

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of May 8, 2005

A Call to Prayer

A young man had been called to the foreign field. He had not been in the habit of preaching, but he knew one thing, how to prevail with God; and going one day to a friend he said: "I don't see how God can use me on the field. I have no special talent." His friend said: "My brother, God wants men on the field who can pray. There are too many preachers now and too few pray-ers." He went. In his own room in the early dawn a voice was heard weeping and pleading for souls. All through the day, the shut door and the hush that prevailed made you feel like walking softly, for a soul was wrestling with God. Yet to this home, hungry souls would flock, drawn by some irresistible power. Ah, the mystery was unlocked. In the secret chamber lost souls were pleaded for and claimed. The Holy Ghost knew just where they were and sent them along.—J. HUDSON TAYLOR

This Week in Prayer

- Pray for Israel, they long for redemption from their troubles.

***Redeem Israel, O God,
Out of all their troubles!***

Psalm 25:22 (NKJV)

- ***Rise Up O People of God! – A Seminar on Prayer*** this is the theme of the ICM e.V. conference, June 2005. The conference plans are coming together; please continue to pray for this conference. Pray that God will be exalted in these meetings.

***The princes of the people have gathered together,
The people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is greatly exalted.***

Psalm 47:9 (NKJV)

- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference***. Pray for support for the conference and continued support for the pastors supported by this outreach. This meeting of East and West is a very powerful opportunity for growth and strengthening of the church.

***that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love,
and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding,
to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,
in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.***

Col. 2:2-3 (NKJV)

Continue Earnestly in Prayer

Marianne Burns – Marianne is getting married! She and David Dean will be married May 28, 2005.

A quick update: Just two weeks ago, my bosses Jeff and Sandy sat me down and encouraged me to consider leaving East Asia a little early to give me more time to rest and plan the wedding without having to hurry as much. I really prayed about the decision-my pride said "No! You can do this, you need to stick it out to the end," but I knew in my heart that this was the Lord "making me lay down in green pastures," (Psalm 23). After I made the decision, it was amazing the way every detail fell into place-from getting a plane ticket, to getting rid of two-years worth of stuff, to saying goodbye to my Chinese friends (definitely difficult), to winding up with my team and making sure every responsibility was taken care of. I am still amazed at the way the Lord got it all done in such a short period of time! In the midst, the ministry on our campus continues to flourish (just showing that God uses me when he wants to but certainly doesn't NEED me in order to do great things in East Asia!). We sent 15 students on a 5-day mission trip to a nearby village (last year only 4 students were interested and able to go!), and I haven't heard all the details yet, but it seems they saw a lot of fruit and will come back with hearts full of faith in what the Lord can do! As I hear more details about this trip, I will send them out! That is just ONE example of the BIG things we see the Lord doing, and I get to be one of YOU now as I pray for the things that are happening over there from the other side of the world. :)

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for Pastor Daniel and his ministry in Nepal. Prayer is needed for, church building, training school, support for new pastors and missionary families in new areas of Nepal, adoption of a little girl, and travel into eastern Nepal to meet with the churches there.

Your Home Church – Pray for your home church, that it would have great fruit in the work of saving people in your city. Pray for your church to be active in the work of saving people.

*For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you,
And in the day of salvation I have helped you.
Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."
2 Cor. 6:2 (NKJV)*

Marek Kaminski – Marek has responsibilities in many areas as a husband and father, as pastor of his church, as a leader of his denomination in Poland, and as leader of Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries and the work with pastors. Please pray that God will direct him and give him wisdom.

Mark Spencer – Mark has responsibilities in many areas as a husband and father, as pastor of his church, as leader of *Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries* and the work with pastors, and as leader of the German Verein ICM e.V. the sponsor of the *Rise Up O People of God! – A Seminar on Prayer*. Please pray that God will direct him and give him wisdom.

*For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.
1 Cor. 2:16 (NKJV)*

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. Pray for the outreach of this church in there town and area of Poland.

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.

