

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of February 15, 2004

### *A Call to Prayer*

An aged saint once came to the pastor at night and said: "We are about to have a revival." He was asked why he knew so. His answer was, "I went into the stable to take care of my cattle two hours ago, and there the Lord has kept me in prayer until just now. And I feel that we are going to be revived." It was the commencement of a revival.—H. C. FISH

### *This Week in Prayer*

- Pray for Israel. This week our call to prayer is for safety. The great walls of Jerusalem were originally built for protection. The walls were never enough, only by the hand of God were the people of the city safe. Today the walls, everything that a modern state does for security, are still not enough. It is only by the hand of God that the people are safe. Modern Israel came to be a land over night, and fought many wars, they won by Devine intervention, but today many would try to make her secure by armies or deals. Neither will last and neither is strong enough. Pray for the hand of God to protect His people yet again today.
- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** Conference in June 2004. This week pray for relationships. As we meet and build relationships and pray for one another, we see more clearly the relationship we have with our Father. Pray that these relationships will grow strong and deep. Pray that they will become a tool for God to use in reaching nations with the Gospel.

*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)

A note to all who read ***Voice of Thanksgiving***: every week there is a call to pray for many things, such as the BBB conference and the many pastors who are a part of this work. Thank you for your prayers. God moves by prayer and you are moving the hand of God! Nations will never be the same! You are also welcome to extend your prayers by action. Support for the conference and for the pastors of the East is welcome. Support may be sent to Inner Court Ministries, P.O. Box 2125, Longmont, CO 80502-2125.

- Pray for outreaches. These are opportunities for you to be a part of reaching nations with the Gospel. Pray for John Coon who will be speaking in Austria and Switzerland in April. Pray for Mark Spencer, he will be speaking to pastors from across Poland in April. Pray for

Duane Farquhar and David Williamson, they will be working in Germany and Austria on Verein business and preparing for outreaches. 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 are working to reach your community and need 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 provision. We must receive by faith God's provision. It is just as important for the worker at a company or store as it is for a pastor, minister, or missionary, we must receive by faith from God. He may use a weekly or monthly paycheck to provide, receive it by faith. Ask yourself this question; do you trust the company you work for or God for your pay? Companies are not a sure provision, but God is.

***But without faith it is impossible to please Him,  
for he who comes to God must believe that He is,  
and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

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

#### The Forge of Faith

Christians who pray, I believe that you cannot separate these, Christians must pray, but because it seems that many would claim to be Christians, but do not pray, I say it this way. Christians, who pray, quickly find to pray they need faith. They confront faith issues. Jesus' disciples regularly confronted faith issues. Issues that came in eye catching ways. They were often confronted by people who had faith, but these were the people they least expect to have faith. The best examples are the Samaritan woman who would not take no for an answer, and the Centurion.

Today we see men and women who have faith; we know they have faith because we see God move for them. Yet often they are the men and women we least expect. Something about them, their methods, their place, their talk, and their actions put us off. Yet like the early disciples we know they must have faith. We also know; if we are going to pray we also must have faith.

The good news is; faith comes. If this was not true, faith would have to be redefined. Faith could not longer be faith; it would have to be something else. It would be, as it is in so many places, relegated to religious ritual. Numbing rituals, brain draining demands, or convoluted thinking and lies destroy faith, but for Christians the promise stands firm and true, faith comes! This is a center piece of Christianity, faith comes.

***So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

The bad news is; we want faith to come just like hair grows. We want faith with the effortlessness of gods. Hair grows when I am asleep and when I am awake; in every endeavor of life hair grows. Faith comes just as easy, but it has a requirement. It is like it would be if hair only grew when I was asleep. All day I would work and play, but my hair would not grow, but then the moment I put my head on my pillow and I began to sleep, hair would grow. Faith is more like this scenario. Faith comes, but we must meet the condition for its coming. The condition, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. This has always been God's way. The death of Lazarus is a striking example of faith coming. Jesus' friend Lazarus is sick, yet Jesus carries. He seems to get to the scene to late; Lazarus wrapped in grave cloth is in the tomb. His sisters' groans confirm the hopelessness of the case, "If you had only been here." Yet even in this hopeless situation, faith comes!

Jesus had the tomb opened and said, "Lazarus come forth." Religion sees Jesus, the man of faith, unwilling to walk in this faith they must twist faith until it is no longer is faith. They bring compensations, dispensations, every kind of sensation to explain faith away, but miss the point. The point of the story is not just Jesus, it is the other faith. The other faith here is the faith of Lazarus. Lazarus heard the Word of God and faith came! Jesus spoke, Lazarus heard, and faith came. This is how faith came then and how it comes today. When faith came to this man wrapped in grave cloth in a tomb, (not conducive to faith is it?) he acted. Fighting against the wraps, he stood-up, and came out of the tomb, faith in action.

God is forging faith in to all who will listen. If we are going to pray, then the lessons of faith must make their mark on our life and prayers. Prayer without faith is a religious exercise. Prayer with faith moves mountains. Spend time in His Word, spend time with Him, let God speak; hear Him and faith will come.

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Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

### **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](mailto:david@innercourt.com)  
include the word JOIN in the subject line

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