

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of April 4, 2004

A Call to Prayer

Prayers must be red hot. It is the fervent prayer that is effectual and that availeth. Coldness of spirit hinders praying; prayer cannot live in a wintry atmosphere. Chilly surroundings freeze out petitioning; and dry up the springs of supplication. It takes fire to make prayers go. Warmth of soul creates an atmosphere favourable to prayer, because it is favourable to fervency. By flame, prayer ascends to heaven. Yet fire is not fuss, nor heat, noise. Heat is intensity—something that glows and burns. Heaven is a mighty poor market for ice.

E.M. Bounds

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. Remember Israel, lift up the people and land before the Lord. Pray once again the blessings of the Lord would be on the house and in the fields of Israel.

*So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house
and all that he had,
that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake;
and the blessing of the Lord was on
all that he had in the house and in the field.*

Genesis 39:5 (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 current age may be one of the worst concerning the persecution of Christians. Stand with those who daily face the trouble, threats and worse.

*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 open hearts to hear and respond to God's direction and leading. These meetings June 24-27 will once again rock the status quo in Eastern Europe.
- 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. These ministries need safe journeys and open doors of opportunity to step through the effective doors.

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

1 Cor. 16:9 (NKJV)

- Pray for outreaches in your local church or fellowship. Your prayers are the difference between success and failure in these ministries. Take responsibility in prayer for the success of the work and then join with them in the work.

Praying Always for You

Pray for one another. Pray for eyes to see and ears to hear God's full salvation for us and His plans for our life.

***For the hearts of this people have grown dull.
Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed,
Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,
Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,
So that I should heal them.'***

"But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

Matthew 13:15-16 (NKJV)

***For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
And His ears are open to their prayers;
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."***

1 Peter 3:12 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Road Map

A road map can be a very useful tool. There is a wealth of information for those who know how and choose to read it. For the savvy driver a road map can give directions to cities and sites of interest, travel times, and possible difficulties. It can be a handy guide or a life saver, depending on the situation. Just as there is a road map for driving, so there is a road map for prayer.

A road map for prayer, you ask? Yes, prayer is too important to leave it to chance, we must have guidance and direction, if we are to pray, so a road map for prayer. The map maker is the key to

successful maps and map use. If we cannot depend on him, then the map is wasted paper. The best map maker has provided us with a simple map for prayer.

***To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. A Song.
Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion;
And to You the vow shall be performed.
O You who hear prayer, To You all flesh will come.
Iniquities prevail against me; As for our transgressions,
You will provide atonement for them.***
Psalm 65:1-3 (NKJV)

The Father has presented us with a road map for prayer in Psalm 65. King David knew we needed help to pray, just as we need help for every aspect of Christian living. Along the prayer roadway there are pitfalls and hindrances that would keep us from prayer. David knew the problems he faces were similar to those everyone faces. Iniquities and transgressions hinder prayer. The Father of Prayer, He who hears all prayer, provides atonement for these hindrances. With God's atonement, we can with boldness and praise, follow along this prophetic song, a road map of prayer.

***Blessed is the man You choose, And cause to approach You,
That he may dwell in Your courts.
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house,
Of Your holy temple.***
Psalm 65:4 (NKJV)

God causes men to approach Him. He has drawn you to Himself for your salvation. In this same way, He causes you to approach Him; it is the same for all men. There are two approaches to God. Some will come like a man called by a court. "The defendant will approach the bench," a judge states and with that command the defendant must stand before the judge. To stand before a judge is a fearful thing and this is a summons to stand before the judge of the entire universe.

***Who would form a god or mold an image
That profits him nothing?
Surely all his companions would be ashamed;
And the workmen, they are mere men.
Let them all be gathered together,
Let them stand up; Yet they shall fear, They shall be ashamed together.***
Isaiah 44:10-11 (NKJV)

For others, the summons by the Father is completely different; it is like the call of a father. With hands open, beckoning to come, this is the call of daddy. Papa's call, "My child, come to me, come sit here on my lap, tell me about your day." This is the place of prayer, close to the Father's heart. It is here that He showers us with His goodness, with His provision. This is the location we are looking for on our road map, but there is more to this map for us yet.

Our road map of prayer is not complete until we finish the last legs of the journey. The Father answers prayer, these are such powerful words. The concept nearly overwhelms King David as he wrote this Psalm. This is not a god who is but a stone, not a god who is far off, not a god who is just

the thoughts of men. This is God who answers with awesome deeds in righteousness, no one can compare. The God of our salvation is God, the God who answers prayer. Halleluiah!

***By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation,
You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, And of the far-off seas;
Who established the mountains by His strength,
Being clothed with power; You who still the noise of the seas,
The noise of their waves, And the tumult of the peoples.
They also who dwell in the farthest parts are afraid of Your signs;
You make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice.***

Psalm 65:5-8 (NKJV)

But still there is more, This God, the Father of prayer, the God who answers, is mighty and powerful as well as loving. He is not a god of good intentions; He is God who can and wills to do for His children. David's Psalm soars with grander extolling the wonders of this God, the Father of Prayer, who can and does do great things.

***You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it;
The river of God is full of water; You provide their grain,
For so You have prepared it. You water its ridges abundantly,
You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers,
You bless its growth. You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.
They drop on the pastures of the wilderness,
And the little hills rejoice on every side.
The pastures are clothed with flocks;
The valleys also are covered with grain;
They shout for joy, they also sing.***

Psalm 65:9-13 (NKJV)

This is our road map of prayer, taking us to the place where we draw near to our Father; rejoice in His love and ability to answer. Here we enter into prayer, prayer that draws on our relationship and His power and might, a place where prayer changes nations and hearts. Take the map; find to the place of 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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