

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of June 6, 2004

A Call to Prayer

Is it true that prayer is simply the compliance with habit, dull and mechanical? A petty performance into which we are trained till tameness, shortness, superficiality are its chief elements? "Is it true that prayer is, as is assumed, little else than the half-passive play of sentiment which flows languidly on through the minutes or hours of easy reverie?" Canon Liddon continues: "Let those who have really prayed give the answer." They sometimes describe prayer with the patriarch Jacob as a wrestling together with an Unseen Power which may last, not unfrequently in an earnest life, late into the night hours, or even to the break of day. Sometimes they refer to common intercession with St. Paul as a concerted struggle. They have, when praying, their eyes fixed on the Great Intercessor in Gethsemane, upon the drops of blood which fall to the ground in that agony of resignation and sacrifice. Importunity is of the essence of successful prayer. Importunity means not dreaminess but sustained work. It is through prayer especially that the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force. It was a saying of the late Bishop Hamilton that "No man is likely to do much good in prayer who does not begin by looking upon it in the light of a work to be prepared for and persevered in with all the earnestness which we bring to bear upon subjects which are in our opinion at once most interesting and most necessary."

EM Bounds

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** Conference in June 2004.

A Song of Ascents. Of David.
Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 133:1 (NKJV)

till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Ephes. 4:13 (NKJV)

- Pray for Israel. In the next few weeks there is going to be an upheaval in Israel. Many changes will come to the government and people. There will be a choosing of sides, for or against God. Pray for Israel that it would choose wisely.

***But this is a people robbed and plundered;
All of them are snared in holes,
And they are hidden in prison houses;
They are for prey, and no one delivers;
For plunder, and no one says, "Restore!"***
Isaiah 42:22 (NKJV)

- Stand in prayer with those that stand strong for the faith. Persecution, loss of jobs, beatings, imprisonment, and death; face members of the Body of Christ this week. Pray for Christians standing for the faith, caught in the path of Satan's death and destruction brigades, the governments, groups, and individuals who persecute the Church.

***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 ministry of the ICM eV (our German Verein). This is a tool dedicated to God to further the work of the Kingdom in Germany and Europe. As is true so many places around the world, there is a desperate need for Jesus Christ and His kingdom. Churches dot the country side; most churches are empty of people or power, many empty of both. Christianity has been cast aside as relic of the past. Germany is desperate for the message of Jesus Christ, they as is the case in most countries; they are looking for help in all the wrong places. Pray that we will avail ourselves to God for His purpose and plan concerning the Verein and ministry in Germany.

***But rise and stand on your feet;
for I have appeared to you for this purpose,
to make you a minister and a witness both of the things
which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.***
Acts 26:16 (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 healing and health for all of this company. Pray for those who are struggling with health concerns. Pray for those who through ministry, travel, and work are stretching the envelope concerning health.

***Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health,
just as your soul prospers.***
3 John 1:2 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

The Seventh Day

Have you ever considered the conversations that must have come in the evenings of the days Israel was before the gates of Jericho? After the, "How was your day?" and "Did I tell you what Sara said?" the conversation had to turn to, Joshua and the walls of Jericho.

***So he had the ark of the Lord circle the city, going around it once.
Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.
Joshua 6:11 (NKJV)***

***And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp.
So they did six days.
Joshua 6:14 (NKJV)***

Every night they were in the camp. With no TV, radio, computer games, internet or other modern evening fillers, they talked. No one had ever walked around walls of a city and no one had ever done this horn thing, so what do you suppose they talked about? Yet they remained in the faith, they stood with Joshua, their leader. The walls came down by faith, so they stood with Joshua without murmuring or doubt, those destroy faith. Throughout the Bible sin is revealed, but here there is nothing written of murmuring or sin. The walls of Jericho came down.

Today the question is; what would you have talked about when you lodged in the camp? What would have been the main points of the conversation when you returned to the camp? How about on day five or six? Notice a group of Jews at the time of Jesus:

***Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?"
And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him.
Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people."
However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.
John 7:11-13 (NKJV)***

The Jews with Joshua stood firm with him and the walls came down. How about today, do we stand firm today? In faith and prayer do we stand fast? Paul taught the Thessalonians by word and letter, and then expected and encouraged them to stand fast.

***Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught,
whether by word or our epistle.
2 Thes. 2:15 (NKJV)***

In faith and prayer we need to stand fast. It is easy to slip away from the faith, to slip into ritual instead of prayer, to slip into murmuring and unbelief. If we are to be successful, if we are to fulfill our call in prayer, we must stand in faith.

Prayer demands men and women who will come into and lodge in the camp. Again this requires a stand. Prayer is for those who come into the camp and lodge there. Day after day there are distractions designed to cause men and women to drift out of the camp. Too busy, too tired, too

scared, too much of everything, but prayer, no wonder most drift in and out, if they come into the camp at all. But this is not enough, prayer, real prayer, is for those who lodge in the camp. Like the Jews with Joshua, every day they returned to the camp, every day they lodged there. The stand of prayer is every day come to the camp and every day lodge there.

Finally prayer demands that everyday we stand in faith, firm in the will of God. God has said he answers prayer. God declares He is well able to do. God declares that His hand is not shortened, but able to save. Prayer stands firm with Him. Although the walls seem to stand, strong and secure, yet for those who stand the seventh day always comes and the walls come down.

***Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown,
so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.***

Philip. 4:1 (NKJV)

Stand fast, stand fast, the word of Paul to the Philippians echo on to us today, stand fast. God is developing, nurturing, and raising an army who will stand fast. For this company the call is to stand fast in prayer, no matter the camp, no matter the walls. Stand fast perfect and complete in all the will of God.

***Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you,
always laboring fervently for you in prayers,
that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.***

Col. 4:12 (NKJV)

***Who will rise up for me against the evildoers?
Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?***

Psalms 94:16 (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
include the word JOIN in the subject line

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