

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of February 19, 2006

A Call to Prayer

The great subject of prayer, that comprehensive need of the Christian's life, is intimately bound up in the personal fulness of the Holy Spirit. It is "by the One Spirit we have access unto the Father" (Ephes. 2:18), and by the same Spirit, having entered the audience chamber through the "new and living way" we are enabled to pray in the will of God (Romans 8:15, 26-27; Galatians 4:6; Ephes. 6:18; Jude 20-21).

Here is the secret of prevailing prayer, to pray under a direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit, whose petitions for us and through us are always according to the Divine purpose, and hence certain of answer. "Praying in the Holy Ghost" is but cooperating with the will of God, and such prayer is always victorious. How many Christians there are who cannot pray, and who seek by effort, resolve, joining prayer circles, etc., to cultivate in themselves the "holy art of intercession," and all to no purpose. Here for them and for all is the only secret of a real prayer life—"Be filled with the Spirit," who is "the Spirit of grace and supplication." Rev. J. Stuart Holden, M.A.

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. Pray for their safe return from this trip.

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 final arrangements and connections.

Your Home Church – Pray for outreach plans for the spring and summer. Pray for the lost of your area, now is the time for change, for the gospel message to have entrance into hearts.

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 through 26, 2006. Pray for the spread of information about this event. Pray for those who will work to share the Gospel during this important time for Germany.

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.)

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.

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.

Joyce Abrahamson – Pray for her ministry in the jungle settlement of Brazil. Pray for the children who go to her school and for the care of these kids.

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jack and the church in Kolobrzeg, Poland, pray for the outreaches of this church. The Gospel message is needed in Poland, just as it is the need for men and women everywhere. Pray for hearts open to listen, to hear, and receive the message.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray for men and women who will join with David and Marianne as partners in their ministry. Pray for David and Marianne, that God will guide them to wise choices for ministry.

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

Power in Prayer

David Williamson

In several places where the Voice of Thanksgiving is read it has been or is very cold. Winter is effecting how we go about our daily routines. Yard work is just not practical when it is very cold or the yard is covered with snow. The ardent gardener is making plans and may have started seedlings for spring, but outside work is limited. Why is this so? Our senses tell us so. Jack Frost nipping at my nose says, stay inside, it is cold. The physical senses are well known, they affect us constantly, it is hot or cold, the music is loud or soft, the perfume smells good or bad, the paper is smooth or rough. We often respond without thinking, we slip on a sweater, we shade our eyes, we drink some water, and we scratch an itch. This is how we are made, made to respond to stimuli.

This is true in other realms beyond the basic senses. We all have had those special moments, moved by the message, the story, the scene, the event. Tears and emotion well up from within and even the “tough” guy among us is moved. This is one of the reasons we love movies, we want to be affected, emotionally moved. This relates to one of the problems found in many churches today. People like speaking not preaching. Preaching is nearly a lost art. Yes, many men and women do speak well, they are skilled orators, but, speaking and preaching are different. Speaking is communication and entertainment. It earns comments like, “I love to hear him when he really gets going,” “I could listen to him for hours.” Speaking speaks to the mind and soul.

Preaching is different, it speaks to the spirit. Anointed preaching is God, via the Holy Spirit, speaking through a man or woman to others. Yes, at times the speaker, the man or woman, may get in the way, but when it is true preaching, it is God speaking to you. When God speaks, it might not be comfortable, it might not be fun, it might not rank as entertainment, at least not the type people seem to like. It is safer for the modern minister to be an orator, than risk offending with preaching. My goal here is not to criticize modern preachers and preaching, but to present another example of how the world of stimuli around us moves us, this includes spiritual things.

The influences that affect us everyday can be good or bad. The world influences and we like it, we invite the influence, letting it in, often welcoming it. What would “Blue Monday” be without complaints and problems? Also our flesh influences us, and we respond like an addict craving the next fix. Whatever the flesh wants, the flesh gets. Then there is the influence of pressure, pressure to succeed, to get rich, to marry well, and to advance, and a myriad of other pressures. Some of these pressures have negative effect; some help to bring out the best in us.

Prayer can be a positive pressure.

***For what thanks can we render to God for you,
for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God,
night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face
and perfect what is lacking in your faith?***

1 Thes. 3:9-10 (NKJV)

***I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did,
as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day,***

2 Tim. 1:3 (NKJV)

***Confess your trespasses to one another,
and pray for one another, that you may be healed.
The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.***

James 5:16 (NKJV)

Pressure brought by prayer can be a positive pressure. Those skilled in prayer, those willing to work at prayer; can apply more pressure than anything brought by the world or the flesh. What do I mean, pressure? This is praying in faith and praying until it is easier for someone to yield to the Holy Spirit, than it is to resist any longer. By the leading of the Holy Spirit, we can pray and our prayers need not be “if prayers”, but prayers of faith. Then when we pray for people, we pray in faith, confident that God is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all we hope or imagine. Not, “wouldn’t it be nice for this man to get saved?” but, responding to direction of the Holy Spirit, prayer that knows this

man will respond to the Holy Spirit. This is not wistful, what ever will be, but prayer that will stand in the gap for a person, pressing in, until the answer comes. This is prayer of power, power that works in us and through us.

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly
above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever. Amen.*

Ephes. 3:20-21 (NKJV)

Do you pray for people? I know you do. So the question is, can the Holy Spirit count on you for this type of assignment, for more than just basic prayer? There is a Holy Spirit school of prayer where He teaches. Have you been schooled, by the Spirit, until you are “fit for the Master’s use?” Have you been schooled by the Father, in the school of obedience, until you are ready for His assignments? Many people talk about prayer, but most will not study, nor go to school. For them prayer is just prayer. However, God is looking for a few men and women who will pray, His prayers, praying until God is satisfied and obtains His answer.

*For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,
to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,
that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;
that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the
width and length and depth and height—
to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;
that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly
above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever. Amen.*

Ephes. 3:14-21 (NKJV)

Power in 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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