

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of February 26, 2006

### *A Call to Prayer*

This method of *holy argument*-- ordering our cause before God, as an advocate would plead before a judge-- is not only almost a lost art, but to many it actually seems almost puerile. And yet it is abundantly taught and exemplified in Scripture. Abraham in his plea for Sodom is the first great example of it. Moses excelled in this art, in many crises interceding in behalf of the people with consummate skill, marshalling arguments as a general-in-chief marshals battalions. Elijah on Carmel is a striking example of power in this special pleading. What a zeal and jealousy for God! It is probable that if we had fuller records we should find that all pleaders with God, like Noah, Job, Samuel, David, Daniel, Jeremiah, Paul, and James, have used the same method.

Of course God does not *need to be convinced*: no arguments can make any plainer to Him the claims of trusting souls to His intervention, claims based upon His own word, confirmed by His oath. And yet He will be inquired of and argued with. That is His way of blessing. He loves to have us set before Him our cause and His own promises: delights in the well-ordered plea, where argument is piled upon argument. See how the Lord Jesus Christ commended the persistent argument of the woman of Canaan, who with the *wit of importunity* actually turned his own *objection* into a *reason*. He said, "It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to the little dogs."

"Truth, Lord," she answered, "yet the little dogs under the master's tables eat of the crumbs which fall from the children's mouths!" What a triumph of argument! Catching the Master Himself in His words, as He meant she should, and turning His apparent reason for not granting into a reason for granting her request! "O woman," said He, "great is thy faith! Be it unto thee even as thou wilt"-- thus, as Luther said, "flinging the reins on her neck."

This case stands unique in the word of God, and it is this use of argument in prayer that makes it thus solitary in grandeur. But one other case is at all parallel-- that of the centurion of Capernaum, who, when our Lord promised to go and heal his servant, argued that such coming was not needful, since He had only to speak the healing word. And notice the basis of his argument: if he, a commander exercising authority and yielding himself to higher authority, both obeyed the word of his superior and exacted obedience of his subordinate, how much more could the Great Healer, in his absence, by a word of command, wield the healing Power that in His presence was obedient to His will! Of him likewise our Lord said: "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel!"

We are to argue our case with God, not indeed to convince Him, but to convince *ourselves*. In proving to Him that, by His own word and oath and character, He has bound Himself to interpose, we *demonstrate to our own faith* that He has given us the right to ask and claim, and that He will answer our plea because He cannot deny Himself.

A. T. Pierson *Pleading With God And Argument 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.

**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 final arrangements and connections.

**The Inntal Prayer Initiative** – Pray for the Pro Christ outreach in cities across Germany March 19 through 26, 2006. Here is a note from Heike concerning Pro Christ and some prayer requests.

*Once again the organizer of the "Smart-Aktion" said that the Smart drivers have been amazed about the preparation in prayer in Rosenheim. I believe it is not just a result of some prayers in the last weeks, but of all the prayers for years in and for this area. Thank you! The Smart-Aktion reached thousands of people in Rosenheim. Let us pray for the seed to grow and bring fruit.*

*The next prayer meeting for Pro Christ will be Monday, February 27th at the Christ Church. Here we'll meet for Worship and then we'll walk to the Karstadt Lichthof (where the next Evangelization and inviting events will take place) and the Ballhaus (where Pro Christ will take place) and pray there. Saturday, March 4th, 11th and 18th we'll meet for prayer at 9.15 a.m. in Karstadt Lichthof and pray for the Evangelization with Concerts and special programs. The Evangelizations start at 10 a.m. and end at about 1 p.m. Please join with us in prayer.*

*Heike has been asked to lead worship Saturday evening during the Pro Christ week. Pray for her ministry at this time and for God to complete her healing.*

**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.

*Please call out prayer for a new problem about flooding. We noticed the water that should be running downstream under our dike that connects our two base areas, is backing up instead of running. It looks like something or someone stopped up the flow downstream. The guys are looking into it and we are consulting the Ecological Government Department to come and help us. It will be a small disaster if the water goes over the dike. Please pray.*

**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.

**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.

**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.

**William Williamson** – Bill is a pastor in Eastern Colorado, he and his team went to India February 14 through 25, 2006. Pray for his team and their families now that they are home. Pray for those people touched by this ministry time.

**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 Mark and his plans for this year the seminars and other obligations that he must fulfill. Pray for wise use of his time.

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

#### **Preparing for Power**

David Williamson

The goal of prayer is answers. This is a powerful statement, if embraced it can change our prayer life. Many people just go through the motions of prayer because they do not believe in praying for answers, there is no fire, no faith in their prayers. For others there is a drive to their prayers, they expect answers and answers seem to find them on a regular basis. What is the difference? The answer is more than just the belief in answers; there is true power in their prayers.

Power in prayer comes from a life of prayer. This life is one surrendered to the Holy Spirit; a life lived out on His plan and goals. The great intercessors of the Bible lived out a surrendered life. Moses left life in a palace and by choice placed himself with his slave-brethren. He then offered himself in their place when the wrath of God was upon them. Paul who wrote to the Romans that nothing could separate him from the love of God, moments later wished himself separated (accused) from Christ for the salvation of his brethren. These are great examples of the life of prayer. What made them great as intercessors; their life of prayer.

***Yet now, if You will forgive their sin--but if not, I pray,  
blot me out of Your book which You have written.***

Exodus 32:32 (NKJV)

*For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren,  
my countrymen according to the flesh*  
Romans 9:3 (NKJV)

The life of prayer is seen most clearly and completely in the life of Jesus. He was and is the great intercessor. Jesus did not become this great intercessor because He was God. He is God, but He became an intercessor by identification with people. He came as man, fully man; He lived and died as a man. His ministry was that of a man, perfect and without sin, but still it was as man.

As a man Jesus lived where we live and how we live. By taking our nature upon himself, by learning obedience through the things which He suffered, by being tempted in all points like as we are, by becoming poor for our sakes, and finally by being made sin for us; He took full identification with mankind on Himself. Jesus did it all, as a man. Moses and Paul came to power in intercession the same way. By the Holy Spirit, they walked with the Holy Spirit, never perfect, but yielding in ever growing measure and obedience to the Holy Spirit. Moses and Paul were obedient to the Holy Spirit and by outward obediences, the Spirit worked with them and brought them to the place where they would and could stand in the gap.

The Holy Spirit works in and through a man to bringing that man to the point of the crucified life. This man comes to the point where his prayer life is a life of power with God. The man or woman prepared by the Holy Spirit can walk out an intercession. The Holy Spirit takes a surrendered man or woman to a place of power in prayer. The intercession so identifies the intercessor with the sufferer that it gives a prevailing place with God. He moves God and he gains his objective; or rather the Spirit gains it through him.

This place of power in prayer can be yours as well. It is a place reserved for those willing to yield and obey the Holy Spirit. This is open to all, but so often it is not the place accepted by any but a very few.

*He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor;  
Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him;  
and His own righteousness, it sustained Him.*  
Isaiah 59:16 (NKJV)

Are you willing? Would you yield to the Holy Spirit and let Him take you to His chosen place?

### **Preparing for Power**

#### **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)

**Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer**