

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of April 10, 2005

### *A Call to Prayer*

*The act of praying is the very highest energy of which the human mind is capable; praying, that is, with the total concentration of the faculties. The great mass of worldly men and of learned men are absolutely incapable of prayer.*—SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

### *This Week in Prayer*

- Pray for Israel may God richly bless her. May his face shine upon her and give her grace.
- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference***. Pray for those who will attend this year. This is an opportunity for strengthening of relationships, empowering ministry, and enjoying fellowship.
- ***Rise Up O People of God! – A Seminar on Prayer*** this is the theme of the ICM e.V. conference, June 2005. Please pray for God's presence and power to be manifest in this conference.

### *Continue Earnestly in Prayer*

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

Pray for church building needs, training school, missionary families, adoption of a little girl, and travel to the eastern part of the country for meetings with the church of the area. .

**Joyce Abrahamson** – Joyce is a missionary working in Brazil. She runs a school for children and a Bible school. Pray for protection, anointing, and provision.

**Marianne Burns** – Marianne is getting married! She and David Dean will be married May 28, 2005. Marianne in her engagement announcement asks for prayer: I am feeling very humbled right now, knowing that I am TOTALLY insufficient in and of myself to do all these things, so I would really really appreciate your prayers!

**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. *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*

**Marek Kaminski** – Marek has a very busy schedule for the next few months. Pray for him and his ministry. He will be in the Ukraine in April. Marek has responsibilities and asks for prayer.

**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.

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

**Earnest Prayer**  
David Williamson

Are you satisfied? It is a simple question, one with answers on many levels. To some the question might indicate a concern about the food for the day. Satisfied would indicate not starving. To another it might indicate owning a house. To another it is a good job. To another it might indicate their children are safe and cared for. Most people long for and work for satisfaction. Satisfaction can also signal a concern. Once we are satisfied, it is common not to strive for a goal. Christianity is a place of satisfaction, but Christianity also shuns satisfaction.

There is nothing as satisfying as Christianity. The Father has made room of you. He has paved the way for you. He has set a table before you and if that was not enough, He sets it before your enemies. The “I am” of God, I am the Lord who heals you, is a list of ultimate satisfaction. Everything you could ask or imagine; that is satisfaction! It is hard to imagine greater satisfaction.

At the same time, Christianity shuns satisfaction. There would only be a few Proverbs left if you took out all of the verses that speak about the slothful and lazy. The Christian life is active, aggressive, and challenging. Those are not the words of satisfaction. The way, in Christianity is a narrow path, but it is a path, which is a way to go somewhere.

So the question one more time, are you satisfied? I ask the question to provoke you to self-examination. Using both answers to the question, are you satisfied, examine yourself, how do you respond? However, there is a very basic question; it must precede answering questions about satisfaction. Are you a Christian? Do not try to answer the questions about satisfaction from the outside looking in. Just as there was a fence around the Tabernacle whenever the Jews pitched camp, a fence high enough no one could see in and no one could walk in, except by the one gate, so it is with Christianity, you cannot see the Christian life from outside. You must be born again to see the life in Christ. This is by faith, the request, let me see and then I will decide, never gains entrance. So answer the first question first, have you made Jesus Lord over your life? Have you given control over your life to Him? Have you asked Him to come, rule, and reign over you? If not, then we come to an impasse. Everything else in this message is a waste of time for you.

However, if Jesus is Lord, your Lord, then once again the question. Are you satisfied? Have you begun to enter into and enjoy the fruits of His salvation? Do you eat at His banqueting table? Do you know the peace that passes understanding? Are you satisfied? Are you insatiable, never satisfied? Are you seeking the things of the kingdom with your whole heart, soul and body? Are you walking day-by-day with your Father, ever closer to Him?

Unfortunately, most people do not live this way. Many people live backward; they are not satisfied with the things the Father has provided. However, these same people are satisfied with life, willing to sit back and drift along. This sad combination appears in many aspect of Christian life, including prayer.

***“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*** James 5:16 (KJV) ***“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”***(NKJV) ***“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results.”*** (NLV) I like the NLV, Earnest prayer. What is earnest prayer? Earnest is characterized by or proceeding from an intense and serious state of mind.

This verse comes from a powerful letter (James). Please note it is to insiders. The letter is to insiders, Christians. This is especially true of the passage this verse comes from. Earnest prayer is only for insiders, the righteous person. There is no possibility of being righteous, you cannot do everything demanded by the Law and if you do not meet the demands of the law perfectly you are not righteous. The only way to make a person righteous is the work of Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection opens the way for sinful man to become righteous. I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. People around the world do many things, some of these are called prayer, but earnest prayer is only by the insider, the Christian. Yes, before you complain, God does hear the prayers of the unrighteous, there are even answers to prayer, but this is not earnest prayer. Earnest prayer demands a righteous man. The verse does not leave room for sinners, outsiders, pagans, or anyone other than the righteous man. There is no yea, but... Earnest prayer is for a righteous man.

Earnest prayer is, so that means, there can be a lack of earnest prayer. There are many who do not pray. The dearth of prayer has reached epidemic proportions. It is becoming shocking to find some one who prays, and even harder to find someone who prays earnest prayer. God was disappointed that He did not find intercessors. How disappointed must He be that there are so few who pray earnest prayers. He will wipe away our tears, but who is wiping His tears now? Who will pray?

Earnest prayer has great power. There is a move in many circles to define prayer as an exercise. The practice of the meditation of prayer will change your life. There is a truth here, but it misses the point. Contact with God, time with God, mediation on the things of God, is beneficial to man. He rubs off on us. If you spend time in His presence, you cannot help but to be changed. He is bigger than life and better than anything we can think or imagine; no wonder people change in His presence.

However, earnest prayer has great power. God does powerful things when we pray. Like unleashing a dam of water, the pent up power rushes out of the reservoir and the power affects everything it contacts. Earnest prayer is powerful; it changes things. This is far different from the claims of prayer as just an exercise. A man or woman who prays earnest prayer unleashes pent up power. This is not prayer just to practice prayer, this prayer to release power on a situation.

You put power to something because you want it to change. The world is in love with power and especially power tools. There is a power tool for everything. We love to push the button and unleash the power. Sometimes we do this just to sense the power, but the design of the tool is to apply power on something. The design of earnest prayer is to apply power on something. Earnest prayer has great power.

Earnest prayer has wonderful results (avails much). A history of earnest prayer in the Bible is notable due to the wonderful results. Look in the passage we have been reading, Elijah prayed earnest prayer and it did not rain, that is results. That is powerful. Elijah prayed earnest prayer and it rained, that is results. That is powerful. In earnest prayer, God is able the power is in God. Earnest prayer unleashes His power, His not yours. It is your prayer, the earnest prayer, which unleashes the power of God.

Are you satisfied, satisfied with your prayers? Are you just spending time with God? That is not bad; many people do not even do that. However, are you satisfied? Righteous man, would you pray earnest prayers? Would you see the unleashing of God's power, changing the situations around you? Are you satisfied?

***But from there you will seek the Lord your God,  
and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.***  
Deut. 4:29 (NKJV)

***And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.***  
Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)

***And whatever we ask we receive from Him,  
because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.***  
1 John 3:22 (NKJV)

***Now this is the confidence that we have in Him,  
that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.***  
1 John 5:14 (NKJV)

***The Earnest Prayer of a Righteous Person Has Great Power and Wonderful Results***

### **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](mailto: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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