

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

For the Week of January 11, 2004

A Call to Prayer

*praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—*
Ephes. 6:18 (NKJV)

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

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;
Col. 4:2 (NKJV)

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for the Jewish people. Pray for organizations in Israel working to bring the Gospel message to the Jewish people. Pray that just as the young man with Elisha had his eyes opened, so will the young men and women of Israel today, this time to see not the horses and chariots, but the Messiah.

*And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see."
Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw.
And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*
2 Kings 6:17 (NKJV)

- Pray for the **Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries** Conference in June 2004. This week pray for places for everyone to stay. Pray for the families in Poland who will host a pastor and his wife. Pray for great blessing as these hosts give of themselves.
- Pray for outreaches. All around you there are opportunities for the Gospel, pray for the message to go forth, faithful men and women presenting the message. Pray for open hearts to receive the life changing message. One very important key is to pray for faithful men and women. It is easy to give up and quit, but the faithful man will have fruit.

*In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river,
was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits,
each tree yielding its fruit every month.
The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*
Rev. 22:2 (NKJV)

- Pray for all who are a part of the ministries of Inner Court Ministries. Pray for labors, money, opportunities, favor, wisdom and understanding.

Praying Always for You

Pray for one another. Once again this week pray that we would pray. The most strategic place to stop Inner Court Ministry and other ministries is to stop prayer.

***Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another,
that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
Elijah was a man with a nature like ours,
and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain;
and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.
And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.***

James 5:16-18 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

“I am Invincible!”

This week a student from my school was in a car accident and killed. It was a shock to one and all. It confronted the students of this high school as well as the people of our community once again of the fragile nature of life. People today, especially young people, do not think about life and death. In a scene from a movie a few years ago, a young computer geek (someone who is very interested in computer things) is in a dangerous situation. People are dying all around him. In this final scene he stands, hands over his head, like the winner in a sporting event, and shouts, “I am invincible!” At that moment a huge tank of liquid nitrogen explodes and he is quick frozen, made into a statue for ever mocking his seeming invincibility.

His attitude is common today. In young and old, there is a refusal to face the inevitable and acceptance of a false bravado is the hallmark of this age. It is not surprising people are leaving churches; people are not interested in churches or salvation or Christian things. Why would I need Christ, “I am Invincible!” The world and all that is in it, helps to substantiate this world view and lifestyle.

The shocking of death of a young high school student, just for a moment, rattles the security of the age. For a few moments, hours, or even, for some, for a few days, the invincibility shell was exposed. Its weakness, its lies, its inevitable failure was exposed. Confronted with the death of a friend, people must face their own death. One breath he was alive, it was his last and then he was dead. How close death lurks. But a breath from death stand I.

The key to salvation is need. Everyone who does not need or does not perceive their need of a savior does not seek a savior. Every week I have people who call me offering to reduce our high credit card debt. These sells pitches mean nothing to me. I have no interest in any way shape or

form. We have paid the entire bill on our credit cards every month for years, we just don't care what interest rate they charge because we do not pay interest.

People are the same way about salvation. It is not the message, it is not the presenter of the message, people could not care less, because they do not need salvation, at least so they believe. We know they desperately need salvation, everyone needs salvation! But with the message of the world, with the message of their flesh, they "know" what they need and it sure isn't salvation.

To overcome this problem churches have many programs to reach the lost. Some continue the methods that have worked for years and continue to work. They tell everyone they can, by preaching on the streets, witnessing at work and play, etc. They tell everyone until they find a person who has reached the point in life where the invincibility of life is broken. Now they can hear the message. The message always works when people see a need. The message is perfect for redeeming souls. Another method is to reach for people still caught in invincibility's clutches. They do many things to get people to hear about the need for salvation. Some go to great lengths to draw people; I like the church that is giving away a Harley motorcycle!

Effective prayer recognizes the wall that separates people from the Gospel. The shell of invincibility blinds people's eyes from the need for salvation just as the Pharisees could not see their Messiah as He walked and talked with them. As we pray for our areas of concern, for our outreaches and ministries, we must pray that the invincible shell will be broken. Pray also for a quick presentation for the Gospel while the shell is down. The group Young Life knew this to be true, they got permission to be in the lunch area to talk to students all week at my school. They knew that students needed to deal with this tragedy, but more importantly they knew this was the moment to speak to and reach the heart of normally invincible young people.

Invincible or in need?

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

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