

Voice of Thanksgiving
Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer
Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of January 8, 2006

A Call to Prayer

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thes. 5:16-18 (NKJV)

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.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for the Maoist of the region, pray that they will be broken and come to the saving grace of God or that they will be removed from the area and never again hinder the spread of the Gospel.

William Williamson – Pray for his trip to India, he and his team will be in India February 14 through 25, 2006. Pray for safety for the families of the men while they are on this trip.

Your Home Church – Pray for outreach to the lost of your town. This week pray for a change in climate, opening the way for the Gospel to be preached in wider opportunities.

Pray for Israel to see the Messiah who has come. Pray for the government and the changes that are coming in the next few days. Pray that the moves made will not be fighting against God, but moves in His direction and will.

John Coon – Pray for John and his trip to Poland May 1 through 9, 2006. Pray for fruitful contacts with people in Poland.

The Inntal Prayer Initiative – Pray for the Pro Christ outreach in cities across Germany March 19 to 26, 2006. Pray for the spreading of the word about this outreach so many will hear and be interested.

The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference – Pray for the men and women coming to the BBB Conference June 2006. Pray for the pastors and their work in spreading the Gospel in their Home towns and areas. In many of these areas it is difficult and often dangerous work. Pray for protection for them, wisdom, and favor.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for the children, the students in the first five grades of the school Joyce directs.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jack and the church in Kolobrzeg, Poland, pray for the outreaches of this church. Pray for a change of climate in this town that many would seek to know God and His Gospel.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for wisdom from God as to their next step in God’s plan for their ministry.

Marek Kaminski – Pray for Marek and his work with pastors in Poland and Eastern European countries.

Mark Spencer – Pray for wisdom and a hearing ear as God speaks to him about future ministry.

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

The Burden Makes a Way

David Williamson

Last week questions were poised concerning praying without ceasing. This was part of a command of Paul to believers. His command seems to be impossible except to a few who can spend their time dedicated to prayer. For most people this is impossible, there are demands for our time. Some of these demands are part of life and cannot be changed. The man or woman who is the bread winner for the family must bring home the bacon, as the old expression stated. God can and at times does provide in other ways, but for most people this is work and takes time. So then how can I pray without ceasing?

For most people praying without ceasing is controlled by what our schedule will allow. A person can only pray when there is time. There are factors we can control and make adjustments to our schedule and habits, but the schedule still seems to control. It is possible for most people to make small changes to their schedules, one hour less TV time could relate to one hour of prayer time. Many of the great men and women of prayer made changes to their daily routine so they had time for prayer. Many of the greats of prayer made time early in the morning to be with God in Prayer. There are few among us who could not make some changes to our schedule and add time for prayer.

In thirty days a new practice can be made into a habit, good or bad, and this is true with changing a schedule to create time for prayer. Over the years I have come to the point where it is more “natural” to get up early than to sleep in. Why, for many years some friends had prayer time early in the morning and I attended. Often it was a struggle, but I “had to go” because they were there expecting me. Now it is hard to sleep-in late in the morning, even on vacation.

You can change your schedule. You can also change your habits. There are times in your day where a small change could yield prayer time. Do you go for a walk as part of your fitness routine, and then why not make it a prayer walk. For several years I went to a prayer meeting in a room that was very

cold in the winter. The heat was turned off every day and by the time the heater had warmed the room the meeting was over. It was nearly impossible to sit and pray, it was just too cold (the metal folding chairs did not help the problem). So we walked, and on cold days we walked slowly and prayed, on cold days we walked faster and prayed faster to try to stay warm, but we prayed. Now I do not go to a meeting in a cold room, but I still love to walk and pray.

There are things you can do with your habits and schedule; you can make time to pray. I had a job at one time where I took my lunch with me every day. I would take my lunch and go to a nearby park and eat and pray. It was amazing to me that God would always take time out of His busy schedule and meet with me in that park. Although this was more than twenty years ago the memory of these times is very sweet. I could have just eaten or done other things, but this gave me a time of prayer in the mist of a very long and busy day.