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Prayer Time

David Williamson

Every good book or article on prayer talks about spending time with God. They should, one of the keys to power in prayer, success in prayer, and answers in prayer, is spending time with God. Effectual prayer depends on relationship with God. In that relationship prayer, changes, from run-of-the-mill prayers, dry and boring, into dynamic prayers, that rocks the world and changes lives. However, in our busy lives it seems that more time with God is just not possible.

Most of you know where “time with God” articles go from here, they talk about Brother Lawrence and people scream, “That was then, this is now”. “My life is not in the kitchen all day like his was, we use a microwave”. “The 21st century is not the 17th century; it is not possible to live like that now.” Their plea, “I need help for today”. If you do not know, Lawrence (Nicholas Herman 1605-1691) was a 17th century monk who sent letters to a friend. His letters became the book, *The Practice of the Presence of God*. In these letters, Lawrence shares his struggles and victories in finding time with God a busy schedule. His straightforward dealings with his struggles have spoken to Christians of every century since its first publishing. The question you asked is, “What does a monk know about life today? With cell phones and soccer matches, email and two career families. What does he know?”

What Brother Lawrence found for his time applies to today as well. We can practice the presence of God, not like 17th century monks, but in this busy modern world. God has planned the Christian life for every century. He has made a way for men and women to pray and spend time with Him. He has called you to prayer; He has made a way for you!

***praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints***

Ephes. 6:18 (NKJV)

Here is God’s command on the subject. He calls us to pray, all the time. He does not make allowances for soccer mom lives, two or three jobs families, or hectic schedules. He just says pray on all occasions. So how will you respond? Many just write this off as something that sounds good, but is an unreal suggestion. Others respond, “Lord show me your way.”

***that the Lord your God may show us the way
in which we should walk and the thing we should do."***

Jeremiah 42:3 (NKJV)

You can practice the presence of God, just as Brother Lawrence did. The reason I know you can, you do it in other areas of your life. Let me give you an example from my life. For many years, I was a football coach (American football). Every week we would prepare and practice for the game on Friday night. Throughout the week, all through each day, I would have the game on my mind. No the game was not all that I thought about, but it came to the forefront of my thoughts every time there was a moment. Thoughts about the game and preparations for the game were always with me. The hard part of coaching was not practicing the presence of football; it was trying not to always practice the presence of football.

I have a friend who practices the presence of quilting, a friend who practices the presence of golf and another one who practices the presence of her children. This is not all they think about, but they always think about these things. You have also done this. If you have ever been involved with a sports team, you have practiced the presence. When your favorite team is in the big game, a championship of some type, you have spent the week before the game practicing the presence of the team; thinking what is needed to win, how good winning will feel, etc. When people prepare for a big trip or vacation, they often become absorbed with the preparations and the anticipation about the trip. They are practicing the presence of their trip or vacation. This can be positive and fun, but it also proves you can practice the presence of something if you choose.

You can do the same to spend time with God. He is the big game! He can be the all-consuming factor in your life.

***But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.***

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

You can spend time with God. The key is to work at it. You must set your mind on Him. At first, it will take a lot of work. Your mind will go everywhere, but on Him. You will go for long periods away from Him. When you do, stop ask forgiveness, and then begin again.

***Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.
The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."***

Mark 14:38 (NKJV)

Many people stop after the first or second failure with comments such as, "I can't do it", or "It is just too hard for me."

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

Luke 18:1 (NKJV)

However, all who will press in can practice the presence of God in prayer. His prayers can become the thoughts that are always coming to the forefront. Throughout the day, moment-by-moment you spend time with God in prayer. This is possible and can become your way-of-life, just as it was for Brother Lawrence.

*Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy
to escape all these things that will come to pass,
and to stand before the Son of Man.*

Luke 21:36 (NKJV)

*Be anxious for nothing,
but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known to God;*

Philip. 4:6 (NKJV)

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

Col. 4:2 (NKJV)

pray without ceasing,

1 Thes. 5:17 (NKJV)

*Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions,
and giving of thanks be made for all men,*

1 Tim. 2:1 (NKJV)

*But the end of all things is at hand;
therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.*

1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

*But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith,
praying in the Holy Spirit,*

Jude 1:20 (NKJV)

You Can Spend Time With God 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. *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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