

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of November 27, 2005

### *A Call to Prayer*

The two great evils—not asking, and asking in a wrong way. Perhaps the greater evil is wrong asking, for it has in it the show of duty done, of praying when there has been no praying—a deceit, a fraud, a sham. The times of the most praying are not really the times of the best praying. The Pharisees prayed much, but they were actuated by vanity; their praying was the symbol of their hypocrisy by which they made God’s house of prayer a den of robbers. Theirs was praying on state occasions—mechanical, perfunctory, professional, beautiful in words, fragrant in sentiment, well ordered, well received by the ears that heard, but utterly devoid of every element of real prayer.

The conditions of prayer are well ordered and clear—abiding in Christ; in His name. One of the first necessities, if we are to grasp the infinite possibilities of prayer, is to get rid of prayerless praying. It is often beautiful in words and in execution; it has the drapery of prayer in rich and costly form, but it lacks the soul of praying. We fall so easily into the habit of prayerless service, of merely filling a programme.

E. M. Bounds from *The Purpose in 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 reaching nations for Jesus Christ. Pray for open doors of opportunity for the Gospel.

*meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word,  
to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,*

Col. 4:3 (NKJV)

**DK Limbu Daniel** – Pray for Pastor Daniel and his ministry in Nepal. Nepal is in the mist of a great move of God; continue to pray for this land. Pray for pastors, churches, and training schools. Pray for pastors and the work in new areas of Nepal. Pray for protection for Christians and favor with the government.

*Editor’s note: This is a very special time in this part of the world. God is moving in powerful ways across the region of South Asia. Please spend extra time in prayer for Pastor Daniel and the many ministries of the region.*

*Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly  
and be glorified, just as it is with you,*

2 Thes. 3:1 (NKJV)

**The Inntal Prayer Initiative** – Continue to pray for revival in the Inntal, our prayers are making a difference. From Innsbruck, Austria to Rosenheim, Germany people are praying for revival, join in this prayer for the Inntal. Here is a note from Bernd concerning prayer in Germany.

The churches started with a monthly prayer meeting with all the free-churches together. It is always at the last Friday of the month. The meeting in November is in Brothaus church and the meeting in December is in a Lutheran church. The main reason they started these prayer meetings is a big evangelistic crusade in some European countries called "Pro Christ". The main meeting will be in Munich in the "Olympia Halle" from there the program will be transferred via satellite to hundreds of cities in Germany and to some European countries. Pro Christ will be every evening from March 19 to 26th 2006.

**The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference** – It is time to begin praying for the 2006 BBB conference. Pray for the men and women who will come to the 2006 conference, this is the time of God's preparation. God has great plans for this conference and plans for touching the nations through this event.

**Marianne and David Dean** – Marianne and David are traveling in the United States meeting with people sharing their vision for ministry. 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 continues to reach out to the community. Pray for their boldness of faith and ministry.

**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.

**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.

**John Coon** – John has just returned from Austria and time with churches and individuals of that region.

**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 this fall and opportunities for ministry.

**Pray for Israel** to see the Messiah who has come. Pray for their eyes to be opened and behold the Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

## *Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer*

### **Eye on the Prize**

David Williamson

It is easy to get sidetracked. Life is filled with diversions geared for fun, enjoyment, and relaxation. There are negative aspects to life that also divert us from our goals and plans. The times when we stop and take stock of our life often are very painful. We see how we failed to keep to our plans and we remember times we have strayed from the best route for life. This is the time when we wonder what could have been or should have been our path of life.

The Christian often must face this same type of reflection. Being born again does not exclude a person from reflection, nor from facing diversion from goals and plans. And far too often we face a record of having been sidetracked. Life, negative and positive, has at times steered us from the best path. We must face up to the reality that we have missed an assignment or ducked a duty. We have failed to complete something we started. The Christian faces many of the same disappointments as those outside of Christ, but the Christian has knowledge of God's mercy that is new every morning waiting to help us recover and get back on track.

In the 1970s in America there was a series of books, plays, videos, and TV shows on the theme "Eye on the Prize". These were a history of the civil rights movement. The thought was, even though there were many many setbacks; still people kept looking for the day when "All men are created equal" would include all races. They kept their eye on that prize.

The Christian life and the prayer life should constantly be the same; we should keep our eye on the prize. In civil rights the prize was equality, for the Christian the prize is Jesus. Paul understood and followed this admonition. His life and ministry flowed from one source and he never took his eyes off of that source, Jesus. He kept his eye on the prize.

***For I determined not to know anything among you except  
Jesus Christ and Him crucified.***

1 Cor. 2:2 (NKJV)

(See also Philip. 3:10, 2 Tim. 1:12, 1 John 2:3-5, and 1 John 5:20) Paul ministered in many places and saw God move powerfully, but throughout his ministry he kept his eye on Jesus. He knew that all he did in ministry was from God; nothing was from his own strength or ability.

***for in Him we live and move and have our being,  
as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'***

Acts 17:28 (NKJV)

Too often we get our eye off Jesus and on the ministry or our prayers. We minister to the needs of people; salvation, deliverance, teaching, or exhortation and it is easy and common to allow our focus to be the need of ministry. We have taken our eye off the prize. We pray and the needs of the prayer, the problems, the lack, or the hurting, become our focus. We have taken our eye off the prize.

At this point some will say, but these are real needs. The Christian life is a life of compassion we must care for and deal with these very real needs. There is a call to ministry and to pray for each of us. Would you have us deny our calling?

No, you should fulfill your calling, we all should, but the way to fulfill your calling is to keep your eye on the prize. When we focus on Jesus, when we draw near to Him, our eye, fixed on the one we adore, we will see His tears of compassion and we will act. We will hear the beat of His heart and reach out to the nations. We will see the reflection in His eye and seek out the lost and dying. We will hear His intercession and pray for the nations.

The great difference, what made Paul so successful and many of us struggle over, he kept his eye on the prize. He sought Jesus first and foremost in his life and the ministry of the Holy Spirit flowed from his union with Jesus. It was never Paul's ministry. It was never Paul's prayers. He entered into the ministry and prayer life of Jesus. Paul went to Corinth, but he looked to Jesus. Paul prayed for Timothy, but his focus was Jesus.

We see this in every day life. We hear a story, or we see an event and we have to tell others about it. The first opportunity we get, our conversation is, "Did you see..." In our Christian ministry and our prayer life we should be the same. Evangelism that comes from the throne of grace has the focus on Jesus and we must tell all we meet. Our conversation always becomes, "Have you met Jesus?" The words change, the timing changes, but when we focus on Jesus we have to tell someone. Paul could not help but tell the Corinthians about his Jesus. Paul focused on Jesus and from this came his ministry. It was not "look at these needy Corinthians", although they were very needy, he came to them and the salvation message just flowed out of him, "Come see Jesus!"

Our prayer should be the same, we focus on Jesus and we will pray for the needs of people and nations. We cannot help ourselves; this is what comes when we draw near to Him. We pray. The difference is the prayers. When the need or problem is the focus it becomes the focus of our prayers. When Jesus is the focus He is the focus. His power is more than enough to meet the need. He is well able to reach the nations. The need focused prayer is the prayer that says "Oh my", the Jesus focused prayer says, "Yes, Lord". The "Yes, Lord" is not "I will try", "It is He who is able".

### **Keep Our Eye on the Prize**

#### ***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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