I do not mention these examples because I am someone great in prayer, not as a suggestion for you to follow, although I highly recommend them. I state these things to get you thinking on how you can adjust your life and schedule and find time to pray. There are testimonies of people finding time to pray, from the busiest business man to the slave, from the soccer mom to the traveling salesman, who make time to pray. You also can find time to pray.

We also can make prayer a constant in our heart and life. We can carry our prayers with us throughout the day. Like a song that sticks in our mind, our prayers can be a constant part of all we do and think. Prayers become a constant companion. We do this with our problems, worrying about how we will pay a bill or what we will do about a problem. We dwell on these all day and night, why not pray all day and night. The Jews carried a phylactery on their forehead or left arm during morning weekday prayers. We need to have something like this to remind us to pray. Slip a note in your pocket, a sticky note on your computer screen, or stick it on your refrigerator; just find ways to have reminders to pray.

These changes to schedule and practices can be a helpful discipline for prayer. People need help in making and breaking habits. People need help in developing time in their schedules for prayer. People also need help in developing healthy habits, and this includes habit for praying. There are things you can do, many of you already are doing things like this, to make prayer a part of your schedule. Many of you have constant time of prayer and constant reminders to pray. However, there is more. Our schedules control our response to pray without ceasing. Your schedule dictates to you, you can make adjustments, but the schedule dictates. A burden for prayer will change this. A burden from the Holy Spirit will make time for prayer.

Last week I asked several questions, among them were the following. Are you willing to carry a burden in prayer? Do you recognize God's call for prayer? Are you willing to be the instrument of God's answer to prayer and pray as long as need be? Are you willing to be responsible for the answer to prayer? The man or woman who will carry a burden in prayer, a burden placed by the Holy Spirit will find that the burden will make time for prayer. That is the way it works.

We make time for prayer. Some people are very good at controlling time; they make time and use it effectively. Some of these people use this time for prayer, others use it for other pursuits. Others struggle, their schedules dictate very little time or they have never learned to adjust their schedules for prayer. However, with all of these people it is their schedule that dictates, whereas for others a

burden from the Holy Spirit dictates. The nature of a burden is that it dictates in our life. A burden must be dealt with and so it will make changes to our life.

We know this in the negative, a burden of poverty dictates in a person's life. Every moment they are hunted by the demands and fears of poverty. This consumes all their thinking and time. That is a burden, a very negative burden, but this can be a positive thing as well. A burden can press us into prayer.

When the Holy Spirit brings a burden to a willing man or woman, the burden makes demands. It demands prayer. When the Holy Spirit placed a burden on Rees Howells and others to pray for the tramps that were in that part of Wales, they began to identify with their needs and condition of the tramps. The Holy Spirit brought them to the place where they prayed and were the agent of God's provision for these men. The burden made a way for prayer, habits changed, lifestyle changed, and thoughts changed. The Holy Spirit worked on and through these people to bring a change in the life of many tramps. The burden from the Holy Spirit could, and did, ask for their prayers, their thoughts, their money, and their activities. This was praying without ceasing. Their time of work became allowing the Holy Spirit to provide money for the need through them. They noted time after time their pooled resources exactly meet the need of the week, often requiring even the last cent of some member of the group. However, for them even work became a part of their prayers. "Lord, use my job as a means of provision to meet the needs of these men", that is the prayer of a burden.

The burden can change us so that even our wants and desires change to where we delight more in the fulfillment of the need of the burden than we do in anything we wanted before. Carrying a Holy Spirit burden brings about a life of praying without ceasing.

So I ask questions again. How will you respond to Paul's command, pray without ceasing? Will you make adjustments to schedule and habits, making room for prayer? Will you make prayer a constant part of your day, with reminders posted to help you to consistently and constantly pray? Are you willing to carry a burden in prayer? Are you willing to be the instrument of God's answer to prayer and pray as long as need be and be responsible for the answer?

*For this reason we also, since the day we heard it,
do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled
with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
Col. 1:9 (NKJV)*

Will You Pray? Will You Pray Without Ceasing?

Home for This Company

The home of *Voice of Thanksgiving* is at 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. Send correspondence to dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com

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