

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of March 12, 2006

### *A Call to Prayer*

God Himself is the great source of power. Further more, God's power is available power. We are supernatural people, born again by a supernatural birth, kept by a supernatural power, sustained on a supernatural food, taught by a supernatural Teacher from a supernatural Book. We are led by a supernatural Captain in right paths to assured victories. The risen Saviour, before He ascended on high, said to His disciples, "Ye shall receive power when the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Not many days after this, in answer to united and continued prayer, the Holy Ghost did come upon them, and they were all filled. Praise God, He remains with us still. The power given is not a gift from the Holy Ghost. He Himself, is the power. Today, He is as truly available and as mighty in power as He was on the day of Pentecost. But has the whole Church ever, since the days before Pentecost, put aside every other work and waited for Him for ten days, so that power might be manifested? Has there not been a source of failure her?

We have given too much attention to methods and to machinery and to resources, and too little to the source of power—the filling with the Holy Ghost. This, I think you will agree with me, is the great weakness today, and has been the great weakness of our service in the past. Unless remedied, it will be the great weakness in the future. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit. If we are not filled, we are living in disobedience and sin, and the cause of our sin is the cause of Israel's sin of old—the sin of unbelief.

Hudson Taylor

### *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.

**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 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.*

**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 opportunities to share the Gospel and ministry built on old friendships and relations.

**Joyce Abrahamson** – Pray for the school children, there education is important and their introduction to the Lord is imperative.

*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 your church and its world view. Pray that they will in ever increasing measure see the nations of the world as white unto harvest. Pray for labors to be thrust forth for the nations.

**DK Limbu Daniel** – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the pastors he works with in Nepal. Pray for opportunity for the spread of the Gospel.

**Pray for Israel** – Pray for Israel; the times are difficult for this nation and people.

**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.

**Jacek Gromadzki** – Pray for Jack and the church in Kolobrzeg, Poland, pray for the outreaches of this church.

**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.

**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.

## *Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer*

### **Breakup the Fallow Ground**

David Williamson

I live in an area that was once called the Great American Desert. This area is so dry that most people believed that farming was impossible; this impeded the settlement of the area for a generation. With improvements in agricultural methods and development of vast irrigational projects the area was settled and is agriculturally productive. Once the possibility of farming developed, farmers flooded into the area to make claims and breakup the fallow land, working to make it fruitful and productive. This process is similar to what we see in men and women who have come to Christ. We want to be fruitful and productive. In living the Christian life and in prayer to be fruitful and productive we need to breakup the fallow ground.

***Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy;  
Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the Lord,  
Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.***

Hosea 10:12 (NKJV)

Today is time to seek the Lord. In the Christian life and in prayer we need His rain of righteousness to fall on each of us. The times we live in demand His righteousness, just good intentions, just good plans, just hard work, and just more money are not enough; to complete the assignments given to us requires more. We must have His rain of righteousness. This verse from Hosea describes the procedure for success today. Sow righteousness, reap mercy, breakup the fallow ground, seek the Lord; and do this until He comes and rains righteousness on us. This verse was written to Israel, but applies as well to us today. Read this with verse 11, written here from the New Living Translation:

***Israel is like a trained heifer accustomed to treading out the grain—an easy job that she loves. Now I will put a heavy yoke on her tender neck. I will drive her in front of the plow. Israel and Judah must now break up the hard ground; their days of ease are gone. I said, ‘Plant the good seed of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of my love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that He may come and shower righteousness upon you.’*** Hosea 10:11-12

The following verses of this passage read like the headlines of today’s newspapers, including the line, “Now the terrors of war will rise among your people.” We can be as Israel who rebelled, or we can respond to God and breakup the fallow ground, plow up the hard ground of our hearts, and seek the Lord. His call is for men and women who will breakup the fallow ground, in heart and ministry.

The farmer coming to Colorado found that the ground was very hard, in some places a new type of plow was necessary to break up the ground and make it usable. In other place in America the difficulty was removing the rocks from the soil; there are places where the process of removing the rocks from the fields has continued for several hundred years. Other places the problem was the thick forests, the farmer would work for years removing trees and stumps from the area he wished to cultivate. Whatever the problem the successful farmer broke up the ground, removed the rocks, pulled the stumps, or what ever was necessary to bring the land under cultivation. We need to do the same, “breakup the fallow ground.”

