

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of March 28, 2004

A Call to Prayer

Always does not mean that we are to neglect the ordinary duties of life; what it means is that the soul which has come into intimate contact with God in the silence of the prayer-chamber is never out of conscious touch with the Father, that the heart is always going out to Him in loving communion, and that the moment the mind is released from the task upon which it is engaged it returns as naturally to God as the bird does to its nest. What a beautiful conception of prayer we get if we regard it in this light, if we view it as a constant fellowship, an unbroken audience with the King. Prayer then loses every vestige of dread which it may once have possessed; we regard it no longer as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege which is to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty.

E.M. Bounds

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. It is time to pray for Israel, time for her to come to her place as a people, a land, and a city. They have been denied their place and name for too long. Now is the time for prayer. Even as Daniel prayed for Israel to return from captivity, today we must pray for Israel in effect to return from the captivity of spiritual blindness. Will you pray?

*And they shall call them The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord;
And you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.*

Isaiah 62:12 (NKJV)

- Pray for Mark and the trip to Poland in April. Will you be responsible for these meetings in prayer? Will you make the success or failure of the meetings rest on God moving via your prayers? Will you pray?

*meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door
for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,
that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.*

Col. 4:3-4 (NKJV)

- The persecution of Christians continues. There are places where accepting Christ could result in loss of job, homes, and even life. The persecution of our brothers is ours as well. Will you pray?

***Remember the prisoners as if chained
with them--those who are mistreated--since
you yourselves are in the body also.***

Hebrews 13:3 (NKJV)

- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** Conference in June 2004. Pray for completion of advanced plans, including transportation and room and board requirements. These meetings June 24-27 will once again rock the status quo in Eastern Europe. Will you pray?
- Pray for the ministry of the Word. John is speaking in Austria and Switzerland in April. Mark is speaking at a pastor's conference in Poland in April. David is in Germany and Tuesday night in Austria. These ministries need safe journeys and open doors of opportunity to step through the effective doors. Will you pray?

***For a great and effective door has opened to me,
and there are many adversaries.***

1 Cor. 16:9 (NKJV)

- Pray for the outreaches of your local church or fellowship. Your local fellowship needs you! Your prayers and work are an effective one two punch knocking out the enemy and his hindrances to the spread of the Gospel. Will you pray?

Praying Always for You

Pray for one another. Pray for a hedge of protection around those who are traveling and/or ministering both at home and abroad.

***So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall,
and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land,
that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.***

Ezekiel 22:30 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Dig

When I was a little boy, I was a little spoiled. My grandfather had wanted to have boys, but had two daughters instead. I was the first grandchild and so all the pent up love for a boy got ladled out on me. One year, Grandpa decided, I should have a place to play inside as well as outside, even when the weather was bad. With his, make it happen nature, he prepared and presented me with an indoor

play box, complete with sand. Now I could play with my Tonka trucks inside or out. My mother was appalled, sand everywhere, but I was overjoyed. This began in me a love for digging. When I studied as a historian, it was still, the dig that I loved. Digging to find a fact or to find the truth or to find out the “rest of the story” as a great story teller says. I would like for all who read this article to catch my love of digging and apply it to their prayers.

Readers of the *Voice of Thanksgiving* come from a wide variety of countries. Our lifestyles vary from country to country, even from region to region. Within your lifestyle, what are your priorities? What are the most important things in your life? God, family, work, ministry and other things fill our days, but what has priority? Before you answer, let me pose another question, what does your lifestyle say your priorities are? God is my first priority, is the automatic response of most Christians, but often their lifestyle says, God is far down the list of priorities.

***But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.***

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

We say it, but do we believe it. Is this another of those quaint expressions of the Bible, there to make us feel warm and fuzzy, a religious trinket? If we are to pray, really pray, we must dig into our lifestyle and set our priorities anew with His kingdom taking first place.

If God was God, the most important thing to people would be to know His will. People have tried to make God anything but God. Most people have never come to know Him or His Son. They may talk about Him, they made spend time in church, or any of a number of religious things, but they do not know God. If they knew Him, they would be changed.

***And this is eternal life, that they may know You,
the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.***

John 17:3 (NKJV)

People pray, but they don't know the will of God. This is so strange it seems to defy explanation, but it comes back to strange views about God and His nature. If God is just a nebulous religious cloud, then knowing Him is not important, and really impossible. Prayer would just be a ritual that you do to be a good person, something you do to feel better about yourself.

When you know God, the God who is God, prayer changes, or it should. Now you are speaking to a real live person, God. He has feelings, wants and desires; He is looking for relationship with His children and this is especially true of those children who will pray. The prayers of His children are important; He is moved by prayer, especially and exclusively prayer of faith and faith begins by knowing the will of God. To pray we must dig into our relationship with God and know Him and His will.

***that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection,
and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,***

Philip. 3:10 (NKJV)

Dig a little deeper. How deep are your prayers, one millimeter, one centimeter, one meter? How deep? Are you a surface collector, or are you willing to walk with God, be guided and corrected by the Holy Spirit and dig deep? When Moses prayed, a nation waited. When Daniel prayed, a nation was set free. When John Knox prayed, a nation was saved. When you pray who notices? This is not to set up a popularity contest to see who can have the most people notice when you pray, but that there would be enough depth to your prayers that it would be worth stopping and take notice.

***Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home.
And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem,
he knelt down on his knees three times that day,
and prayed and gave thanks before his God,
as was his custom since early days.
Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying
and making supplication before his God.***

Daniel 6:10-11 (NKJV)

We should learn to pray, really work at it, developing a prayer lifestyle, with prayer having its right place. We must dig into developing a relationship with God, so He is God, and we know His will, for our life and prayers. We must dig into prayer and become men and women of prayer, not just on the surface, but with depth that brings the notice of nations.

Can it be said of you when you speak God listens? Does He stop all of heaven, when you pray, saying “shish, I want to hear this prayer?” This is the man of prayer or woman of prayer, the one who has dug deep.

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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