

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of July 18, 2004

A Call to Prayer

Prayer affects three different spheres of existence—the divine, the angelic and the human. It puts God to work, it puts angels to work, and it puts man to work. It lays its hands upon God, angels and men. What a wonderful reach there is in prayer! It brings into play the forces of heaven and earth. God, angels and men are subjects of this wonderful law of prayer, and all these have to do with the possibilities and the results of prayer. God has so far placed Himself subject to prayer that by reason of His own appointment, He is induced to work among men in a way in which He does not work if men do not pray. Prayer lays hold upon God and influences Him to work. This is the meaning of prayer as it concerns God. This is the doctrine of prayer, or else there is nothing whatever in prayer.

E.M. Bounds

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for America. Pray that America will fulfill her destiny.
- Pray for Israel. Men may fight about walls, but the Lord is the wall for Israel. Pray for the physical wall which has made things safer; and for the Lord's wall and true safety.

***For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about,
and will be the glory in the midst of her.***

Zechariah 2:5

- Pray for the leaders of your country and those in authority over you. Pray for them wisdom and understanding from the Lord.

***Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people,
that I may discern between good and bad:
for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?***

1 Kings 3:9

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.

John Coon – John and Helen have been working with pastors and others in Europe for more than 20 years. As missionaries they worked from Austria with Christians behind the Iron Curtain. John will be in Poland October 14-21, 2004 and he and Helen will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico in September. Pray for these trips and ministries.

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 relief. We live in a hectic and stress filled time. The world spins around us so fast it seems it will spin your head off. It is easy to see why medicines, drugs, and treatments for stress related illnesses are at an all time high of usage. But God is our relief, He is the one in whom we rely.

To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. A psalm of David.

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

You have relieved me in my distress;

Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.

Psalm 4:1 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Continue in Prayer

When I was young I had a paper route. I did not have much trouble with dogs, but there was this one. He was a tiny little thing standing about eight inches tall and about fourteen inches long, but he was three feet tall in his own eye and the meanest dog in town. When he was out of the house, the moment he saw me, he would start barking and run at me and attack. I could not get him to stop. He latched on to my pants and would not let go.

Noah, Abraham, Joseph had long waits. Day-after-day, year-after-year, wait and wait some more, it is amazing they ever were successful, amazing they fulfilled their dreams and destinies. The wait was so long, the wait was so hard to endure, yet wait they did. Don't you know people ridiculed Noah, "An ark?" Don't you now there was more than a few who wondered about Abraham having children at his age, "Father of many nations?" His brothers questioned Joseph's dreams.

Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!'

Genesis 37:20 (NKJV)

Then Joseph was forgotten by all languishing in prison.

***Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.
Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years,
that Pharaoh had a dream; and behold, he stood by the river.***

Genesis 40:23 and 41:1 (NKJV)

The list goes on and on, Moses, David, and so many other people of the Bible with long waits for answers and fulfillment. For most it looked impossible, too old, too forgotten, too much in trouble, too hated, too everything except fulfill and successful. Yet through it all, in every story listed here and many more, God brought them through. Arks of safety, dreams fulfilled, kingdoms ruled, and on and on, God at just the right time, in fulfillment of His purpose and plan, God has completed, fulfilled.

In each of our examples we see God's man stand firm in faith. The author of Hebrews explains it this way.

***Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.***

Hebrews 11:1-2 (NKJV)

You might look at the faith of Abraham, read God's record of his faith, for example in Hebrews (Hebrews 11:8-12). Look at Moses (Hebrews 11:24-27) "esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward."

The Noahs, Abrahams, Josephs, and all the heroes of the faith continue to give a good testimony. Today the heroes of the faith are men and women of prayer. It is those who are committed to seeing God's Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven, those who pray who see the fulfillment of God's purpose and plan. They see God complete and fulfill all He has begun to do.

But there are men and women around that pray, but say, I have prayed, yet they are more like Joseph in the prison, than Joseph who ruled all the land of Egypt. Why? What has happened? Where is God? The problem is not what is wrong with God, but what is wrong with man. Many years ago I heard a man preaching on verses from 2 Kings.

***Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him,
and struck the water, and said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?"
And when he also had struck the water,
it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.***

2 Kings 2:14 (NKJV)

This man told us about one day in prayer he was lamenting before God and cried out, "Where is the God of Elijah?" and heard God reply, "Where are the Elijahs?" Beware, I am going to cry out for you, Where are the God of the heroes of the faith? What is God's reply?

His reply is specific for you, may be this or that, but in prayer His reply speaks of our commitment. Elisha picked up the Elijah's mantle and did all that Elijah had done and more. Why Elisha? He was committed to be there. Our call is to pray. Are we committed to prayer? Remember that little dog that attacked me on my paper route, he would not let go no matter how much I kicked and yelled. Are you committed like that dog?

Many people pray, but are we willing to be like the Heroes of Faith, committed to continue no matter what the Nay Sayers say? Far too often people do not continue in prayer, because they do not have anything committed to prayer.

***But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes,
shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given,
from him much will be required;
and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.***

Luke 12:48 (NKJV)

***that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,
not imputing their trespasses to them,
and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.***

2 Cor. 5:19 (NKJV)

***O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust,
avoiding the profane and idle babblings
and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—***

1 Tim. 6:20 (NKJV)

Far too often people do not continue in prayer, because they do not have anything committed to prayer. What have you committed to 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

To receive **Voice of Thanksgiving** by regular mail:

Voice of Thanksgiving
Inner Court Ministries
P.O. Box 2125
Longmont, CO 80502-2125