

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of March 20, 2005

A Call to Prayer

“Eudamidas, a citizen of Corinth, died in poverty; but having two wealthy friends, Arctæus and Carixenus, left the following testament: In virtue of my last will, I bequeath to Arctæus my mother and to Carixenus my daughter to be taken home to their houses and supported for the remainder of their lives. This testament occasioned much mirth and laughter. The two legatees were pleased and affectionately executed the will. If heathens trusted each other, why should not I cherish a far greater confidence in my beloved Master, Jesus? I hereby, therefore, nominate Him my sole heir, consigning to Him my soul and my children and sisters, that He may adopt, protect, and provide for them by His mighty power unto salvation. The whole residue of the estate shall be entrusted to His holy counsel.”—GOTTHOLD

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference***. The ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference*** is possible, due to the support of people who have caught its vision, Christians working together to bring the Gospel to people in towns and cities around the world. Your prayers and support make the conference, as well as other ministry outreaches and activities possible. Thank you for praying and giving. Please continue, perhaps God will do even more with this conference, with deep and lasting relationships it has fostered.
- ***Rise Up O People of God! – Calling the Believing Church to Victorious and Effective Prayer in the Last Days!*** This is the theme of the ICM e.V. conference, June 2005. Pray for the churches and people who will participate. Pray for the details of planning and preparing for a prayer conference.
- Pray for Israel to be lead to their shelter and strong tower, to the God of David, there to find deliverance from their enemies.

Continue Earnestly in Prayer

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for Pastor Daniel and his ministry in Nepal.

Dear Brother David, Greetings in Jesus' Name! We prayed for you, your family and your ministry this morning in our Friday Prayer Fellowship. I am leaving for east Nepal for conference on Sunday, will be there for 5 days or more...! Pray for God's provision and anointing. May God bless you, Pastor DK Daniel.

Marianne Burns – Marianne is a missionary to China with Campus Crusade for Christ. Pray for the work on several campuses and an upcoming special presentation for students (there are no English majors on some campus and so all outreach must be in Chinese).

Marek Kaminski – Marek has a very busy schedule for the next few months. Pray for him and his ministry. He will be in April in Ukraine, June 16-18 translating for David Wilkerson, June 24-26 hosting the BBB conference. Pray for his family to go with him to Australia in July. Marek has responsibilities in many areas and asks for prayer. He oversees nine major ministries in Poland.

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. In a recent email, Jack asked for prayer:

We'd like to see the saving of new people in our city. We work on it, but we need God's grace, more and more. I can see that people in our church need help in that work, encouragement, support, and to see fruits of work. Prayers are powerful so, please, remember us. Jack

Pray for Jack and his church; pray they would have great fruit in the work of saving people in their city. Pray also for your church; pray it would be working to save people. Can your church say, "We work on it"? Pray that you can. Saving people is a work of action and prayer. Editor

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Abide in Prayer

David Williamson

How are your farming skills? Several years ago, I spent a couple of days helping my brother on his farm. I enjoyed the time immensely; it was wonderful to get away from my work and problems for a day. As much fun as it was, I promptly demonstrated how little I know about farming. I will mention two examples, but reserve the others for private laughs at myself whenever I need to deal with my pride. I found out that it is easy to snap a wire fence with a tractor and that it is really, really dumb to continue to turn hay in a rainstorm (you turn it so it will dry!). It only took minutes for me to know I was in a world I knew nothing about. My brother and his wife keep me from major destruction and I to this day look back fondly to those days, but I know in that world, I was clueless. Many people struggle with the life of faith.

The Christian life is a life of faith. If you think you can be Christian and not walk in faith, you do not understand Christianity. It is from top to bottom a life of faith and prayer fits perfectly in this description, prayer is a life of faith. Many religions make prayer a life of action, if you turn this wheel, if you say these things, if you do this activity, if you do... They make the action the grounds for, in effect, purchasing the answer to your requests. This is not true in Christian prayer. Christian prayer is by faith. It is by faith we have access to the Father. It is by faith we know He hears us. It is

by faith we know He is willing and able to answer prayer. It is by faith we know His nature is a good God, desiring to reach out to His children. It is by faith that we know He answers. Prayer is by faith.

It is easy to forget, prayer is by faith. We live in a world that rejects faith. This world makes claims about work, strength, power, science, and many other factors of life, but struggles with faith. Truly, faith is a realm we must learn about, not one that comes naturally. This is almost a wrong statement, because faith comes naturally to children. They have great faith. They know by faith that mom and dad will provide for their every need. They never once wonder if they will have a meal. They have great faith in their parents.

However, this faith is taught out of us. We learn the ways of the world. The world's ways is anti-faith. The world teaches that in every realm of life, faith is not the answer. The more westernized the country, the more "advanced" the country, the stronger this message is and the more completely it is received. At a very young age, people learn the lessons of the world. They "know" the message of anti-faith. This teaching is so complete and encompassing, that it is hard for those once indoctrinated, to live a life of faith. We see this manifest in efforts to evangelize. If a religion has works as its base, it is well received, but salvation by faith is difficult, nearly impossible, for many people. It is just too foreign of thinking. It is another world completely. Prayer must overcome this same struggle.

Prayer is widely received if it is works based. Prayer by faith is a struggle. Just as it was obvious that I did not have a clue what I was doing on my brother's farm, so most people struggle with prayer. They long for a system, for actions, for anything other than faith, as the basis of prayer. "How to" books are very popular, but prayer books gather dust, sitting on the bookstore shelves (if there are any books on prayer even there). So what do we do? How can we change this in our lives, and how can we change this for others.

James gives us a clue. He uses the farmer as a guide. His statement is simple, but powerful.

***Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.
See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth,
waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.
You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.***

James 5:7-8 (NKJV)

The same practice as James describes in waiting for the coming of the Lord, is our guide to praying in faith. He states it so simply, but this is a very powerful and informative statement. "See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain." The farmer waits; this is a powerful statement for faith. The farmer knows he can do many things, but the growth of his crop depends on the Father. He must send the rain; He must make the seed yield a crop. The farmer waits for the Father to make precious fruit happen. The farmer has faith in the Father to make these things happen.

***And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,
and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow,
he himself does not know how.***

Mark 4:26-27 (NKJV)

James' statement is also ironic. The farmer waits; I have never seen people who work harder than farmers do. The "off season" is more work than the rest of the year. All winter the farmer is working to be ready for spring. His days filled with building, fixing, planning, and preparing. The farmer's wait is hard work. In prayer, we should be the same way. No, I am not talking about working prayer, but working like the farmer. He works with his eyes constantly on the crop, his every action a step toward having a crop. Nothing he does creates fruit, but without the work of the "off season", there is no crop.

In prayer, our work is to keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). Like the good farmer, the good prayer warrior, works day-by-day to prepare for prayer. Rees Howells called this guarding his place of abiding.

***If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,
you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.***
John 15:7 (NKJV)

From the moment we wake, to the time we go to sleep, we should be working to remain abiding in the Father. We should be ruthlessly dealing with anything that would separate us from the Father. This is not a call for us to move to a desert and live as a hermits, this is to live in the world, but never allow the world or sin, to separate us from the Father.

In prayer, we walk with the Father, abiding with Him. It is in the abiding where prayer becomes powerful. It is in the abiding that we see the fruit of prayer manifest. Prayer is not work, but the work of prayer is to remain abiding in the Father.

Work to abide, abide that you might pray

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. ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** 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. Also, 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

Prayer Requests in Fear God Forums

Visit our interactive forums located at: <http://www.feargod.com/forum/>

I would like to hear from you. Post your prayer requests and answers and pray for the requests of others.

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