

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of December 25, 2005

A Call to Prayer

*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours,
and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain;
and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.
And he prayed again,
and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*
James 5:17-18 (NKJV)

Continue Earnestly in Prayer

*And give Him no rest till He establishes
And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*
Isaiah 62:7 (NKJV)

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.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for Joyce who is committed to the vision of sharing Jesus with the poor, neglected children in the jungle settlement of Proto Velho, Rondonia, Brazil. Pray especially for laborers to be called to this ministry, for finances, and for the children, the students in the first five grades of the school Joyce directs.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for Pastor Daniel and his ministry in Nepal. Nepal is in the midst of a great move of God; continue to pray for this land. Pray for pastors, churches, and training schools. Also pray for the pastors and 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 in the region.*
- *Several members of the **Voice of Thanksgiving** Company will be in India in the next few months. Please be praying for outreaches in India in addition to your prayers for the rest of the area.*

John Coon – John will be returning again to Poland May 1 through 9, 2006. This will be a special time of ministry with pastors from Poland and with a friend of John's from fifteen years ago.

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. It is a very important time for Germany, as it is for all of Europe, the times demand Christian prayer. Pray for revival, pray for the church, pray for men and women to be saved.

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.

Jacek Gromadzki – The church in Kolobrzeg, Poland continues to reach out to the community. Pray for their boldness of faith and ministry. Jack has written that this year was one of prayer and answers by God. Here is a recent note.

We're so close to the end of the year. It's time to think what God has done in our life this year. I'd like to write to you a little about my church and ministry. I can see that this year was a prayer time. At the beginning of the year I wanted to grow in the number of the members in our church. So I started to encourage our people to pray of it and to evangelization. We prayed and share the gospel with people but we didn't see any man who wanted to come to Jesus. We carry on the prayer. At last people started to come to church. Two of them are in our church as members after baptism. Some of them are very close to be a part of our church. I must to write that a lot of things in the church grows up or falls down because of prayer (or lack of it). We still restoring our building and - I hope - we'll finish it next year. On this area I can see many God's works and miracles. I started meetings which I called The School of Service. These meetings are for people who want to train how to serve for Jesus. In my opinion we need that kind of meetings if we want to develop as a church. I'm looking to God to do a lot of new things next year in my church and ministry. But I know that everything will grow up when I will be very close with my Lord. Prayer is the key of the development of the church. God is great! I wish you a wonderful Christmas time and many fruits of your ministry next year. God bless you! Jack

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.

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 of your church this holiday season.

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

*From the end of the earth I will cry to You,
When my heart is overwhelmed;
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*
Psalm 61:2 (NKJV)

Editor's note: This has been a good year in prayer. We have seen God answer many of our prayers. The conferences in Germany and Poland were a great blessing. Many works over seas continue to grow and meet the needs of men, women, and children. Marek, Pastor Daniel, Jack, Mark, and others continue their oversight of churches, endeavoring to faithfully fulfill their call to God and serve people. It has been great to watch Marianne and David grow together and in their service to the Lord as they prepare for His next steps. Many members of this company have traveled this year and report how God has answered prayers for safety and fruitful ministry. As this year comes to an end, we raise our Voice of Thanksgiving to God for His answers to prayer.

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

God Answers Prayer

David Williamson

God answers prayer! There is no better statement by men and women of prayer than those three simple words, God answers prayer! As we grow in our understanding of the meaning of these three words, we grow in understanding of the nature of God and as men and women of prayer.

The Christian life begins with new birth and from the moment of this new birth, Christians begin a life time of growing and maturing. The author and finisher of our faith Jesus Christ, works with and through the Holy Spirit, causing us to grow. At times it seems a very slow process, other time we seem to move along rapidly, but fast or slow, the Holy Spirit is working day-by-day. The Christian life of prayer should also be one of day-by-day growth.

