

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

For the week of July 6, 2003

A Call to Prayer

I am the creature of a day, passing through life as an arrow through the air. I am a spirit come from God and returning to God; just hovering over the great gulf; till a few moments hence I am no more seen; I drop into an unchangeable eternity! I want to know one thing, the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God Himself has condescended to teach the way; for this end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book! At any price give me the Book of God! Lord, is it not Thy word—"If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God? Thou givest liberally, and upbraidest not. Thou hast said, if any be willing to do Thy will he shall know. I am willing to do; let me know Thy will."—JOHN WESLEY

This Week In Prayer

- Pray for church fellowships. There are many fellowships of which we are members, each one has common needs, many of which we should be praying for regularly. There is a general attack making its presence known against the church. Some have said that the church has outlived its usefulness and has lost its relevance, but this is merely an effort by the devil. He is a thief and has come to separate people from fellowship and destroy them.

***The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:
I am come that they might have life,
and that they might have it more abundantly.***

John 10:10

It is imperative for the devil to separate people from the church, from fellowship and from relationships with other Christians. It is a part of his plan to destroy Christians. It is God's great plan that the church is to be a safe haven where people can grow and mature. Pray for our fellowships to be strong in the Lord and actively involved in His work for today.

- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. With the changes going on in Israel, this could be a very dangerous time for Jerusalem.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

Psalm 122:6

- Pray for the work of the ministry. In our midst; that is within this company of believers called together to pray; we have many outreaches and ministries. From Belarus to Brazil, God has allowed us to take part in His work. These works of God come with many needs and concerns, but this week pray for understanding and wisdom. It is important that as we plan and work through His plans that we hear from God.

- Pray for mission outreaches this summer, such as the Crow Indian Camp meeting. Pray for God's protection and provision, and the Holy Spirit's mighty workings.

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. Pray for one another that God will comfort us so we can comfort those in need around us. His comfort comes from and was purchased by Christ.

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
who comforts us in all our tribulation,
that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble,
with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.
For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us,
so our consolation also abounds through Christ.***

2 Cor. 1:3-5 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance Of The Work Of Prayer

Time With God

How can I spend time with God? My life is so full, so much to do. There is no more time; I have cut back and given up old habits. What more can I do? Does this sound like you? You would like to spend more time with God, but there just is no more time. It seems this is true for many people today. We hear of the great warriors in prayer and the time they spent with God, but the demands of 21st century make more time with God impossible. Or is it?

Every good book or article on prayer talks about spending time with God. They should, one of the keys to power in prayer, to success in prayer, to a solid prayer life, is spending time with God. It is the relationship that comes from this time that changes our prayers from run-of-the-mill prayers, dry and boring into dynamic prayers that rock the world and changes lives. Everyone who prays, no that is not quite correct, everyone who has tasted of power and success in prayer, longs for his or her prayers to change from bland to dynamic. But it seems that more time with God is just not possible.

Most of you know where "time with God" articles go from here, Brother Lawrence. But people scream, "That was then, this is now", "My life is not in the kitchen all day like his was, we use a microwave". The plea is, "I need help for today". Just encase you have not heard, Lawrence (Nicholas Herman c. 1605-1691) was a 17th century a monk who sent letters to a friend. His letters were printed as a book, *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Lawrence shares his struggles and victories in finding time with God a busy schedule. The book has been reprinted many times; it is a popular title even today. His straightforward dealings with his struggles have spoken to Christians of every century since its first publishing.

A 17th century, a monk, but this is fast paced, technological modern 21st century. What does a monk know about life today? With cell phones and soccer matches, email and two career families. What does he know? What will help me today?

What Brother Lawrence found for his time applies to today as well. We can practice the presence of God, not like 17th century monks, but in this busy modern world. God has planned the Christian life for every century. He has made a way for men and women to pray and spend time with Him. He has made a way for you!

