

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of November 7, 2004

A Call to Prayer

PRAYER, without fervour, stakes nothing on the issue, because it has nothing to stake. It comes with empty hands. Hands, too, which are listless, as well as empty, which have never learned the lesson of clinging to the Cross. Fervourless prayer has no heart in it; it is an empty thing, an unfit vessel. Heart, soul, and life, must find place in all real praying. Heaven must be made to feel the force of this crying unto God. Paul was a notable example of the man who possessed a fervent spirit of prayer. His petitioning was all-consuming, centered immovably upon the object of his desire, and the God who was able to meet it.

Prayers must be red hot. It is the fervent prayer that is effectual and that availeth. Coldness of spirit hinders praying; prayer cannot live in a wintry atmosphere. Chilly surroundings freeze out petitioning; and dry up the springs of supplication. It takes fire to make prayers go. Warmth of soul creates an atmosphere favourable to prayer, because it is favourable to fervency. By flame, prayer ascends to heaven. Yet fire is not fuss, nor heat, noise. Heat is intensity—something that glows and burns. Heaven is a mighty poor market for ice.

God wants warm-hearted servants. The Holy Spirit comes *as a fire*, to dwell in us; we are to be baptized, with the Holy Ghost and with fire. Fervency is warmth of soul. A phlegmatic temperament is abhorrent to vital experience. If our religion does not set us on fire, it is because we have frozen hearts. God dwells in a flame; the Holy Ghost descends in fire. To be absorbed in God's will, to be so greatly in earnest about doing it that our whole being takes fire, is the qualifying condition of the man who would engage in effectual prayer.

E.M. Bounds from *Necessity in Prayer*

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel. The situation with Arafat will be difficult for the Middle East and for Israel. Pray for God's will for new leadership of the Palestinians. Pray for the friends of Israel to remain close to her.
- The persecution of Christians continues. There are places where accepting Christ could result in loss of job, homes, and even life. The persecution of our brothers is ours as well. Will you pray?

- Pray for support for the outreaches and ministries of your church and Inner Court Ministries. God works in conjunction with prayer.
- Pray for the **Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries** Conference in Poland, June 24-26, 2005.
- Pray for the ministry of the ICM eV (our German Verein). The Verein conference will be in Germany, June 16-18, 2005.

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. Remember this church, pray for the 20 members, saved and baptized by the end of the year.

DK Limbu Daniel – Who was here in Longmont a few weeks ago, writes, Pray for the New Life Faith Seminar November 1-4 and New Life Youth Convention November 10-14. Pray for God's best be manifested to the people in conventions and anointing for the speaker and participants. Pray for provision for buying motorbikes for pastors working on the southern plan. A used bike is \$400 and new is \$1200-1400.

Marianne Burns – Marianne is a missionary to China with Campus Crusade for Christ. Remember Marianne and the work with students at a university in China.

Praying Always for You

Pray for one another; pray for fire. Pray we would be on fire for the Lord.

***Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him,
Nor speak anymore in His name."
But His word was in my heart like a burning fire
Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.***

Jeremiah 20:9 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Election Campaign Lessons

David Williamson

The American election is over. Some people are happy their candidates won. Others are sad their candidates lost. Most are glad and sad, some of their candidates won and some lost. With the

election over, it is a good time to think about what has happened. What do the results mean, what does this hold for the future? But the question for us for today, what can we learn from this election? Not who said this or that, not this policy or that, not this lie or counter lie, not counts or recounts of votes, just what can we learn?

Dedication

Standing in the rain for hours, waiting for hours for merely a glimpse of the candidate, driving hours for a meeting of minutes, this is the dedication of the campaign. The dedication of the campaign says the cause is important; it is our cause. Would you stand in the rain for hours to tell someone about Jesus? Is this a cause worth your dedication?

