

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of February 12, 2006

A Call to Prayer

The pity is that so much of our praying is without object or aim. It is without purpose. How much praying there is by men and women who never abide in Christ—hasty praying, sweet praying full of sentiment, pleasing praying, but not backed by a life wedded to Christ. Popular praying! How much of this praying is from unsanctified hearts and unhallowed lips! Prayers spring into life under the influence of some great excitement, by some pressing emergency, through some popular clamour, some great peril. But the conditions of prayer are not there. We rush into God's presence and try to link Him to our cause, inflame Him with our passions, move Him by our peril. All things are to be prayed for—but with clean hands, with absolute deference to God's will and abiding in Christ. Prayerless praying by lips and hearts untrained to prayer, by lives out of harmony with Jesus Christ; prayerless praying, which has the form and motion of prayer but is without the true heart of prayer, never moves God to an answer. It is of such praying that James says: "Ye have not because ye ask not; ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss."

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 this team and their families, pray for safety and protection. Pray for fruitful ministry to the people of this part of India and to these men as they spend time with God and one another.

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 the preparation of the people John will be ministering to throughout this trip.

Your Home Church – Pray for outreach plans for the spring and summer. Pray for fruitful ministry outreaches to the lost.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the pastors he works with in Nepal. Pray for a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Nepal, this is a splendid time for revival to spread from village and town across the land.

The Inntal Prayer Initiative – Pray for the Pro Christ outreach in cities across Germany March 19 through 26, 2006. Pray for the spread of information about this event. Pray for softened hearts ready to receive the Gospel. 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 his time. Pray for time to complete all he must do and still have time with his family.

Mark Spencer – Pray for his ministry schedule for this summer.

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Pathway for Prayer
David Williamson

A very special memory for me is when I came home after school and walked into our house. On many afternoons I was greeted with the wonderful aroma of freshly baked bread. My mother is a wonderful bread baker (as well as many other things, such as cookies). Our house would be filled

with the finest aroma in all baking and a fresh slice of still warm whole wheat bread was just waiting to make me a very happy boy.

There came a time when I decided to learn to help mom with the baking. She began to teach the secrets to great bread. The most fascinating part of the process was the yeast she used. The yeast is a leavening agent and had to be used in a controlled manner. It was dry yeast and had to be mixed in warm water. When the water was just the right temperature and treated carefully, it would cause what seemed like magic, the bread would rise getting bigger and bigger; half a bowl of bread dough would become a bowl full or even more. This yeast is like faith it had to be activated.

The yeast came in a little package the material itself just rests there doing nothing until it is activated. Faith comes in a package and must be activated as well.

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

Powerful prayer is faith filled prayer. When faith is active in our prayers, the words are changed from noise to activators of faith. Prayer that moves the hand of God is faith filled prayer (see Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)).

We see this in action many places in the Bible. Jesus regularly presented people with opportunities to express their faith or act on their faith. The activation of faith through an action included personal actions as well as the actions of groups. The men who lowered their friend through the roof to get him near Jesus is a great example of faith in action for someone else. In effect this was a prayer; it was as though they said, if we get you close to Jesus He will heal you.

Prayer and action continued to be recorded throughout the book of Acts. We read of many accounts where faith was activated with action. The link between prayer and action continues to the present. An example is the great healing ministries of the last fifty years; many of these are noted for their prayer lines. There is nothing special about standing in a prayer line, except that it is a means of activating faith, people had to get up and come forward. For many people this was an activation of faith. The key is activating our faith.

My mother also used baking powder in some of her cooking. This came in a red can and in the can baking powder is just a fine white powder, fun to play with, but not very exciting. However, when removed from the can and activated in cooking it is powerful. For too many people their faith is left in the can, they never take it out and use it. The Bible gives us examples of people who left faith in the can. When Moses led Israel to the Promised Land they had an opportunity to take the power of God out of the can and use it to take the land, but they refused. They refused to activate their faith and wandered in the desert for years until they died.

***For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them;
but the word which they heard did not profit them,
not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.***

Hebrews 4:2 (NKJV)

If we are going to make a difference in our life, the life of others, the life of nations and peoples, we must pray prayers activated by faith. There is no other way. For too long and in too many places prayer

has been a ritual far removed from faith. The results too often have demonstrated the lack of faith; the words though sweet sounding resound with earthly tones, but do not resonated with faith. The words are far too often just a fine powder left in a can.

Today we must activate our prayers. If you are willing you can pray faith filled, faith empowered prayers. The first step is to ask for help. The Holy Spirit is ready and willing to teach us to pray. He knows us, He knows the goal (to be like Jesus), and how to get us from where we are now to that great goal. Second, recognize this as a lifetime activity. He seldom just snaps His finger and changes a person. He is more like my mom who would not let me just throw all the ingredients in the bowl and mix them up. She knew that method did not yield bread, it created a horrible mess. Every time we baked bread, we had to do each step properly and in order. This resulted in wonderful bread. His order results in men and women of faith filled prayer. The third step is, to understand that there are steps that are hard and maybe painful. The Holy Spirit will deal with areas of our nature that we may not like to address. In the desert Israel did not enter in by faith because the hardness of their heart. What will He deal with in you, hardness of heart, pride, greed? He knows you better than you know yourself.

To activate our prayers the fourth step is the path for each man; it is a narrow path and is unique for each of us. The Holy Spirit has a plan for each of us; this narrow path is the road from here to completion and fulfillment; to that place where we are like Jesus. Each path is different, designed just for you. The way of the Holy Spirit is both the same in all of us and different in all of us, there are basic principles of His working these are recorded in the Bible and demonstrated by the biographies of men and women of faith. However, the specifics of how He dealt with Rees Howells, George Muller or Andrew Murray will be different from the specifics of His dealing with us. The fifth point, the safe place for working through the Holy Spirit's dealings is in a congregation of believers. The lone ranger types are often picked off one-by-one by the enemy. You and I need the help and support of a group of people who love us and are willing to care for us during the hard times of these lessons.

Sixth, you can do this! The Bible is full of men and women who were too short, old, sickly, scared, or the wrong race, family, status, sex, job, type, or position to have faith and activate that faith, however, they did. You can pray faith filled prayers! Please note, the Holy Spirit believes in practice. I had a football coach who always said, "Just run that play until you get it right." The Holy Spirit is like that, He is ready and willing to work with you until you get it right. Then our chapter of the book of Acts will have your name recorded as a person of powerful prayers.

Activated Faith Filled Prayer

Home for This Company

The home of *Voice of Thanksgiving* is at 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

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