

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

For the week of September 28, 2003

A Call to Prayer

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendours. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption. And our charity must be a real and costly love, with deep feelings for the sins in spite of which we love the sinner no mere tolerance or indulgence which parodies love as flippancy parodies merriment. Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses. If he is your Christian neighbour he is holy in almost the same way, for in him also Christ *vere latitat* the glorifier and the glorified, Glory Himself, is truly hidden.

from 'The Weight of Glory', *Theology* by C.S. Lewis

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. Many forces are active and working in Israel; the plans and schemes of men and nations clash in her streets and fields. Pray especially for leaders in this region who build or destroy.
- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** pastors and their families; pray for the work of these men in Belarus, and Lithuania.
- Pray for Christ Church International (Inner Court Ministries) in Longmont. Pray for a new place to meet.
- Pray for outreach. The fields are white ready for harvest in many areas where members of this company live. Now is the time for outreach and church activities. Pray for labors, finances and open doors of opportunity.

- Pray for members of this company who are traveling in ministry. A couple of men for specific prayer, Marek Kaminski travels from his home in Koszalin, Poland to Belarus and Lithuania working with the pastors from the conference as well as other ministry trips. Another minister traveling more and more is Mark Spencer from Longmont Colorado. As these men and others travel we must keep them and their families in prayer. God is using them to touch lives in many cities, countries, and even on several continents. The travel and ministry is hard and being away from families is never pleasant. Please remember them in prayer.
- Pray for the transfer of the German Verein to Inner Court Ministries. This will make ICM a social and religious organization in Germany. This will facilitate a wide range of activities in Germany, as well as using Germany as a jumping off point for other areas. The transfer will take place in November.
- Pray for Michal Szameto a young man from Poland many of you know. Michal has just returned from ministry in Bosnia and will be going to Afghanistan, October 5, with UFM International.

Praying Always For You

Pray for one another, the members of this company, this week pray for strength to continue through with Jesus in times of testing.

*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while,
if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,
that the genuineness of your faith,
being much more precious than gold that perishes,
though it is tested by fire,
may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
1 Peter 1:6-7 (NKJV)*

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Trust and Obey

From the old song the message is, "... trust and obey for there is no other way." Many verses of the Bible speak of trust and obey. In life the key to success is trust and obey.

Trust is a fragile word subject to change and adjustment. Words have often been changed and distorted. Often this has resulted in words losing their real meaning and effect. For example look at efforts to change the word *Christianity*, instead of meaning one who has wholeheartedly accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and savior. The effort is on to change it to mean one who is caring and tolerant, having a loving nature. With this definition *Christianity* is an expression of attitude.

When a Christian is one who is caring and tolerant, as an attitude, then being a Christian can no longer hold to the declarations of Jesus. If a Christian is tolerant, then Jesus cannot be “the way, the truth and the life”. Tolerance will not allow, ‘no man comes to the Father, but by me.’ This undermines Bible teaching about Jesus, his life and sacrifice, and makes Him just a good teacher and guide, His words merely good words, words to live by, but nothing more.

In this same way trust is weakened. It is much easier to follow tradition rather than trust. We are much more willing to say, tradition I obey, not trust and obey. To trust over and against tradition is hard, so the effort is made to make trust mean following tradition. Look at the example of Abraham and Isaac. In Abraham’s time there was a famine.

***Now there was a famine in the land,
and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there,
for the famine was severe in the land.***

Genesis 12:10 (NKJV)

The tradition was set; when there is a famine, go to Egypt. When famine struck in Isaac’s time his first move was to go to Egypt.

***There was a famine in the land,
besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham.
And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.
Then the Lord appeared to him and said:
"Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you.***

Genesis 26:1-2 (NKJV)

Isaac thought to go to Egypt just as his father had, but God said no. God’s command, trust and obey.

***Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you;
for to you and your descendants I give all these lands,
and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.***

Genesis 26:3 (NKJV)

Isaac broke with tradition he trusted and obeyed God. He was successful, but not without some trials along the way.

***Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold;
and the Lord blessed him.***

Genesis 26:12 (NKJV)

Sounds like a great start; Isaac was blessed. His willingness to trust and obey brought blessing and with the blessing challenge. Abimelech became jealous of Isaac and sent him away. This became an opportunity for people to question his choices. He was blessed but he is forced out into the famine. In a time of famine you must have water and to dig a well is one thing, but to have water in the well is a blessing from God. Isaac dug a well and found water; still being blessed by God, but the people of that area took the well. Out again into the famine, but he dug another well and was blessed again.

Don't you know that after they dug the first well and were forced to leave, that people were murmuring, "You should have gone to Egypt, to Egypt like Abraham did". The thought probably even crossed Isaac's mind a few times. But imagine for a moment what it must have been like, the cries of the people, after the second well came in but they were forced to leave again. "You should have gone to Egypt like Abraham did!" "You should have followed tradition, it is the only way!" But Isaac continued to trust and obey; he dug another well. Call him stubborn, call him obstinate, call him whatever, but he obeyed. He dug another successful well and the Lord made room for him and he was fruitful in the land.

*And he moved from there and dug another well,
and they did not quarrel over it.
So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said,
"For now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."
Genesis 26:22 (NKJV)*

Having learned his first lessons about trust and obedience at the sharp end of a knife, Isaac through thick and thin continued to trust and obey.

How about you? Trust or tradition? When your wells come in or even when they are dry, do you trust and obey?

Trust and obey, or tradition I obey, what is your way?

Joining This Company

All Christians who will pray are welcome. ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** is sent by e-mail or letter to all who will commit to prayer as members 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.

To join send an e-mail with the word JOIN for the subject. 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 e-mail:

Send an e-mail to david@innercourt.com
include the word JOIN in the subject line

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

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The **Voice of Thanksgiving** is available online

To read or reread articles go to
http://www.feargod.com/VoT_Articles.htm

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