***Enter by the narrow gate;
for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads
to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.
Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which
leads to life, and there are few who find it.***
Matthew 7:13-14 (NKJV)

Is it possible that Jesus meant what He said? He said there are many following the way to destruction. He also said there is another way to go, by the narrow gate. He said few find it. Perhaps more would go if you tell them of the way. This seems to be the cause of all causes. Are you dedicated to this cause? Would you stand in the rain for hours to tell someone about Jesus? Would you tell your neighbor or your friend?

Stay on the Message

The candidates stay on their message. It was at times very frustrating, what ever you asked they stayed on their message. Christians cannot stay on message. We argue over Christmas trees, the date of Easter, and the color of the carpet. The prophets of the Old Testament stayed on their message, John the Baptist stayed on his message, and Jesus stayed on His message. If we are to be successful, we need to stay on the message. And what is our message?

***Jesus said to him,
"I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me.***
John 14:6 (NKJV)

Zeal

Thousands of people working for the same result spent millions of dollars and thousands of hours. If we were to use one word to describe the efforts of these campaigns, it would be zealous. There was no limit to how far they would go to gain a few more votes. Their zeal consumed them for months.

***And He said to those who sold doves,
"Take these things away!
Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"***

***Then His disciples remembered that it was written,
"Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."***

John 2:16-17 (NKJV)

In the dictionary, word zealous is defined as, filled with or characterized by zeal, and the example given is missionaries. Are you zealous for the Kingdom?

***Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up,
And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.***

Psalm 69:9 (NKJV)

***My zeal has consumed me,
Because my enemies have forgotten Your words.***

Psalm 119:139 (NKJV)

Give

Throughout the election, there were reports of massive amounts of money spent on this campaign. People were willing to give money and of themselves for the cause. Giving is a central theme of the Bible. Moses was willing to give himself for the people. Jesus came to earth and gave His life. What will you give?

***Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not,
blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.***

Exodus 32:32 (KJV)

This is the prayer of an intercessor giving his or her all for the answer. Will you give?

Something Bigger than Self

This was a national election. It was important what happened in my neighborhood, but the result came from what happened over a very wide area, not just one region. In some areas, a candidate could win 70 to 30 and still lose the election. It is hard for people who live in an area where a candidate did well, only to have the candidate lose overall. Christians have a tendency to focus on themselves. The old prayer "God bless me, my wife, and my kids, us four and no more" is sad, but far too often true. Many people are Christians for self. What is in it for me? However, Christianity is not about self, it is about others. It is about the bigger picture, the masses, the nations, and the world. God loves the world. Jesus commanded His disciples to lift up their eye to see the harvest fields. Look beyond your self. Is your Christian faith big enough for the world? If not you need to come to Jesus and He will open your eyes. There is a world dying to hear about Jesus, they are dying to hear from you. Will you go, speak, and make disciples?

***Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of
the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,***

Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)

Light and Shadow

In a national campaign, there are many people involved and many different roles. There are people seen every day. They are in the spotlight, seen by all. There are thousands no one ever sees or knows. The campaign fails without the work of the thousands. Those who are seen are not seen without the work of the thousands. The volunteers that work the Election Day, “getting out the vote” are as important as the big name people are. In Christian work, this is the same. There are those that are well know and then there are the thousands that do the work far from the spotlight. The evangelist backed by an army of workers. To win the people to Christ, we must have both, and both must do their part.

Leadership

The people of the country followed the leader. The campaign workers named a “Bush man” or a “Kerry man” worked for and followed their leader. It was the leader’s message, his plan, his campaign. Are you a Jesus man? Have you yielded your identity to Him? Have you allowed Him to rule and reign in your heart and life? Are you on His message, His plan, and His campaign? Are you a Jesus man?

***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new.***

2 Cor. 5:17 (NKJV)

So how do you stack-up? They worked for an election placing a man in office for four years. They worked for ideas that will pass into history very quickly. Yes, the election was important, but it will pass very quickly. How does that compare with the campaign of bringing Jesus Christ to the heart of every man and woman, bringing the Gospel to every nation? This election is forever! It is time to campaign!

A Jesus man for Christ

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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