

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of April 18, 2004

### *A Call to Prayer*

While written more than a hundred years ago, these words seem timely for today.

Never did the cause of God need perfect illustrations of the possibilities of prayer more than in this age. No age, no person, will be ensamples of the gospel power except the ages or persons of deep and earnest prayer. A prayerless age will have but scant models of divine power. Prayerless hearts will never rise to these Alpine heights. The age may be a better age than the past, but there is an infinite distance between the betterment of an age by the force of an advancing civilization and its betterment by the increase of holiness and Christlikeness by the energy of prayer. The Jews were much better when Christ came than in the ages before. It was the golden age of their Pharisaic religion. Their golden religious age crucified Christ. Never more praying, never less praying; never more sacrifices, never less sacrifice; never less idolatry, never more idolatry; never more of temple worship, never less of God worship; never more of lip service, never less of heart service (God worshiped by lips whose hearts and hands crucified God's Son!); never more of churchgoers, never less of saints.

It is prayer-force which makes saints. Holy characters are formed by the power of real praying. The more of true saints, the more of praying; the more of praying, the more of true saints.

E.M. Bounds

### *This Week in Prayer*

- Pray for Israel. In the past few weeks many groups have revealed their true intent concerning Israel. Words like annihilate and utterly destroy, now is a common feature of the daily rhetoric. It is imperative that we pray for Israel.

*The Lord hath been mindful of us: he will bless us;  
he will bless the house of Israel;  
he will bless the house of Aaron.*

Psalm 115:12 (KJV)

- Stand in prayer with those that stand strong for the faith. This is difficult in many countries, but we can stand with those who are under great pressures for the faith.

*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 these meetings, June 24-27, once again lets rock the status quo in Europe.
- 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 that we will walk righteous with the Lord.

*The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and trust in Him.*

*And all the upright in heart shall glory.*

Psalm 64:10 (NKJV)

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

Exploits

Last week I wrote, today is desperate for exploits. Every age has had its exploits, the great explorers, inventors, writers and thinkers, preachers, and missionaries. Often at the darkest moment, exploits would turn the tide.

Exploits come in many types, shapes, and sizes. Edison claimed his were 10 % inspiration and 90% perspiration. Great as are many inventions and creations of man, in the long run spiritual exploits are far greater. Lighting the world has changed the way we all live, the Light of the World changes lives. Over and over, though out time, men and women have come to know God and carry out great exploits.

*Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery;  
but the people who know their God shall be strong,  
and carry out great exploits.*

Daniel 11:32 (NKJV)

Exploits in the spirit realm, begin with prayer. Knowing God is a key aspect of exploits. Many times, in ***Voice of Thanksgiving***, we have explored prayer and relationship with God. To know Him we must pray. But, the question is, will we?

Will this age have exploits? Yes, it will, but will they be secular or spiritual? Many men and women work hard, some even follow Edison's inspiration and perspiration rule. They may well have exploits. Will the church rise up and have exploits? Will we pray?

Exploits cry out for more than the status quo. In the world they demand work. In the spirit realm they demand extraordinary prayer. God is looking for men and women who will go beyond the usual, those who will make great demands on themselves, those who will yield to the leading of the Spirit and his call to a life dedicated to prayer. In the following passage, E.M. Bounds speaks directly to preachers, but his remarks are fit for all who would pray.

It is necessary to iterate and reiterate that prayer, as a mere habit, as a performance gone through by routine or in a professional way, is a dead and rotten thing. Such praying has no connection with the praying for which we plead. We are stressing true praying, which engages and sets on fire every high element of the preacher's being—prayer which is born of vital oneness with Christ and the fullness of the Holy Ghost, which springs from the deep, overflowing fountains of tender compassion, deathless solicitude for man's eternal good; a consuming zeal for the glory of God; a thorough conviction of the preacher's difficult and delicate work and of the imperative need of God's mightiest help. Praying grounded on these solemn and profound convictions is the only true praying. Preaching backed by such praying is the only preaching which sows the seeds of eternal life in human hearts and builds men up for heaven.

Will you pray, engaging and setting on fire every high element of the cause of spiritual exploits? Will you pray? Prayer born of vital oneness with Christ and the fullness of the Holy Spirit, which springs from the deep, overflowing fountains of tender compassion, deathless solicitude for man's eternal good; a consuming zeal for the glory of God; a thorough conviction of the difficulties and work with the imperative need of God's mightiest help. True praying, will you pray?

*Prayer is the first thing, the second thing, the third thing necessary to a minister. Pray, then, my dear brother: pray, pray, pray*—EDWARD PAYSON

### ***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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