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Ephesians 6:18 NIV

Here is God's command on the subject. He calls us to pray, all the time. He doesn't seem to make allowances for soccer or jobs or hectic schedules. He just says pray on all occasions. So how will you respond? Will you write this off as some good sounding, but unreal suggestion? Or find His way.

***that the Lord your God may show us the way
in which we should walk and the thing we should do."***

Jeremiah 42:3 (NKJV)

You can practice the presence of God, just as Brother Lawrence did. The reason I know you can is you do it in other areas of your life. Let me give you an example from my life. For many years I was a football coach (American football). Every week we would prepare and practice for the game on Friday night. Throughout the week, all through each day, I would have the game on my mind. No the game was not all that I thought about, but it came to the forefront of my thoughts every time there was a moment. Thoughts about the game and preparations for the game were always with me. The hard part of coaching was not practicing the presence of football; it was trying not to always practice the presence of football.

Don't say, well I have never coached a team. If you have ever been involved with a sports team, you have practiced the presence. When your favorite team is in the big game, a championship of some type, you have spent the week before the game practicing the presence of the team; thinking what is needed to win, how good winning will feel, etc. When people prepare for a big trip or vacation, they often become absorbed with the preparations and the anticipation about the trip. They are practicing the presence of their trip or vacation.

You can do the same to spend time with God. He is the big game! He can be the all-consuming factor in your life. Just as you have with an up coming trip, you can practice the presence of God. You can spend time with God. The key is to work at it. You must set your mind on Him. At first it will take a lot of work. Your mind will go everywhere, but on Him. You will go for long periods of time away from Him. When you do, stop ask forgiveness, and then begin again. Many people stop here with comments such as, "I can't do it", or "It is just too hard for me." But for all who will press in they can practice the presence of God. He can become the thought that is always coming to the forefront. Throughout the day, moment-by-moment you spend time with God. This is possible and will become your way-of-life, just as it was for Brother Lawrence.

You Can Spend Time With God!

Prayer Is Expecting Answers

In the last few months we have had several positive answers to prayers. For example our prayer request was:

Pray for Mark Spencer's ministry trip. He will be ministering in Polish speaking churches across Australia. Pray for this time of ministry, protection for Mark and his family, and for his church, Christ Church International, while he is away.

This trip was a great success. Mark ministered in many churches, performed several weddings and was used by the Holy Spirit to touch many people. Strong relationships were forged and Mark has received many calls to return. The devil made several attacks on Marks family and church, but God brought them safely through.

Our prayer request was:

*Pray for the **Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries** conference for pastors from Belarus, Ukraine, and Lithuania, June 13-15, 2003. The Vision is to find pastors who live and minister in remote areas of Belarus (and also in Ukraine, Lithuania and other former Soviet Union republics) who minister under the pressure of poverty and in loneliness. When we find that kind of person, we want to bring him to fellowship with one of the churches or individuals in the west.*

The BBB Conference was a powerful time of refreshing and building. Twenty-four pastors from the East attended (Belarus – twenty-one and Lithuania – three). This conference set the stage for real relationship building, churches of East and West helping one another with true fellowship. The pastors from East and West like the concept and have planned for a second conference to be in June 2004 (this conference will include the wives of the pastors). Marek Kaminski and Mark Spencer will travel to the East to meet with many of the pastors who attended the first **Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries** Conference Koszalin 2003 (in Polish - **Braterstwo Ponad Granicami** Konferencja – Koszalin 2003).

Note: Now that we have connections with the pastors from this conference we have ongoing prayer responsibilities. As we build relationships, we must support them in prayer. They live and work in a hard place, but God's grace is sufficient. He will bring the pastors and the people they minister to through. Finances are very difficult in these areas, so this is another area of prayer (if you would like to be a financial supporter or know someone who would, please contact me for details, David Williamson: david@innercourt.com). Pray for these pastors so they may continue to preach boldly and freely. Pray for hearing of the Gospel message. Pray for reception and application of the life-changing message, wherein there is abundant life.

Keep Praying And Expecting Answers