

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

For the week of July 20, 2003

***A Call to Prayer***

Oh, the needless heart burdens borne by fretting Christians! How few know the real secret of a happy Christian life, filled with perfect peace, hid from the storms and billows of a fretting careworn life! Prayer has a possibility of saving us from "carefulness," the bane of human lives. Paul in writing to the Corinthians says, "I would have you without carefulness," and this is the will of God. Prayer has the ability to do this very thing. "Casting all your care on him, for he careth for you," is the way Peter puts it, while the Psalmist says, "Fret not thyself in any wise to do evil." Oh, the blessedness of a heart at ease from all inward care, exempt from undue anxiety, in the enjoyment of the peace of God which passeth all understanding! E. M. Bounds from Possibilities of Prayer

***This Week in Prayer***

- Pray for Israel. When asking for instructions on what to include in this week's ***This Week in Prayer***, I heard this phrase, "Men's actions provide opportunities." My understanding of this is, as men make and execute their plans, opportunities come for prayer and ministry. Sometimes actions are positive creating exciting opportunities. Sometimes men's actions are negative and the opportunities are to correct wrongs and change men and plans. These opportunities for Christians, positive or negative, must be birthed in prayer followed by action or the opportunities will be lost. Men's actions in Israel are providing Christians with opportunities for prayer and ministry.
- Pray for ministries and work coming fall of 2003. While this is not a comprehensive list of activities plan for members of this company, this will give you a starting point on prayer needs. (I will list a few to get us started, please send me other ministry and work activities for this fall so I can included them in the weeks to come)

A few of the ministry and work activities includes: the school in Brazil — work with young people and the community of the region, travel to meet with pastors in Belarus — part of the follow-up to the BBB conference of June 2003 and preparation for second conference in June of 2004, counseling couples, online web page ministries and outreaches, local church outreach and ministries, and completion of the transfer of German Verein from the Inntal Vineyard to Inner Court Ministries.

***Praying Always For You***

This week we will break somewhat from tradition (a good thing to do at times). Our call to prayer for one another is a call to pray for individuals and ministries, but this week the focus is on finances.

The fields we work and live in are “white unto harvest”, this is a time of unparalleled opportunities, but with these come expenses. We live in a day and age when it takes money to live and in most cases a great deal of money. The devil is always looking for ways to hinder or destroy ministries. He knows God’s Word changes lives. He knows that our ministries are making a difference in people and nations, so he must stop us if he can. He uses many things to stop people, but a very common tool is money. He tries to keep people from ministry by money concerns. Many of this company have been dealing with money concerns in both private life and ministry. This week John’s prayer is our guide; pray that we will prosper in all things.

***Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health,  
just as your soul prospers.***

3 John 1:2 (NKJV)

### **Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer**

***The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime,  
And in the night His song shall be with me--  
A prayer to the God of my life.***

Psalm 42:8 (NKJV)

We live in an age of uncertainty. Many of the “certain” things of the past have changed or are gone. Standards and traditions have been swept away. Christians know that trusting in man and his creations is not wise or safe, but it is none-the-less difficult to deal with the wholesale changes that have obliterated the landscape of traditions. We cannot and dare not trust in governments or currencies, in jobs or positions; they just are not reliable as they were in the past. Values and traditions have fallen and been destroyed. Many relish the opportunity to trample down the past and anything that had been held dear. Disquieting as this is, this surely is the age of the phrase “good is bad and bad is good.”

***Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;  
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;  
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!***

Isaiah 5:20 (NKJV)

***You have wearied the Lord with your words;***

***Yet you say,***

***"In what way have we wearied Him?"***

***In that you say,***

***"Everyone who does evil***

***Is good in the sight of the Lord,***

***And He delights in them,"***

***Or, "Where is the God of justice?"***

Malachi 2:17 (NKJV)

***Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;***

Romans 14:16 (NKJV)

A prayer for today is the prayer of David from Psalm 42.

***The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime,  
And in the night His song shall be with me--  
A prayer to the God of my life.***

Psalm 42:8 (NKJV)

In the daytime we need His lovingkindness. This is even truer of the night. The nighttime can be a difficult time. The devil loves to work in the dark; both darkness of the nighttime and darkness of ones heart and mind. He would tear us from God, separating us from God's power, might and love, if he could.

***Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution,  
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?***

Romans 8:35 (NKJV)

David's prayer resonates with the demands of life, all that which comes against a man or woman in the dark. It is true to the experience of his age and has continued to speak to Jews and Christians throughout the centuries. Conquering the difficulties of the dark, dealing with the demons of darkness, is a challenge to every Christian and demanded of all who will serve God. Too often men and women have been taken captive by the dark times. Ministries and lives have been broken and destroyed.

***He has delivered us from the power of darkness  
and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,***

Col. 1:13 (NKJV)

As the institutions and traditions crumble around us. As men make a lie the truth and truth a lie, we must rest in God's arms of love. He alone must be our refuge and strength, the one who is able to take us through anything this age can throw at us, even in the dark times. It is time to draw near to Him, time to sing as David sang, joyfully on his bed, so we might lie down in peace and sleep overcoming the dark times.

***Let the saints be joyful in glory;  
Let them sing aloud on their beds.***

Psalm 149:5 (NKJV)

***You shall have a song  
As in the night when a holy festival is kept,  
And gladness of heart as when one goes with a flute,  
To come into the mountain of the Lord,  
To the Mighty One of Israel.***

Isaiah 30:29 (NKJV)

***I will both lie down in peace, and sleep;  
For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.***

Psalm 4:8 (NKJV)