

Voice of Thanksgiving
Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer
Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of August 1, 2004

A Call to Prayer

In Paul's Prayer Directory, found in Ephesians. 6, we are taught to be always in prayer, as we are always in the battle. The Holy Spirit is to be sought by intense supplication, and our supplications are to be charged by His vitalising, illuminating and ennobling energy. Watchfulness is to fit us for this intense praying and intense fighting. Perseverance is an essential element in successful praying, as in every other realm of conflict. The saints universal are to be helped on to victory by the aid of our prayers. Apostolic courage, ability and success are to be gained by the prayers of the soldier saints everywhere. E.M. Bounds

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. The covenant God made with Abraham has never ended. Faithful God will continue to draw Israel back to the land and complete all He has promised. This faithful God will remain faithful to Israel and to His church.

***Behold, I will bring them from the north country,
and gather them from the coasts of the earth,
and with them the blind and the lame,
the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together:
a great company shall return thither.
They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them:
I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way,
wherein they shall not stumble:
for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.***
Jeremiah 31:8-9 (KJV)

- Pray for those in authority over you. The leaders of the nation are responsible to God and must answer to Him. Pray they will yield to His guidance and direction for your nation.

***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

- Pray for outreach. Your church and ministries have a purpose in Gods plan. Pray for the men and women called to be apart of what God is doing, to come and play an active part in His plan.

- Pray for your spiritual leaders. This week pray for worship leaders. God delights in worship and the Devil hates worship and detests worship leaders. Pray for their safety, health, and direction.

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. *Editor's note: I would like to include you in this section. Please email me with prayer requests for your ministry.*

Marianne Burns – Marianne is a missionary to China with Campus Crusade for Christ. She is working with students at a university in China. This summer Marianne is at a training conference and preparing for continued ministry in the fall. Pray for God's continuing preparation and provision for His servant. Pray for a safe trip back to China and pray for the harvest field of China, fields white unto harvest.

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 holiness, in these final days there is a need for men and women who will walk in holiness with the Father.

***A highway shall be there, and a road,
And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness.
The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others.
Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray.***
Isaiah 35:8 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

What if...

What would you do, is an interesting question. It often is stated something like, If you knew Jesus was coming back today, or this week, what would you do? How would you live? The implication of the statement, I would live differently if I knew today was The Day. The question then is why don't you live that way? The recognition of the presence of the Lord has made a difference in people's lives. Look at the immediate and radical changes in the lives of Matthew and Zacchaeus the tax collectors. Jesus went to their houses and there was a dramatic change in both talk and actions of these men.

***Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord,
I give half of my goods to the poor;
and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."***
Luke 19:8 (NKJV)

By contrast there is a second question. What would you do if you knew Jesus was not coming back for 100 years? I know the signs of the times are clearly pointing to a soon return of Jesus. But just for an examination of our lives and actions, what if He isn't coming back for years? What would this do to your life, actions, and plans? Only with a long term view of the Christian life would men and women consider some of the great projects of the past. For example, the great concordances and other study tools of the Bible; were compiled one word at a time long before there were computers to help.

God is famous for His long term mentality. Not restricted by time, He is not pressed for time like most people of the western world. Noah was "ancient" by modern standards when he started the ark and that was a project of more than a hundred years. How many of us would start a major project that would take a hundred years? Even Jesus' allocation of time seems foreign to us. Thirty years preparation, three years of ministry, and now He has spent 2000 years as an intercessor. Long term project!

***Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost
that come unto God by him,
seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.***
Hebrews 7:25 (KJV)

How do these questions apply to our prayer life? If you knew for sure He was coming back on Sunday, how would you pray and what would you pray? Suddenly your prayers are the last chance. With no tomorrow, there is a desperation that drives and energizes your prayers. Look at Jacob and his prayers. The night before he had to face his brother, the brother he had cheated and deceived, Jacob wrestles in prayer.

***Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.
Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him,
He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint
as He wrestled with him. And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks."
But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"***
Genesis 32:24-26 (NKJV)

I will not let you go unless you bless me! This is the voice of prayer, the voice of desperate prayer. With only days or even hours to go, with the trumpet of God warming up, wouldn't your prayers be

desperate? The story is told of Andrew Murray praying for four friends for years, they all got saved, but one not until after the death of Murray, but when The Day of His return is upon you, you do not have this luxury of time. If Jesus is stirring and coming once and for all on Sunday, how will you pray? I will not let you go unless you bless me!

How would you pray if you knew He was not coming back for 100 years? The first concern is would you pray? If He is not coming back for so long, would you still pray, or would you slip into lethargy. But if you held fast to your call, and continued to pray, how would you pray? A few paragraphs back we looked at the long term projects and training, of people not caught-up in the short term mentality. They willingly gave their life for projects and people.

You can see their vision, men will study the Bible and learn what God has said, if I write out a concordance of all the words. The driving force, make a tool everyone can use even if they don't have a background in the languages of the Bible. Would you undertake a project like this, knowing it might take all your time, energy, and life? Would you do a project in prayer? Has God placed a project on your heart, perhaps a people or nation? Would you pray to the completion of the assignment, even with your last breath?

If Jesus tarries for a hundred years would you be willing to let Him train you to pray? That was the request of the Disciples and He has done it with many others throughout the years. God taught George Mueller, Andrew Murray, Rees Howes and others, how to pray. The teaching lasted a life time, but they learned how to pray. Giants of prayer, they blazed a trail open to all, but seldom followed, the cost is too high for most people, it requires our all. Would give your life to learn how to pray, a life of training for even a moment of prayer?

All speculations aside, for we don't know what we would do, we can only do what we face today. But, if we would respond to the desperation of just a few hours or days, then why not pray this way. Every day praying with fervent desperation, I will not let you go unless you bless me!

If we would learn to pray, then why not enter in. No longer holding on to our plans, but yielded fully to His will and way. A lifetime we give to His school of prayer, a surrendered life learning to pray. If this is how we would do it, then why not do it this way.

I give my all for prayer, but I will not let you go unless you bless me!

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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