

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of July 11, 2004

A Call to Prayer

***One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple.
Psalm 27:4 (NKJV)***

This, then, is the basis of prayer which compels an answer—that strong inward desire has entered into the spiritual appetite, and clamours to be satisfied. Alas for us! It is altogether too true and frequent, that our prayers operate in the arid region of a mere wish, or in the leafless area of a memorized prayer. Sometimes, indeed, our prayers are merely stereotyped expressions of set phrases, and conventional proportions, the freshness and life of which have departed long years ago.

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for America. Pray that America will fulfill her destiny.
- Pray for Israel. Pray for peace for Jerusalem.
- Pray for the lost. What do we pray for when we pray for the lost? “Lord save the lost?” Well, yes, but what about specifics, how should we pray. Look at a prophecy of Isaiah.

***And He said, "Go, and tell this people:
'Keep on hearing, but do not understand;
Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'
"Make the heart of this people dull,
And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes;
Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears,
And understand with their heart, And return and be healed."
Isaiah 6:9-10 (NKJV)***

The prophecy was to a people who had turned from God. Isaiah told them the condition of their ears, eyes, and heart; this condition precluded repentance. But repentance is just what we are to pray for the lost. Pray for the lost, change their hearing, understanding, seeing, perceptions, making hearts come alive, ears open to the gospel message, eyes open to reality, seeing what is ahead, hearing the fate of the lost, understanding their destiny, and turning to God and being healed.

Continue Earnestly in Prayer

God continues to open new doors of opportunity to this ministry and our friends. This section is a place to report specific request for prayer. Please continue earnestly in prayer for these friends and their ministry.

Jacek Gromadzki – Jack and Agnes are a young couple who pastor a church plant in a town about 30 or 40 minutes from Koszalin, Poland. Jack writes:

We, and our church, are waiting for decision about a building for our church. We need to pray about favor in office's hearts for our ideas (*Editor's note: office's are the city officials*). Our church is in a place where we're working on the change of our mentality. Polish mentality is full of complains and negative things. We don't want to live in it. Please, pray also about new souls who will be saved for Christ in our town. We're working to grow. We're going to have 20 members; (or more!), saved and baptized, by the end of the year. God bless you!

Jack and Agnes.

Praying Always for You

Pray for one another. Pray for grace and peace from God. Pray His peace fill us to overflowing.

Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,
Galatians 1:3 (KJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Specific Prayer

Specific prayer is wonderful; there is nothing better than "hearing" from God thru specific answers to prayer. We love to have these reminders, we love to feel the closeness, we love His presence when He breaks through our circumstances and brings a sought after answer. General prayers miss this blessing, "God please save people today," has been answered, but there is nothing to tie your prayer to His response. Prayer very easily becomes just a practice, a ritual, it is easy to miss the supernatural nature of God, His power to break through and change what was into what now is. This is more than a feel good exercise; it couples us with God and His super natural power. We are joint heirs with Christ, not just in name, but in the resurrection power of the living God.

Christianity is in danger of losing its power. In too many circles we are politically correct and socially acceptable, while all Hell is breaking out around us. Social injustice, poverty, death and destruction are acceptable, we just have to make the best of it, is the attitude that has changed the church from a force of change to an irrelevant non-entity. A social club of do-gooders, the church has lost its way, its power, and its life.

Answered specific prayer shatters that status-quo. God leaps into our life and makes changes, it is supernatural, and radically changes people and churches. There are many reasons for God to offer

men and women prayer, but one for today, the one we need the most, is the radical thrust of the supernatural power of God into the ordinary life of men, women, and the church.

Specific prayer requests are available for many things close at hand. Mary needs a new car, Billy has a test, Jane is short on money, Dick is sick, this type of requests for prayer needs proliferate our prayer times. There is nothing wrong with this, but it should not be our only prayer requests. This is valuable as we see God's hand working in our prayers; we see His answers and His supernatural power. But what do we do about the broader base of prayers.

The next step is "newsletter" prayer requests. Christian ministries, missionary, and church newsletters often have prayer requests. The *Voice of Thanksgiving* is an example; and the new section, *Continue Earnestly in Prayer*, is an effort to give you more specific prayer request. It is important for us to pray, be specific, pray in faith, expect God's power to intercede, and see the supernatural power of God in action. For example, Jack and Agnes have asked us to join with them in prayer. Their request, "God give us 20 people or more, saved and baptized, in our church, by the end of the year." Specific prayer request, followed by specific prayers, followed by the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit drawing men and women to salvation and baptism, yields specific answers to prayer.

We need to see the hand of God in action in specific answers to prayer. Let us never lose sight of the fact that Christianity began as, and continues to be, a relationship with a supernatural God. He is not a God who is far off, but should be and is willing to be, a force in our everyday life. We need specific prayer for specific answers from God.

But there is more. God also is also calling men and women to pray beyond what has been describe so far. There is a realm of prayer that goes beyond this. God wants intercessors who will pray, in faith day-in and day-out, month after month, praying for breakthrough. This is specific prayers for specific answers as well, but often hidden and long term. This is entering into the intercessions of Christ. He ever makes intercession and is calling for those who will join with Him. Simply put, intercession is joining with Christ in carrying His burden. The intercessor is touched with the touches of Christ's heart. The intercessor sees the heart burden that Jesus carries and joins with Him. Specific prayers, but long term and wide spread answers.

Specific Answers to Specific Prayers

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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