

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

For the Week of February 8, 2004

A Call to Prayer

Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer; support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down.
John Wesley

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. Once again there is great need to have God fight, to turn back the weapons of war that besiege the walls of Israel, her enemies will not prevail.

*Now it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham,
the son of Uzziah, king of Judah,
that Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah,
king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to make war against it,
but could not prevail against it.*

Isaiah 7:1 (NKJV)

- Pray for the **Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries** Conference in June 2004. Pray for faithful continuation of their work.

*My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land,
That they may dwell with me;
He who walks in a perfect way,
He shall serve me.*

Psalm 101:6 (NKJV)

- Pray for outreaches. Pray for John Coon who will be speaking in Austria and Switzerland in April. Pray for Mark, he will be speaking to pastors from across Poland in April. Pray for David and Duane Farquar, they will be conducting business for the ICM eV (Verein) and working on plans for this summer on a short trip to Germany and Austria. Pray for their safe journeys and open doors of opportunity.
- Pray for the outreaches of your local church or fellowship. Now is the day of salvation, these ministries working to reach your community needs your prayers. Pray for creative ideas for ministry and fulfillment of the job they are assigned.

Praying Always for You

Pray for one another. Pray for one another for God's blessing.

1 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

The Forge

One of my childhood memories is of a history book with wonderful drawings. This was an old book then, so you know it is very old by now. I remember one of the drawings very well; it was a scene from a blacksmiths shop. It is one of those drawings you can look at for a long time; it was filled with details of the smith's life. From the forge tended by an apprentice, to the dog sleeping in the corner, the picture tells the story of this job and life. Everything focused on the center of the room and key to the scene, the anvil at the center of all. There the smith stands, a powerful man with his huge muscles pulsating with power, the determined set of his jaw, his eyes on the glowing hot iron, his concentration focused on the job at hand. This picture made a huge impression on me as a boy. This is a man, this is work, and this is what I, as a boy, should aspire to. No, not to be a smith, although it might be a great job, there are days I would like to pound on some things, but to have a job, one to put both heart and soul, the focus of the working day.

A look at Christian history can be enlightening for us as we strive to understand the Christianity today. Christian history has come in waves. Century by century we have had new revelations of the Christian life. This is not something new added to the Christian understanding, but we seem to see for the first time something from God's Word. The classic example of this is Martin Luther, who suddenly saw the just shall live by faith. This was a new revelation for the time, but it was nothing new. All the New Testament writers include this revelation in their letters, but we had lost it, and suddenly, like a thunderclap racing across the sky, this revelation stormed across Europe, a new revelation.

One problem Christians continually face, due to these waves of revelation, is new revelation is so powerful that it often commands our total focus. The just shall live by faith, commanded our total attention, we could not think about other aspects of the Christian faith. Dedication to a focus has caused men to read the Bible with scissors in hand; anything that distracts is ignored or in extreme cases removed.

The Christian faith is a growing faith. It is growing, not because God changes; or man is smarter, or better, but growing, because our Father continues to reveal more and more of Himself. This revealing does not change who He is, His earlier revelations of Himself are not now invalid, but now we can see more. Throughout the Old Testament God revealed His plan of redemption, a bit at a time. Today He continues to reveal Himself step by step.

Prayer has been caught in this wave action as well. God has been and continues to reveal the fullness of prayer. With each revelation we are convinced we have the final word. What more can there be? But God is revealing more and more not to fix His errors in early revelations, but to help us to grow on His revelation old and new.

Great revelation has come to the body of Christ concerning prayer in recent years. But it has been tempting to throw out old revelation with the coming of the new. The testimony of the old saints somehow is no longer valid; they have nothing to teach us, we know more than they. This attitude is the bane of prayer today. We latch onto anything that seems to promise the quick and the easy, willing to ignore, forget or dismiss anything hard or slow. This is a fast time we live in, prayer must be fast or it is not for today.

Perhaps this is why prayer has become a means for getting cars, houses and jobs, but no longer for touching nations, peoples and kings. Prayer has become a part of our pop culture. Everyone prays; their want list in hand, their demands on their lips. Some results are seen, but where are the prayers that turn nations and kings. Where are the prayers, "Give me Scotland or I die!" Has this new wave stolen prayer, replacing it with a cheap substitute of pop culture, the glib, and the quick?

Remember the forge. Is it for you? Can God forge you to prayer, real prayer, prayers for nations, people and kings? Will you settle for the glib, or stay fast on the anvil 'til your prayers avail?

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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