

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of August 7, 2005

### *A Call to Prayer*

WHEN we study the many-sidedness of prayer, we are surprised at the number of things with which it is connected. There is no phase of human life which it does not affect, and it has to do with everything affecting human salvation. Prayer and consecration are closely related. Prayer leads up to, and governs consecration. Prayer is precedent to consecration, accompanies it, and is a direct result of it. Much goes under the name of consecration which has no consecration in it. Much consecration of the present day is defective, superficial and spurious, worth nothing so far as the office and ends of consecration are concerned. Popular consecration is sadly at fault because it has little or no prayer in it. No consecration is worth a thought which is not the direct fruit of much praying, and which fails to bring one into a life of prayer. Prayer is the one thing prominent in a consecrated life. E. M. Bound from *Essentials of Prayer*

### *Continue Earnestly in Prayer*

Pray for these men, women, and ministries. The Holy Spirit is looking for partners who will join with these ministries in prayer and support to reach nations for Jesus Christ.

**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. Joyce requests prayer for the effectiveness of the outreach and for finances needed for the ministry.

**Marianne and David Dean** – Marianne and David are in school together preparing to return to the mission field. Pray for men and women to embrace their vision for reaching East Asia and support them with finances and prayer.

**Jacek Gromadzki** – The church in Kolobrzeg, Poland bought their building in January. They are now restoring the building. They have an opportunity to buy a plot of land next to their property, which would be a great place for children ministry and as a witness to the community.

**The Inntal Prayer Initiative** - Inner Court Ministries e.V. and various Churches of the Rosenheim area sponsored “Rise Up O People of God! – A Seminar on Prayer” June 2005. This seminar called churches of the region together for encouragement and prayer. One result was a renewed and strengthened desire for revival. From Innsbruck to Rosenheim, people are praying for revival, please join in prayer for revival in the Inntal.

**The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference** - The Theme of the June 2005 conference was “Preparing for Revival”, Pastors and their wives from seven countries (Poland, Germany, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Scotland, and the United States) gathered together to hear from God and be refreshed in His presence. Please join with these men and women in praying for revival.

**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.

**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. which is 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.

**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. Pray for plans and outreaches for your church for this fall and opportunities for ministry.

**Pray for Israel** – Pray for eyes to open to see the Messiah.

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

#### **Transforming Dreams into Reality (part 1)**

David Williamson

In 1968 the Olympics was held in Mexico City. The premiere event was the marathon. The race, run at a mile high altitude, was run and the world watched as the great runners completed this grueling event. As the officials were preparing to take down the barriers and leave, someone noticed that there was still one more runner coming in. This was well after everyone else had finished. This man had fallen and was injured, but he continued to limp along the full lap of the stadium to the finish line. Everyone still in the stadium cheered and he finally did finish. When interviewed after the race the man from Tanzania was asked, “knowing you could not win; after you fell and were so far behind, why did you finish the race?” He answered, “My country did not send me to Mexico City to start the race, they sent me to finish the race.”

You have come to a good beginning. However, today is not the finish of the race; it is the beginning of the future. Your place today is the beginning point for the rest of your life. Today should be a beginning. No matter what you have done, God has prepared a new beginning for you.

*Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.  
They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

Lament. 3:22-23 (NKJV)

Come to Him today for His new mercies, His new compassions. If you do not know Him as Lord of your life, come to Him, repent of your sins, and receive His gift of life. If your walk with Him has been long or short, come to Him today for His new mercy. Today is the start of an adventure in faith and love. An adventure He has planned for you.

Many of you who read this newsletter have walked with Him for years. You know of His faithfulness and mercies. However, beyond His provision for today, He has plans for you. He placed His plans in your heart while you were still in the womb. Today that plan burns inside, challenging you to walk within His provision for the fulfillment of that plan. Each day should be a celebration of what God has done and an anticipation of what God is doing. He is working in and through you to bring the plan of your heart to life.

Some of you are deeply involved in the working of your plan. You are building on a dream and making it a reality. Others are searching to understand the dream and pursue it as it wells up inside when ever you pause for a moment. Still others wonder if there is a dream inside, concerned that an internal dream is as illusive as a gentle spring breeze. There have been dreams, but they have been the dreams of a child, fleeting and non-consequential, but now it is time for dreams of life, faith, work, and dedication. This is the dream of the heart, the labor of a life time. Pursue this dream.

Everyone has dreams, big or small we all have them. Some pursue them with vigor and resolve. Often these people are very successful; dreams become realities and change the world around them. Often the dreams seem like nonsense when first they are seen. Like to two men who had a bicycle shop in Ohio, who had this strange dream they could fly. Many people laughed and were still laughing even on the day when the men did fly. Many people laughed when the son of a wealth aristocrat from England said he would give away all he had and go as a missionary to China, bringing the Gospel to the millions in that land. Yet all England took note when C. T. Studd did just that. The key to these success stories and the many many others we could related, is very simple, they transformed dreams into reality by the pursuit of the dream. They would not be stopped. The world could laugh, but onward they went, pursuing their dream.

Transforming dreams into reality is a difficult pursuit. There is much of life that fights against you, much that is not right. The nature of man is to take the path of least resistance; unfortunately this path never leads to fulfillment of the dream. Many a bitter old man looks back on his dream and realizes instead of pursuit, he followed the flow and ends his life far from his dream and its goal.

God gives us mercy and grace, He gives us life and love, but character is learned in the crucible of life. Epictetus once said, "A life not put to the test is not worth living." Our character is the result of our reaction to the tests of life thus far. Lack of character is failure to test or failure to pass our tests. Many people have no excellence of character today because they fail to take tests. They allow their life to drift from place to place never pursuing a dream or cause. They avoid the tests, receiving a failing mark for character and never develop. They may get old, but never get excellence of character, their character broken and weak.

There are several keys to the transformation of dreams to reality; they are all a part of the pursuit of excellence. The first is excellence of character. To walk with God and fulfill our dreams, we need to walk in excellence of character.

*A Psalm of David.*  
*Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle?*  
*Who may dwell in Your holy hill?*  
*He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness,*  
*And speaks the truth in his heart;*  
*He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor,*  
*Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;*  
*In whose eyes a vile person is despised,*  
*But he honors those who fear the Lord;*  
*He who swears to his own hurt and does not change;*  
*He who does not put out his money at usury,*  
*Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.*  
*He who does these things shall never be moved.*

Psalm 15:1-5 (NKJV)

This is excellence of character. Pursue of excellence of character will transform the dream of our heart into the reality of our life.

It is the pursuit of excellence of character that transforms dreams. No longer is your dream locked in the recesses of your mind and heart. Through the fire of character development your dream is transformed. No longer is it a vapor, but now hardened by the curable life and testing your dream becomes reality. Excellence of character is defined by God, manifest by Jesus His Son, and taught by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has character lessons for you today. He has planned a full slate of life altering activities to mold your character. Allow Him to teach you today. The Holy Spirit is making you like

*though He was a Son,*  
*yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*

Hebrews 5:8 (NKJV)

Jesus the model of excellence of character had a dream that all men and women would come to the Father. Jesus pursued excellence of character and made provision for the fulfillment of His dream. Will you pursue excellence of character and transform your dream into reality?

### **Pursue Excellence of Character**

#### **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)

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