

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of March 7, 2004

A Call to Prayer

“How constantly, in the Scriptures, do we encounter such words as ‘field,’ ‘seed,’ ‘sower,’ ‘reaper,’ ‘seed-time,’ ‘harvest’! Employing such metaphors interprets a fact of nature by a parable of grace. The field is the world and the good seed is the Word of God. Whether the Word be spoken or written, it is the power of God unto salvation. In our work of evangelism, the whole world is our field, every creature the object of effort and every book and tract, a seed of God.” David Fant, Jr.

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. Pray for the land of Israel, a land for the people of Israel. He is the security for the land and people. Now, now more than ever the people need their God.

*And gave their land as a heritage,
A heritage to Israel His people.*
Psalm 135:12 (NKJV)

- Pray for the safety of Christians in Third World countries. Today in many of these regions just being a Christian is enough sentence a man or woman to death. Their struggle for the Gospel is to be our struggle as well. Labor for our brothers and sisters in the faith, this week make them part of your prayers.
- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** Conference in June 2004. Pray for the details of the conference and arrangements for the participants.
- Pray for outreaches. These are opportunities for you to be a part of reaching nations with the Gospel. Pray for John 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 who will be working in Germany and Austria on Verein business and preparing for outreaches in late March. 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 that we would be obedient to His will and command.

*And whatever we ask we receive from Him,
because we keep His commandments and
do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*

1 John 3:22 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

California '49 ers and Prayer

They found gold in California in the 1840s. Men from all over the world came to get rich. Quickly the region filled, everywhere there were men searching for wealth. Some men were successful; there was a lot of gold to be found. The mining region was what everyone dreamed of, gold for the taking. It was a utopia.

“The miners needed no criminal code. It is simply and literally true that there was a short time in California, in 1848, when crime was almost absolutely unknown, when pounds of gold were left unguarded in tents and cabins, or thrown down on the hillside, or handed about through a crowd for inspection. An old pioneer writes me that, ‘In 1848 a man could go into a miner’s cabin, cut a slice of bacon, cook a meal, roll up in a blanket, and go to sleep, certain to be welcomed kindly when the owner returned.’ Men have told me that they have known as much as a washbasin full of gold-dust to be left on the table in an open tent while the owners were at work in their claim a mile distant.

It was as easy to find gold as steal it. Anybody taking his neighbor’s gold would be stealing more for fun than profit. One or two tried it toward the end of the year and were hanged without trial or tears.” Irving Stone

By spring of 1849 everything had changed. The easy gold was gone. Most of the gold was still there, but it had to be mined and that was hard work.

Prayer is the easiest thing to do in the world, but it is hard work to dig deep into prayer. We want to have it be easy, but the riches in prayer come from hard work. Like the early California seekers looking for gold, we want prayer to yield great results, but to be easy. When it became hard to find gold most people gave up their dreams of riches and got jobs. When prayer is more than just a quick and easy source of answers, most people give up and do other things.

Mining for gold is hard work, prayer is hard work. Unlike grubbing around looking for nuggets on the surface, mining requires heavy equipment, structure, machines, workers and a lot of money. Prayer requires hard work as well. Those who are not satisfied with just a few nuggets they find laying around, must work hard, they must learn to pray. The request from His disciples was Lord teach us to pray.

***Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place,
when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him,
"Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."***

Luke 11:1 (NKJV)

Mining is expensive. It takes a huge outlay of money to get to the point where there is a return on the initial investment. Prayer is expensive as well, not in money; it costs a great deal to abide in His presence. Every day events seek to draw you away from Him. Answer delayed is expense for faith to abide, but the man who would dig deep in prayer will pay the price.

***If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,
you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.***

John 15:7 (NKJV)

Mining is dangerous. Cave-ins, explosions and gasses are but a few of the dangers miners faced everyday. Prayer is dangerous as well. There is a constant danger of lure of sin, doubt, fear, and unbelief. There is a danger of forgetting prayer and relying on our own strength. It is hard to wait on God.

***Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him;
Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,
Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.
Cease from anger, and forsake wrath;
Do not fret--it only causes harm.
For evildoers shall be cut off;
But those who wait on the Lord,
They shall inherit the earth.***

Psalm 37:7-9 (NKJV)

***Wait on the Lord, And keep His way,
And He shall exalt you to inherit the land;
When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.***

Psalm 37:34 (NKJV)

Mining is time consuming. Prayer is time consuming. The question in the garden was, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?" Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us. Will you join with Him? How long will you pray?

***Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep,
and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?"***

Matthew 26:40 (NKJV)

Mining became incredibly profitable to the men who developed companies in California and later other mining areas. They poured money and effort into their work and millions of dollars were drawn from the ground. Prayer is incredibly profitable as well, not as a get-rich- scheme, but in relationship with the Father and His answers.

***"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek,
and you will find; knock,
and it will be opened to you.***

Matthew 7:7 (NKJV)

***"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you;
seek, and you will find; knock,
and it will be opened to you.***

Luke 11:9 (NKJV)

Are you satisfied with looking for a few nuggets, with prayer that is grubbing along with whatever happens to come along? Or will you be like the miners who dig deep, worked hard? Nuggets or mining what will it be for you in prayer?

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

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