministry)
- Pray for Mark’s ministry trip in April. He will be ministering in Polish speaking churches across Australia. Pray for this time of ministry, protection for Mark and his family during this time, and for his church, Christ Church International, while he is away.

Praying Always for You

Week by week we are praying for one another as members of this company of believers joined together for prayer. We have been using prayers of Paul as our guide. Last week our prayer was “***That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified ... and ye in him.***”

This week pray – “**Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.**” Romans 15:33

"Now the God of peace *be with you all.* Amen." By that petition the apostle requested that God would in this particular character manifest Himself among them so that His presence should be made known in their midst. Were it not for the overruling providence of the Lord His people would have no rest at any time in this world. But He rules in the midst of His enemies (Ps. 110:1-2) and gives His people a considerable measure of peace from their foes. This shows us that we ought to be constantly looking to God for His peace else assaults are likely to arise from every quarter. Peace is a blessing the churches greatly need. We ought to "pray for the peace of [the spiritual] Jerusalem" as our chief joy.

"Now the God of peace *be with you all*" implies that the saints must conduct themselves in harmony, that amity and concord must prevail among them, so that there be no grievous failure on their part that would offend God and cause Him to withdraw His manifested presence from them. "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: *and the God of peace shall be with you*" (Phil. 4:9). Individuals as well as a corporate company of believers must be in subjection to the divine authority and maintain scriptural discipline if they would enjoy the peace of God (see 2 Corinthians 13:11). Charles Hodge well said, "It is vain for us to pray for the presence of the God of love and peace unless we strive to free our hearts from all evil passions."

From Gleanings from Paul by Arthur W. Pink

Imperative Importance Of The Work Of Prayer

Tried and True

If you have spent much time in the USA, especially if you spent time here a few years ago, you may well have heard a phrase, “tried and true”. I don’t know the history of the phrase, but I always heard it used as an expression of “something sure and reliable. If it was tried, then you did not have to experiment with something new. If it was true then it was good. True here meaning, conforming to a standard, not the opposite of a lie. So if something was tried and true you could rely on it. Prayer is “tried and true”.

For many people, prayer is any thing but “tried and true”. Everyone has tried prayer, but most people do just that, they try prayer and it doesn’t work. Everyone who tries prayer fails. Yes, that is what I said, if you try prayer, you will fail. Prayer is not tried; prayer is only for the importunate.

***And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray,
and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge,
which feared not God, neither regarded man:
And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him,
saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while:
but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;
Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her,
lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said,
Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect,
which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?
I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.
Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?***
Luke 18:1-8

Throughout the Bible we see men and women like this woman. They do not try prayer, they press in with troublesome urgency. They are overly persistent in request or demand. They are importunate in prayer. Take Abraham for an example:

***And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once:
Peradventure ten shall be found there.
And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.***
Genesis 18:32

Or Jacob:

***And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh.
And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.***
Genesis 32:26

Or Moses (forty days and nights for the people!!!):

***And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights:
I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned,
in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.***
Deuteronomy 9:18

Or the Syrophenician woman (even after being called a dog):

***And she said, Truth, Lord:
yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.***
Matthew 15:27

Or the Early Church:

***Peter therefore was kept in prison:
but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.***
Acts 12:5

None of these people or groups tried prayer. They prayed! They would not be denied; they pressed in with troublesome urgency, they persisted in their requests and demands. Yes, I know all about the explanations, questions and concerns people have about prayer. People say this and they say that, they use every excuse to explain away their failure in prayer, but the fact of the matter is, most people don't pray, they just try prayer.

The second stumbling block in "tried and true" prayer is the word true. People accept everything as true, except God and His Word. The news is true, the doctor's word is true, the checkbook is true, the pain is true, the gossip is true, the problems are true, the circumstance is true, everything is true, except God. So when they pray they are in a bind. Every prayer begins with a problem, "How can God move on our behalf, when all these things are true?" This is prayer with impossibility ruling the heart and mind. This is praying in unbelief and it destroys faith and "tried and true" prayer is by faith.

And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.
Matthew 13:58

***But though he had done so many miracles before them,
yet they believed not on him:***
John 12:37

***Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief,
in departing from the living God.***
Hebrews 3:12

The real truth is God and His Word. Men change truth here on earth. The law of gravity is true, if you don't believe it just step off a multi-story building and see what happens. You will go down to the earth. But when men design airplanes in a certain manner and cause them to go forward at a certain speed, then a higher true take over and even planes weighing tons can fly. Aerodynamic true has overcome gravitational truth. For years men tried to fly, but finally a few found out the truths and opened the way for all of us to fly. We can do the same in prayer. We must press in until we find His answers.

God has command all men to pray (Luke 18:1). Proven in the fire of thousands of Christian lives, we know that prayer is powerful. From Abraham to the present there is a continuous line of witnesses to the efficacy of prayer. Prayer is "tried and true". If you will pray, God will answer. If you will pray, God will move mountains. This should encourage us to pray.

Prayer Is "Tried And True"

Joining This Company

All Christians who will pray are welcome. ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** is sent by email or letter to all who will commit to prayer as member of this company. It is a guide to challenge us and direct our prayers. The fee for joining is your commitment to pray.

Please join us in praying for the nations. Send me an email with the word JOIN in the subject so I know you are interested in continuing to receive ***Voice of Thanksgiving***. Tell your friends and prayer partners about ***Voice of Thanksgiving***. The call is to gather a company of believers who will pray. Together we will reach nations for Jesus Christ.

To receive ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** by email:

Send an email to david@innercourt.com
include the word JOIN in the subject line

To receive ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** by regular mail:

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If you have questions or comments

Send them to David Williamson:

david@innercourt.com

To have your address removed from our list

Send an email to david@innercourt.com

Include the word REMOVE in the subject line