

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of December 12, 2004

### **A Call to Prayer**

Nothing so pleases God in connection with our prayer as our praise, and nothing so blesses the man who prays as the praise which he offers. I got a great blessing once in China in this connection. I had received bad and sad news from home, and deep shadows had covered my soul. I prayed, but the darkness did not vanish. I summoned myself to endure, but the darkness only deepened. Just then I went to an inland station and saw on the wall of the mission home these words: "Try Thanksgiving." I did, and in a moment every shadow was gone, not to return. Yes, the Psalmist was right, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord."—HENRY W. FROST

### **This Week in Prayer**

- Pray for Israel. The great walls of Jerusalem built for protection. The walls were never enough, only by the hand of God were the people in the city safe. Today the walls, everything that a modern state does for security, are still not enough. It is only by the hand of God that the people are safe. Modern Israel came to be a land over night. It has won wars that all but the most callused recognize as due to Devine intervention, but today many would try to make her secure by armies or deals. Neither will last and neither is strong enough. Pray for the hand of God to protect His people yet again today.

***To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. A Song.***

***Let God arise,***

***Let His enemies be scattered;***

***Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.***

Psalm 68:1 (NKJV)

- The persecution of Christians continues. Men and women are standing for their faith. In many places, this stand comes with persecution and the threat of death. Will you stand in faith with these who stand for their faith? (See the notes Marianne Burns and D.K. Daniel in the section **Continue Earnestly in Prayer**)
- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** Conference in Poland, June 24-26, 2005. Pray for support for the conference and for continued assistance for the pastors supported by this outreach. The support for the conference and for the pastors is a continuing need, pray for God's provision. (If you would like to help email [dave@innercourt.com](mailto:dave@innercourt.com) there are many ways you can support this ministry).

- Pray for the ministry of the **Inner Court Ministries eV** (ICM eV is a German Verein, a non-profit corporation for German ministry). The **ICM Verein Conference** will be in Germany, June 16-18, 2005. Pray for the Rosenheim region pastors meeting January 18, 2005. Mark Spencer senior pastor of Inner Court Ministries will be sharing our vision for the June conference.
- Pray for support for the outreaches and ministries of your church and Inner Court Ministries. God works in conjunction with prayer.

### **Continue Earnestly in Prayer**

Please continue earnestly in prayer for these ministries.

**Marianne Burns** – Marianne is a missionary to China with Campus Crusade for Christ. Pray for the work of follow-up with three girls who have just come to know the Lord. One girl is a cause for special prayer, as she knows very little English; this will be the first person Marianne has reached in Chinese. Pray for ministry on other campus, especially an upcoming presentation for students. (There are no English majors on these other campus, so all outreach must be in Chinese). Pray for the holiday season, the work has been very hard and intense and it is tiring and difficult to be away from home. Pray for God's love and ministry to help and encourage the teams. Pray for Marianne, the Lord is showing her His plans for the next few years. She may go back to this area of China for 3 to 5 more years.

**DK Limbu Daniel** – Pray for his work across Nepal. There fields are white unto harvest, but there are many who oppose the work. Pastor Daniel emails news that there are now two new churches in difficult areas. Please continue to pray for the work of the Gospel in Nepal and especially for these new churches.

**John Coon** – John will be traveling to Poland June 3 through 12. He will meet with Marek in Koszalin for a few days. He will then be ministering to and with many of the pastors throughout this region. Many of these men and women John has worked with for many years.

**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.

**Mark Spencer and David Williamson** – Pray for Mark and David as they travel to Germany, January 14-19, 2005. They will be meeting with pastors of Rosenheim sharing the vision of ICM eV (our German Verein). This vision is prayer for the region, Bavaria, Germany and beyond.

### **Praying Always for You**

Pray for one another; pray for minds to be set on the things above not on earthly things.

***If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above,***

**where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.  
Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.  
For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.  
When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**  
Col. 3:1-4 (NKJV)

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

**Seek and Find**  
David Williamson

People like good searches. We like the struggle to find something. Books and movies regularly present a main character, who through guile, luck, or special help, must find something or someone. The adventure is this quest. It is easy to enter into the action and plot; we join in the quest. The setbacks are our setbacks, the successes are our successes and from the safety of our seat, we can face the dire threats of the quest. The search is the basis of many books, movies, and life.

Prayer is a search. This search is seeking God, to know Him, His voice, His will, and His answers. The Bible gives record of many people seeking God. In the New Testament, there are great examples. They tell us many things and serve to instruct us on how to seek God. An example is the woman with the issue of blood. She demonstrates the determination of faith. Nothing would stop her. She set her mind and her actions by faith. No one and nothing could keep her from touching the hem of Jesus' garment. By her faith, she received healing.

Another example, Jesus knocked Paul to the ground, which would have been enough to make most people mad. They would stomp off, cursing and complaining. But, for Paul this was the next step in his life long search for God. His life was seeking God (and helping other seek God).

***that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection,  
and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,***  
Philip. 3:10 (NKJV)

Prayer was in the forefront of his life, work, and writing. Prayer was a tool of his searching. Prayer allowed him to come ever closer to Jesus. As a detective follows cues to find the culprit, so Paul followed prayer ever closer to the heart of God.

***For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,  
that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,  
to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,  
that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;  
that you, being rooted and grounded in love,  
may be able to comprehend with all the saints  
what is the width and length and depth and height  
to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;  
that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.***

***Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly  
above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,  
to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations,  
forever and ever. Amen.***

Ephes. 3:14-21 (NKJV)

This is the prayer, of a man of prayer. This is the prayer of a man who has come, day-by-day, closer and closer to the heart of God.

As He walked on earth, Jesus was a man of prayer. He daily walked with God in prayer. His Disciples regularly found Him going to prayer, coming from prayer, or engaged in prayer. As a man, He had progressed so far in prayer, He could say:

***Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying.  
And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said,  
"Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.  
And I know that You always hear Me,  
but because of the people who are standing by I said this,  
that they may believe that You sent Me."***

John 11:41-42 (NKJV)

This is the prayer, of a man of prayer. This is the prayer of a man so close to God, he always had God's ear.

In your search for God, as you seek Him day-by-day, where has prayer taken you? Are you able to focus beyond on the issues of the day, willing to do anything to touch Jesus and receive your answer? Are you like Paul, impossible to offend, even if any of the disasters he experienced come your way? Are you like a detective on the trail, always continuing to seek Him? Are you like Jesus, constant in prayer and knowing God hears your prayers, He always hears your prayers?

***For centuries, men have sought Jesus,  
Wise men seek Him in prayer.***

### ***Joining This Company***

All Christians who will pray are welcome. ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** is available by e-mail 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 and tell your friends and prayer partners about ***Voice of Thanksgiving***. We are gathering a company of believers who will pray. Together we will reach nations for Jesus Christ.

To receive ***Voice of Thanksgiving***  
Send an e-mail with word JOIN in the subject line to  
[david@innercourt.com](mailto:david@innercourt.com)