One of the areas of this growth in prayer is embracing these three words, God answers prayer! This is an area where the Holy Spirit would like to teach us much more. Some who pray recognize that God answers prayer; however their belief is simply a general statement. They do not request, nor do they expect, God to intervene in their life by answers to prayer. For these people, God is far off when it comes to prayer. Their expectations, beliefs, and practice of daily living, do not include God

to work in their life in any way more than His work of the past. Their God is a great God, but He is now retired. These people get what they expect and believe.

Others have a belief that God is still involved in the life of men. He enters and works in response to “great” men. If you are a Paul or Peter, God works and answers prayer. Some of this group extended their faith a step further and believe that God also answer the prayers of a few today. They see certain men and women who do get answers, but instead of taking this for themselves, they hold the position that answers are just for a few. Their view is the great men and women of faith get answers to prayers.

However, the Bible makes no such distinction. The Holy Spirit has gone out of His way to record the faith of men and women who were in most ways nothing special, yet they received answers to prayer. While some people revere the men and women of the Bible, most are just ordinary people. They lived the ordinary life of people of their times, the spotlight of the Holy Spirit is their only claim to fame. The difference in these people is very simple, in each one there was a germ of faith, and they dared to believe that God answers prayer! Though there were many Shepard boys in Israel there was this one named David, who believed God answered prayer. Goliath wishes David had not believed in answers. There were many tent makers in Israel, but few who believed God answered prayer. The Roman Empire saw the effect of Paul’s prayers of faith!

This is true in more modern times as well, God answers prayer! Read this account of the dark days of the late 1700s in America. There was no hope, until men began to pray.

In New England, there was a man of prayer named Isaac Backus, a Baptist pastor, who in 1794, when conditions were at their worst, addressed an urgent plea for prayer for revival to pastors of every Christian denomination in the United States. Churches knew that their backs were to the wall. All the churches adopted the plan until America, like Britain was interlaced with a network of prayer meetings, which set aside the first Monday of each month to pray. It was not long before revival came.

When the revival reached the frontier in Kentucky, it encountered a people really wild and irreligious. Congress had discovered that in Kentucky there had not been more than one court of justice held in five years. Peter Cartwright, Methodist evangelist, wrote that when his father had settled in Logan County, it was known as Rogue's Harbour. The decent people in Kentucky formed regiments of vigilantes to fight for law and order, then fought a pitched battle with outlaws and lost.

There was a Scotch Irish Presbyterian minister named James McGready whose chief claim to fame was that he was so ugly that he attracted attention. McGready settled in Logan County, pastor of three little churches. He wrote in his diary that the winter of 1799 for the most part was 'weeping and mourning with the people of God.' Lawlessness prevailed everywhere. McGready was such a man of prayer that not only did he promote the concert of prayer every first Monday of the month, but he got his people to pray for him at sunset on Saturday evening and sunrise Sunday morning. Then in the summer of 1800 come the great Kentucky revival. Eleven thousand people came to a communion service. McGready hollered for help, regardless of denomination.

Out of that second great awakening, came the whole modern missionary movement and its societies. Out of it came the abolition of slavery, popular education, Bible Societies, Sunday Schools, and many social benefits accompanying the evangelistic drive. J. Edwin Orr

The statement God answers prayer is truth throughout the history of the church. Dr. A. T. Pierson once said, "There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer."

How about today? There are many places around the world that seem more like this account of Logan County, than Heaven on earth. There is a desperate need for revival. The problems the church faces are impossible for man to overcome. Without spiritual awakening the pitched battle for the life of men will be lost. So the question is will you pray? The question is not for those that have no faith in God's willingness and ability to answer prayer. The question is will you commit your life and faith to the proposition that God answers prayer and then pray?

***If my people, which are called by my name,
shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face,
and turn from their wicked ways;
then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.***
2 Chron. 7:14 (KJV)

***The young lions lack and suffer hunger;
But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.***
Psalm 34:10 (NKJV)

God Answers Prayer!

Editor note: ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** has a new home! VoT now has a website of its own, www.voiceofthanksgiving.com. This website has the current and a past issue of VoT and an archive of articles from the section *Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer*. The monthly issues of ***Stimme der Dankbarkeit***, the German monthly version of VoT are also available here.

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 dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com

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