

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of February 5, 2006

### *A Call to Prayer*

*There are no possibilities, no necessity for prayerless praying, a heartless performance, a senseless routine, a dead habit, a hasty, careless performance—it justifies nothing.*

*Prayerless praying has no life, gives no life, is dead, breathes one death. Not a battle-axe but a child's toy, for play not for service. Prayerless praying does not come up to the importance and aims of a recreation. Prayerless praying is only a weight, an impediment in the hour of struggle, of intense conflict a call to retreat in the moment of battle and victory.*

WHY do we not pray? What are the hindrances to prayer? This is not a curious nor trivial question. It goes not only to the whole matter of our praying, but to the whole matter of our religion. Religion is bound to decline when praying is hindered. That which hinders praying, hinders religion. He who is too busy to pray will be too busy to live a holy life. Other duties become pressing and absorbing and crowd out prayer. Choked to question would be the coroner's verdict in many cases of dead praying, if an inquest could be secured on this dire, spiritual calamity. This way of hindering prayer becomes so natural, so easy, so innocent that it comes on us all unawares. If we will allow our praying to be crowded out, it will always be done. Satan had rather we let the grass grow on the path to our prayer-chamber than anything else. A closed chamber of prayer means gone out of business religiously, or what is worse, made an assignment and carrying on our religion in some other name than God's and to somebody else's glory. God's glory is only secured in the business of religion by carrying that religion on with a large capital of prayer. The apostles understood this when they declared that their time must not be employed in even the sacred duties of alms-giving; they must give themselves, they said, "continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word," prayer being put first with them and the ministry of the Word having its efficiency and life from prayer.

The process of hindering prayer by crowding out is simple and goes by advancing stages. First, prayer is hurried through. Unrest and agitation, fatal to all devout exercises, come in. Then the time is shortened, relish for the exercise palls. Then it is crowded into a corner and depends on the fragments of time for its exercise. Its value depreciates. The duty has lost its importance. It no longer commands respect nor brings benefit. It has fallen out of estimate, out of the heart, out of the habits, out of the life. We cease to pray and cease to live spiritually.

E. M. Bounds *Purpose in Prayer*

### *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.

**William Williamson** – Pray for his trip to India, Bill is a pastor in Eastern Colorado, he and his team will be in India February 14 through 25, 2006. Pray for safety for the team and for their families at home. Pray for the ministry time that they will be fruitful.

**Your Home Church** – Pray for outreach plans for the spring and summer. Now is the time for the prayer foundation to be laid under the activities of your church for this season of ministry.

**John Coon** – Pray for John who has ministered in Europe and Eastern Europe for more than twenty-five years and his trip to Poland May 1 through 9, 2006. Pray for John's preparations for ministry.

**DK Limbu Daniel** – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the pastors he works with in Nepal. Pray for protection for the ministers and their families from attacks by the Maoists.

**The Inntal Prayer Initiative** – Pray for the Pro Christ outreach in cities across Germany March 19 to 26, 2006. Pray for the spread of information about this event. Pray for the remaining preparations to be completed. Pray for the people of Germany, this is a special time for this nation and all of Europe. The Inntal Prayer Initiative is an outreach of Inner Court Verein (Inner Court Ministries in Germany) a supporter of the Pro Christ outreach. (Note: The preliminary activities of Pro Christ have been very successful.)

**The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference** – Pray for the men and women (pastors from across Europe) coming to the BBB Conference June 2006 in Poland. Pray for the pastors and their home towns and areas, pray for open doors for the spread of the Gospel. In some areas it is difficult to share the Gospel. Many of us have watched as God has pulled down barriers to the Gospel in other areas, now we need to see Him remove these barriers as well.

**Pray for Israel** - This week pray for the safety of the people and wisdom for the leadership. The changes in Palestine make wisdom very important at this time. Pray as well for the Palestinians, they need to come to a saving relationship with Jesus just as everyone else must. The "Muslim Wall" that keeps millions from Jesus must come down, just as the Iron Curtain had to come down.

**Joyce Abrahamson** – Pray for her ministry in the jungle settlement of Brazil. Pray for workers who help with the school and in taking care of these kids.

**Jacek Gromadzki** – Pray for Jack and the church in Kolobrzeg, Poland, pray for the outreaches of this church. Pray for the proclamation of the Gospel across Kolobrzeg and other areas of Poland.

**Marianne and David Dean** – Pray for men and women who will join with David and Marianne as partners in their ministry. At this time God is building a team, with David and Marianne, for reaching out and touching nations with the Gospel.

**Marek Kaminski** – Pray for Marek and his church in Poland, pray for his schedule and wise use of time. Pray for time to complete all he must do and still have time with his family.

