

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of June 27, 2004

### **A Call to Prayer**

“Thou art ever with me;” I am always near thee; thou canst dwell every hour of thy life in My presence, and all I have is for thee. I am a father, with a loving father’s heart. I will withhold no good thing from thee. In these promises, we have the rich privilege of God’s heritage. We have, in the first place, unbroken fellowship with Him. A father never sends his child away with the thought that he does not care about his child knowing that he loves him. The father longs to have his child believe that he has the light of his father’s countenance upon him all the day--that, if he sends the child away to school, or anywhere that necessity compels, it is with a sense of sacrifice of parental feelings. If it be so with an earthly father, what think you of God? Does He not want every child of His to know that he is constantly living in the light of His countenance? This is the meaning of that word, “Son, thou art ever with me.”

*The Deeper Christian Life* Andrew Murray

### **This Week in Prayer**

- Pray for Israel. Pray for the land and the people. For the land of Israel, pray for peace and security, yes peace and security. There can be both, but only in the hands of God. He is the hope for peace and security for all mankind and this includes Israel. No one can secure peace, but God alone.

Pray also for the people. The people have lived near God, but with their hearts hardened, separated from the one they need. Pray for the hearts of Israel to be soft toward God.

***again He designates a certain day, saying in David,  
"Today," after such a long time, as it has been said:  
"Today, if you will hear His voice,  
Do not harden your hearts."***

Hebrews 4:7 (NKJV)

- The clanking of the chains harasses our every step, surely our brothers chains must be our chains. Pray for those bound by chains and decrees, those hindered by lash and law, but yet they continue to preach the Gospel.

***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). Pray for doors of opportunity, with meetings used by the Lord.
- 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 perfecting. We work often in our own strength, our own knowledge, our own abilities; we seem to have no need for God. But our efforts a part from God; are weak, misguided, and incapable. Perfecting has so many aspects, there is so much that needs perfecting, our heart, our minds, our actions; every aspect of human nature must be perfected.

***I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,  
always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,  
for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,  
being confident of this very thing,  
that He who has begun a good work in you will  
complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;  
Philip. 1:3-6 (NKJV)***

***For I am confident of this very thing,  
that He who began a good work in you will  
perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.  
Philip. 1:6 (NASB)***

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

Treader of Grapes

Pressure, pressure, pressure, all around us there are pressures. Every aspect of life has moments of pressure, those times, often occurring at just the wrong moment, when the pressure is on. Even in our leisure activities we see the squeeze of pressures. A sport as slow and leisurely as American baseball; has a squeeze play. We squeeze a car into a small parking space, we squeeze into our clothes, we squeeze out a few more minutes in the day, everywhere pressure to squeeze out a little more of life. Much of the advertising world revolves around pressure and squeezing us to buy a style, a color, or an item. Pressure is everywhere, for some the pressure is on to get this read, so I yield to the pressure and get on with it.

The last few weeks we have been looking at an interesting passage from the book of Amos. We have not dealt with an interpretation of the verse or it's soon to be fulfillment, our interest has been the activities listed in a verse (Amos 9:13), the plowman, the sower, the treader of grapes, and the reaper.

***"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord,  
"When the plowman shall overtake the reaper,  
And the treader of grapes him who sows seed;  
The mountains shall drip with sweet wine,  
And all the hills shall flow with it.***

Amos 9:13 (NKJV)

These activities should be resident and active in all Christians. There are some who truly shine in one or more of these, but the Christian life, for everyone, should include these activities. The plowman is preparing the way, John the Baptist is the great example. Each of us is preparing the way for the Gospel for those around us. Are you preparing good soil, or rocks and thorns? John the Baptist prepared hearts to receive Jesus, are you? Are you praying for plowmen to effectively turn the soil and break the clods, leveling the surface for the sower, preparing hearts for the Word?

Last week we looked at the sower and the great seed of the Gospel, the Word of God. The Parable of the Sower and Sowing of the Wheat, in Matthew 13, gives us insight into this task. Good soil good crop, it yields a good crop because the seed is good, it is the Word of God. Yet even with good seed there is a concern, the tares can grow up with the wheat. Boldly sow good seed with no tares. Paul asks for prayer for boldness to speak (Ephesians 6:19-20), this is boldness to sow. Then in Acts (18:26) we see a need to speak (sow) properly. The Gospel message is complete and effective even with out the world's additives.

The third activity, the treader of grapes, this is the pressure point. Grapes squeezed by treading or in a press, release the juice. Without the pressure there would never be juice from the fruit. The same is true for people as well. No, we don't daily end up in a wine press, but we do face pressures. When the pressure comes, the juice comes out, what is in our heart comes out. Every one of us remembers moments when we have said something or done something we wish we could get back. We wish we could reach out and get words or deeds and pull them back. Pressure squeezes things out of us, not just words, but actions as well.

***A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good;  
and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil.  
For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.***

Luke 6:45 (NKJV)

With the abundance of the year's growth the grape yields her juice, with the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, and we act. The Bible has many examples of men and women speaking or acting under pressure, sometimes well, sometimes poorly or foolishly. For Example, look at the story of Cain and Able:

***but He did not respect Cain and his offering.  
And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.  
So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry?  
And why has your countenance fallen?  
If you do well, will you not be accepted?  
And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door.  
And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."  
Now Cain talked with Abel his brother;***

**and it came to pass, when they were in the field,  
that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.**

Genesis 4:5-8 (NKJV)

Under the pressure of the moment, confronted by God the evil in his heart Cain spoke, he killed his brother. Pressure is pressure, it can be large or small, but it causes action. Some things press more on one person than on another. Pressure revealed Cain's heart.

Pressure also brings out the best in people. Look at Peter and what he said under pressure.

**When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi,  
He asked His disciples, saying,  
"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"  
So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah,  
and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." [**  
**He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"**  
**Simon Peter answered and said,**  
**"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**  
**Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you,**  
**Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,**  
**but My Father who is in heaven.**

Matthew 16:13-17 (NKJV)

In the pressure of the moment, Peter answers, you are the Christ. Out of his heart he spoke. The treader of grapes brings pressure to those he talks to. This is not a slap in the face or put down, but an opportunity, a coming to the point where the pressure is on, not from man, but from God. Suddenly it is the same questioner confronting just as he did Peter, "Who do you say that I am?"

The call is for everyone to tread grapes. The plowman has broken the clods, hearts are open to the message, and the sower has sown; the Word does not return void, now the treader gives the opportunity, the moment of pressure. Pray for treaders, the fields are white ready for harvest.

## **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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