

# **Voice of Thanksgiving**

## **Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer**

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of August 22, 2004

### **A Call to Prayer**

We have in the Holy Spirit an illustration and an enabler of what this intercession is and ought to be. We are charged to supplicate in the Spirit and to pray in the Holy Spirit. We are reminded that the Holy Spirit “helpeth our infirmities,” and that while intercession is an art of so Divine and so high a nature that though we know not what to pray for as we ought, yet the Spirit teaches us this Heavenly science, by making intercession in us “with groanings which cannot be uttered.” How burdened these intercessions of the Holy Spirit! How profoundly He feels the world’s sin, the world’s woe, and the world’s loss, and how deeply He sympathises with the dire conditions, are seen in His groanings which are too deep for utterance and too sacred to be voiced by Him. He inspires us to this most Divine work of intercession, and His strength enables us to sigh unto God for the oppressed, the burdened and the distressed creation. The Holy Spirit helps us in many ways.

E.M. Bounds

### **This Week in Prayer**

- Pray for Israel. The call is for sustained, fervent, informed global intercession for God’s plans and purposes. He has always had His eye on Jerusalem and all her people, now is the time to pray. Several groups are calling for an Annual Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem the first Sunday in October.

***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

- Pray for outreach. The fields are ready for harvest, pray for labors to go into the fields and work the harvest.

## **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.*

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.

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.

## **Praying Always for You**

Pray for one another. Pray that we will be fruitful; from the earliest days of creation God has commanded His children to be fruitful. It is a basic part of our nature. Jesus' ministry is filled with the word pictures of farming and harvesting, calling men and women to be fruitful. In prayer, ministry and the Christian life we should be fruitful.

***And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply,  
and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."***

Genesis 1:22 (NKJV)

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

Scope and Specifics

God and man have had some epic struggles. Man after the Fall has always been rebellious and this places us in conflict with God. That rebellious nature causes us to do things our own way, not God's

way and it has always lead to problems. Some rebels are able to look good rebelling. They seem to be good people doing what is “right and good”, but at heart they are rebels. There are the “revisers”; knowing what is best, they explain what God meant. There are the “silent-but-deadly”; they are like the little boy who was standing on his chair at the breakfast table, his father said, “Tommy sit down.” The little boy continued to stand. Father said, “Tommy sit down!” After several exchanges Tommy finally sits down, but says, “I may be sitting on the outside, but I am standing on the inside.” There are many other manifestations of rebellion, but in one form or another it lurks in all.

An area of struggle is how we see things. The scope of our vision is very different from God’s. His scope is based on love for the world. He sees things from the perspective of the world. The old song “He has the whole world in His hand”; is an expression of the scope of God’s love and vision.

***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.***

John 3:16 (NKJV)

With His scope He sees the world a harvest field ready to be won to Himself. He is willing to pay the ultimate price to see His vision fulfilled; that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. This is scope on a scale that all of man’s efforts pale by comparison, but is common place to God. When God explained the blessing of His covenant with Abraham, God spoke within His massive scope framework.

***That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed  
as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore;  
and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;***

Genesis 22:17 (KJV)

This is God’s scope in thinking, planning, and action. A scope so large we struggle for understanding of what He could mean. Often our rebellion steps in, we limit God by interpreting what God means, placing it in a scope we can handle and deal with. “What God meant was there would be Jews in every country” or some other limitation on what God said.

The God of the massive scope is also the God of the specifics. Salvation is for one man. God’s heart is to reach out to all, but He reaches one man at a time. “Whoever believes” opens the door for everyone, but only opens it for one man at a time to pass through.

***that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe  
in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.***

***For with the heart one believes unto righteousness,  
and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***

Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV)

God’s scope is the whole world, God’s specifics is giving Jesus as a sacrifice even for one man.

Man’s scope and specifics is just the opposite, man begins with self and scarcely is able to broaden his scope. The little prayer phrase is not as far from reality as it should be, “God bless me, my wife, my son and daughter, us four and no more. Amen” Rebellion prays this prayer, small scope prays this prayer.

No one would be so openly rebellious; the small scope prayers, the rebellious prayers are steeped in pious sounding words, steeped with broad sounding phrases, but motivated by selfish scope and specifics. Even when we seem to open up our scope we fall into the pit of self. "God, save and bless the people of Germany" is a prayer that lacks specifics, but more often falls to the ground because of the unsaid pretext, so our ministry will grow or so I will be blessed. It is still about me or us.

If you are still reading, please do not be condemned by this. God is not out to get us because of our rebellious nature, He is out to get us to die. When we continue to lean on our own understanding, abilities, and thoughts, we are bound in the limiting scope and specifics of prayer and action. We begin with me and scarcely able to lift our eyes. The new creation in Christ Jesus is dead. By dying to what once bound us, we now can serve in the new way of the Spirit. This is the life God wants for us, this is the life of God's scope and specifics.

Jesus was the perfect dead man. His life was continually, "not my will, but your will be done." As we die, as we become like Jesus, we lose our rebellious man scope and specifics and dare to by God's scope and specifics. We dare to pray by God's scope and specifics. We are like the clay of Jeremiah's potter, fashioned as He sees good to make.

***And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter;  
so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.***

Jeremiah 18:4 (NKJV)

In prayer God is making men and women fashioned after Jesus, fashioned to pray God's prayers, His scope and specifics, our scope and specifics. This is prayer from the Master's hand, for the Master's cause, prayed through us.

### **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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