**Mark Spencer** – Pray he will be strong through times of change and adjustment. Pray for a sound mind as he makes plans.

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

#### **Pathway for Prayer**

David Williamson

One fun thing to do in Colorado or some of the other places I get to travel is to walk. There are wonderful places to walk in Colorado, and the same can be said for many other parts of the world. I enjoy a good walk. Often my walks are a time of prayer. As the beauty of a park or mountain area opens before me the presence of the Father envelops me. The sky, clouds, plants, and animals are just reminders of His blessings to me. This is often a time when I feel the voice of thanksgiving rising from deep within, praising the Father and thanking Him for all He has done. Walking pathways is also a part of my health plan. I walk to stay fit. A mile or two every morning helps me control my weight and my overall health. For me a pathway is a place for prayer and for health.

Just as there is a physical pathway so also there is a pathway of prayer. This pathway also has more than one benefit. God takes us along the pathway for prayer to teach us to pray. All of us, from the person with the most experience to the one that is our newest novice, we all need to learn more and more to pray effectively. Prayer is so simple that even a child can pray, often they offer great faith filled prayers, but there is a world of prayer that goes far beyond where most people walk.

Our prayer life is far from the example of Jesus. Yet the Father desires to take us along a pathway toward way Jesus walked in prayer here on earth. Along the pathway for prayer the Father uses each opportunity to teach us more about prayer and to bring us further along in our application of faith in prayer. Step by step the Father is taking us through a thorough training in prayer. While prayer is a lifetime study, some people remain locked in the elementary grades struggling to learn the lessons that they were given many years ago. The Father is patient with us; He brings us to our lessons over and over again if need be until we learn our lesson and are ready to move on. He never condemns us, yet He always is encouraging us to grow and mature with Him.

The pathway for prayer is also used by the Holy Spirit to train us in our Christian walk. Day-by-day He is molding and making us into the image of Christ. One place for His instruction is along the pathway for prayers. Here He has opportunity to reveal areas of sin, doubt, and fear; the things that separate us from the Father and make our prayers less effective. Often the Father and the Holy Spirit will work in concert dealing with growth in prayer and maturity, while dealing with heart issues through the same episode of prayer.

An area of need is made known to us. The Father and Holy Spirit encourage us to pray. This comes as a burden in prayer and when we accept the assignment many things begin to happen. The enemy is upset. He does not like prayer and often he will attack in an attempt to stop our walk down the

pathway for prayer. The easiest time for the enemy to stop answers to prayer is by stopping us from beginning to pray. Do not be surprised to see an attack just after you begin to respond to a need.

A second aspect of this process is, as the Father's training on prayer continues. Often He will challenge our plans and habits. "This is the way we have prayed" will often come face-to-face with a new requirement. God requires many things of His children, especially in prayer, because He longs to bring us to a place, in prayer, where we walk like Jesus walked. We begin by praying for say a ministry need and in the mist of our prayers the Father is working on an area of our prayer life. The Father is drawing us to a new level in prayer and faith. The learning of a lesson in prayer is followed by an opportunity to learn more.

The Holy Spirit is also at work, He is using this opportunity to deal with our growth as Christ like people. There are areas of our life where we do not act like, talk like, think like, or have the faith like Jesus. The Holy Spirit uses walks along the pathway for prayer to make us a little more like Jesus. In this time of prayer, for instance the prayer for a ministry need mentioned before, the Holy Spirit may be dealing with an area of pride that still resides in our heart. As I respond to His lessons and requirements, He changes me, making in me a new man more like Jesus.

***Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely;  
and may your whole spirit, soul,  
and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

1 Thes. 5:23 (NKJV)

So we have lessons of prayer and faith, coupled with lessons on walking out the Christian life. Both are at work in our life as we walk through a time of prayer. We can learn and grow, or we can rebel and miss the opportunity. The Bible is filled with examples written for our benefit, of people and groups who failed to respond positively to these opportunities. When the 12 spies came back from the Promised Land, the people failed to respond to God's lesson on faith and trust. The Holy Spirit longed to teach them how to guard their heart and keep hardness of heart and unbelief at bay. However, they refused the lessons and wandered forty years in the wilderness.

How will you respond when you travel down the pathway for prayer? Jesus Himself is making intercession for you that you will positively respond and walk out your prayers. The lessons along the pathway for prayer are there for you. How will you respond?

### **Pathway for Prayer**

#### ***Home for This Company***

The home of ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** is at [www.voiceofthanksgiving.com](http://www.voiceofthanksgiving.com). This website has current and past issues 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](mailto:dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com)

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