

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of November 14, 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.

from the *Weapon of Prayer* by E.M. Bounds

### **This Week in Prayer**

- Pray for Israel. The maker of peace in the Middle East is and only will be, God. Peace for Jerusalem, Israel, and the region will not come by sword, vote, or the will of man. It will come and it will only come, thru the hand of God. With this is mind, pray.
- 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.

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 liberty to be free from the yoke of bondage.

***Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free,  
and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.***

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV)

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

#### **Castles of Confidence**

David Williamson

In the 1970s as a member of the US Air Force, my duty station was Wiesbaden, Germany. My mother and father came to visit me. We spent a lovely two weeks visiting many of the famous sites and towns of Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and Netherlands. While we were in Amsterdam, we stumbled on to a celebration. In the main square, we noticed that the Dutch flag was flying over the queen's palace. We knew this meant she was in residence. We also noticed people setting up barricades blocking off part of the square. We decide to stay and see what was going to happen. Soon band and military groups arrived. Crowds gathered and we moved up against the barricades. We had stumbled into a celebration in remembrance of the Dutch resistance in World War II. The bands played, men and women marched, and the Queen came and placed a huge wreath on the monument to the faithful efforts of these men and women. It was quite a site, made even more spectacular as the Queen walked to the monument right in front of us, we could have reached out and touched her.

The palace and castles of Europe are some of the many famous sites everyone goes to see. Most Americans would mention the castles first when describing Europe. The castle is a symbol of this region. The castle was for centuries central to life in Europe. The military force for centuries was the castle. Behind its walls, people were safe from predators, bandits, and armies. Any one who would conquer a region had to undermine, breakthrough, or overcome the walls. The king and all those with him were safe and secure as long as the walls were sound. The same is true for our Christian faith.

In the Christian faith, the castle is our confidence. This is not the confidence of the world. These range from the silly to the sublime. For example, people have absolute confidence in a red piece of metal that says STOP. Our confidence is so strong we will drive through an intersection, we are

positive the car coming to the intersection will stop. We have confidence in many aspect of life. Often we get into trouble because our confidences are unfounded and fail us.

The castle for the Christian life is confidence in the person of Jesus Christ. There was protection, provision, and safety for those in a strong castle. There is protection, provision, and safety for those in the castle of confidence in Christ and His willingness and ability to protect, provide, and save.

***Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.  
For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God,  
you may receive the promise: "For yet a little while,  
And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.  
Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back,  
My soul has no pleasure in him."  
But we are not of those who draw back to perdition,  
but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.***  
Hebrews 10:35-39 (NKJV)

Attacks on Christians come in many means and forms. Some are obvious, our bothers and sisters are suffering for their faith in many countries. Other attacks are more like attacks brought against the castles of Europe. The enemy would undermine the walls of the castle. This type of attack seeks to bring a breach to the walls by weakening and undermining their strength. This comes in many ways both large and small attacks. The “great” philosophies and thoughts of men are often this type of attack. Philosophies that declare God is dead, seek to undercut the authorship of the Bible, or challenge the Book of Genesis and our origins. For an example, the attack may be on Genesis, but the result is a weakling of men and women’s confidence. If Genesis is not reliable, this undermines our confidence. When the enemy attacks you on an issue close to home, salvation, health, provision, or others, the walls must be strong to withstand the attack. Our confidence in Christ must not fail. When the walls fail, we think or say things like, God loves some, but does not love me, God heals some, but not me, God provides for some, but not me. Our faith fails.

***But without faith it is impossible to please Him,  
for he who comes to God must believe that He is,  
and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***  
Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

Another means of attacking the castle is to batter its gates. The ram was a designed to break down the gates, the weak point in the wall of the castle. The Christian faces battering rams every day. Like the rams of old, these just pound on you day and night. Western society has many rams. They may be subtle, but are effect nonetheless. There is a barrage of words spoken of doubt, fear, and death. Every advertisement warns of impending disaster, for all who fail to use their product. Support for every cause is whipped up by calling on death and destruction. In addition, the one that we have seen so dramatically in this election year, everyone is a so-called expert. We have exchanged knowledge for opinion. As Os Guinness, in his book *Prophetic Untimeliness*, has said, “There is a huge gap between knowledge and opinion—and ours is an age that is short on knowledge and long on opinions (and the cult of statistics and opinion polls).”

The attacks also come over the walls. The arrows of words fly thru the sky circumventing the walls with their reign of death. Words of death and destructions, words of caution and calamity, words

dearth and doom, these are the arrows of the enemy sworn to kill, steal and destroy. Negative words fill our ears. They fill the airways and byways. The media, our hearts, and minds fill with these deadly arrows. It is not surprising that Paul tells us not to grow weary.

***And let us not grow weary while doing good,  
for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.***

Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

Under the walls, thru the walls, and over the walls the enemy is attacking. His goal is to destroy our faith. Like the castle of old, the walls are our strength. For the Christian those walls are our confidence, our confidence in Christ Jesus. His saving grace and power is for us today. It is a full and complete salvation, capable of meeting and exceeding our every need, but that provision for today is lost if we loose our confidence.

The promise of the Father is salvation, which has nothing missing, nothing broken. Our confidence stands firm on His ability and willingness to perform. In prayer and intercession, in personal and corporate life our confidence must be in Him. The enemy will provide us with help to cast away our confidence. But those who endure, those who will not cast away their confidence, they will receive the promise.

***Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.  
For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God,  
you may receive the promise: "For yet a little while,  
And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.  
Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back,  
My soul has no pleasure in him."  
But we are not of those who draw back to perdition,  
but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.***

Hebrews 10:35-39 (NKJV)

Let nothing undermine the wall. Do all to withstand the battering of the ram. Shield off the fiery darts of the enemy. Stand firm in your confidence, knowing that in Him we can have great confidence. Stand firm and receive the promise.

### **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

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

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