

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of March 5, 2006

A Call to Prayer

There is a difference in the prayers of the old and the New Testaments... The Prophet Habakkuk bases his prayer on the character of God, and appeals to God's great mercies. In the New Testament, prayer is based on a relationship with God through Jesus Christ: "When ye pray, say, Our Father." There is another difference—the prayers in the Old Testament have to do with an earthly people in an earthly setting; the prayers in the New Testament have to do with a heavenly state of mind in a heavenly people while on earth... When through Jesus Christ we are rightly related to God, we learn to watch and wait, and wait wonderingly. "I wonder how God will answer this prayer." "I wonder how God will answer this prayer the Holy Spirit is praying in me." "I wonder what glory God will bring to Himself out of the strange perplexities I am in." "I wonder what new turn His providence will take in manifesting Himself in my ways."

Oswald Chambers from *If Ye Shall Ask*

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. 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.

Marianne and David Dean – Pray that the Lord would help us find balance while we invest in friendships here in the States yet remain focused on our goal of returning to East Asia in August. Pray that the Lord will bless our times in his Word and prayer.

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 – Pray for the Jews to come to see their Messiah Jesus Christ as Lord.

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.

William Williamson – Bill is a pastor in Eastern Colorado, he and his team went to India February 14 through 25, 2006. Pray for the follow-up of information and ministry relating to this trip.

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's seminars and other obligations that he must fulfill. Pray for wise use of his time.

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

The Beauty of Holiness, the Place of Prayer

David Williamson

There is a place I like to hike that is beautiful. I admit that I live in one of the beautiful places, Colorado. I admit that there are variations on taste, some people like this and others like that, but this place is beautiful to me. Every time I go to this place I am struck by its beauty. You have to walk a couple of miles to get to this place. You go through stands of pine and fir trees, often seeing

wildlife and a wide array of flowers. This walk is very nice, it is refreshing, and I love the forest smells and the many little details of forest life. However, there is a place on the trail where you come up a small rise and turn a corner and suddenly there before you is this view, high mountain peaks and glaciers! It is beautiful. I love this view so much that at times I have walked back to the spot when we are leaving, just for one more look before I finally have to leave the area.

It is important that we do not forget beauty. The Lord created the Earth with great beauty and even though it is still under the curse of the fall of man, the Earth has great beauty. There are many places we could go to explore beauty and it is not just places. The expression beauty is in the eye of the beholder, could just as well be reversed and say behold the beauty of the eye. So intricate and incredible, the eye is beautiful in construction and design. There are pieces of music that I just love, the sounds are beautiful. There are books I love to read, the combination of words and the thoughts they convey are beautiful. The list of beauty is long and distinguished; I have been to places near where some of you live and there are places that take your breath away for their sheer beauty and majesty. Yet even if we could agree on the best, the most beautiful place or thing of all, there is nothing that compares with the beauty of holiness.

***Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name:
bring an offering,
and come before him:
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.***
1 Chron. 16:29 (KJV)

***One thing I have desired of the Lord,
That will I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the Lord,
And to inquire in His temple.***
Psalm 27:4 (NKJV)

***Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name;
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.***
Psalm 29:2 (NKJV)

The beauty of the Lord, the beauty of his holiness is beyond compare. The things we hold dear as beautiful here on Earth are nothing by comparison. His beauty, the beauty of His holiness, is so awesome that everyone bows down before Him.

My dad was a cabinet maker, a skilled craftsman; he and I would joke about his work and his desire to get everything just right. Often he would say, "We strive for absolute, but perfect is good enough." The holiness of God is beyond perfect it is absolute. Moses could not stand to see God face-to-face and had to hide in the cleft of the rock. After being in God's presence Moses' face would glow with a radiance of God's holiness. This is a God who is an awesome God!

What kind of God is this; one who is beyond compare, who longs to impart to us a status with Himself that far above all we can imagine or think? He longs for us to walk through the land as giants, not dictators for destruction, but as His hands and feet, His eyes and ears, His heart for

reaching this world and all who live here. This God has called us to live and work with Him. He longs to place His beauty upon us, to establishing the work of our hands.

***And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us,
And establish the work of our hands for us;
Yes, establish the work of our hands.***

Psalm 90:17 (NKJV)

Prayer is about beholding the beauty of the Lord and His holiness. It is drawing close to Him and leaning on Him in ever increasing manner. Prayer is coming to the place where God and I are a team, His holiness and beauty overwhelming every concern and need I can bring to Him. The prayer walk is much more than requests and answers; it is a growing recognition of His nature, His holiness, His beauty. As we come to see Him and begin to know Him, prayer becomes words of a gulp, all we can say, as we are overwhelmed by His presence and nature. When Peter, James, and John were on the mount with Jesus and the cloud of God enveloped them, they were so overwhelmed they did not know what to say.

***Then Peter answered and said to Jesus,
“Lord, it is good for us to be here;
if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You,
one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”***

***While he was still speaking,
behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them;
and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying,***

***“This is My beloved Son,
in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”
And when the disciples heard it,
they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.***

Matthew 17:4-6 (NKJV)

Prayer is going to be with God and being overshadowed by the presence of God. The people stood at the door of their tent and watched as Moses walked by on His way to meet with God. Under the New Covenant we have greater access to God than even Moses and the awe of the people as they watched Moses should be on us as we go to pray.

***So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle,
that all the people rose,
and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses
until he had gone into the tabernacle.
And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle,
that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle,
and the Lord talked with Moses.
All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door,
and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.
So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.
And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun,
a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.***

Exodus 33:8-11 (NKJV)

Today we have access to the Heavenly tabernacle, by the life and work of Jesus Christ. So the question is, what about you, are your meetings with God like Moses met with Him? When you come into His presence does the pillar of cloud come and fill the tabernacle? If not, what is keeping from Him? The people of Moses' time would not draw near to God because of their sin. Yet God has declared you to be greater than the people of the Old Testament.

***Assuredly, I say to you,
among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist;
but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.***

Matthew 11:11 (NKJV)

You are invited to come into God's presence.

***Therefore, brethren,
having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,
by a new and living way which He consecrated for us,
through the veil, that is, His flesh,
and having a High Priest over the house of God,
let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,
having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience
and our bodies washed with pure water.***

Hebrews 10:19-22 (NKJV)

You are invited to come into God's presence, what is holding you back? Let nothing come between you and your God, let nothing stop you from making the journey into His presence to commune with Him. Come to the place where He will overshadow you with His presence, His beauty, his holiness. As the Lord spoke to Moses so God will speak with you. Come into God's presence, come and behold the beauty of His holiness. This is the place of prayer.

The Beauty of Holiness, the Place of 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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