In prayer; dealing with fallow ground is a constant battle. We are creatures of habit, we find things we like and we stick to them. We find patterns of prayer that we are comfortable with, ways and means of prayer that please us and we tend to pursue these practices to the exclusion of others. If we are not careful we get into a rut and limit our prayers. This is like what had happened to Israel in the times of Hosea. They were accustomed to treading out the grain, an easy and fruitful job. The Bible even commands that a farmer is not to restrict the ox from eating of the grain he is treading. Simple job and eat as much as you want, what is not to love about a job like that! However the times changed for Israel. The times demanded something new. Israel was required to put on a heavy yoke and pull the plow. Our times have changed as well.

Now the Lord is calling for men and women who will pull the plow. Yes the Lord has promised that our yoke would be easy and our burden light, but He is calling for us to take on yoke and burden.

***Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me,  
for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.  
For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.***

Matthew 11:29-30 (NKJV)

Too often we have taken the liberty of Paul's message to the Galatians (Galatians 5:1) and made it an idol. But the truth is Jesus has called us to the yoke and burden, to His yoke and burden. We are to enter in with Him. In prayer we have found ways and means we love, we hold fast to them as our claim to liberty in Christ. Yet Jesus is calling for men and women who will get in the yoke with Him and breakup the fallow ground. Hosea called for a breakup of the fallow ground of heart, Jesus calls for the same; Jesus is also calling us to work with Him in prayer. His prayer is for the nations, He is praying for the breakup the fallow ground of the nations so the Gospel message can grow. He is calling you to join with Him.

The nations stand before us just as the so called Great American Desert did before the settlers of nearly two hundred years ago. Will we breakup the fallow ground or will we leave the ground unproductive. With regard to the nations will we enter the yoke of Jesus and pray, or will we allow the nations to lay fallow, another generation lost.

Response to His call to breakup fallow ground requires a breaking up of the fallow ground of our heart and practices; this is especially true in prayer. He is challenging a stepping out of the ruts of our comfort zones and cultivation of new ways and means in our prayer life. Is prayer your morning devotion? Is it a special time with the Lord, a beginning to your day? There is nothing wrong with that, but there is so much more. Is your prayer time with a list of requests, rehearsed before a God? Is prayer a pause between the activities of your day? The Father, the Lord, and the Holy Spirit are calling for more. It is sad to see so many people are at the same place in their prayer life as they were five, ten, twenty, or even thirty years ago. Like the ox of Hosea's admonition to Israel they have enjoyed the easy job, but never taken on the yoke and plowed.

Before us stand the nations, they are fallow ground waiting for preparation, waiting for the sower and reaper. When people have plowed up the land in prayer, when they have broken up the hard ground, the Father has been gracious to shower that land with revival. There are few places where we can see the ground has been prepared and the blessing is pouring in. However, most nations are hard ground, the efforts of churches or missionaries are difficult and often thwarted. The problem is

prayer. We have not broken up the fallow ground. We have not joined with Jesus, taken on yoke and burden, and prayed.

Andrew Murray in his wonderful book, *Key to the Missionary Problem*, lists several factors in the missionary problem. He includes lack of motivation, a shallow Spiritual life, failure of the church, lack of responsibility of leadership, missing personal response to the problem, but the key he claims, rightfully so, is prayer.

It is easy to say that the answer consists in the prevailing prayer of faith. But how can every believer be trained for this? The lesson is very clear. We have seen the path in which the power of believing prayer came to him [Murray is speaking of Hudson Taylor]. He gave himself wholly to God's work; this gave him the confidence that God would care for him and all his work. Faith cannot grow strong except by exercise. Difficulties are the proving ground of faith; they give it nourishment and strength. A believer who does not realize the difficulty of mission work, because he is not intensely interested in it, cannot taste the privilege of believing, persevering, prevailing prayer. We want to train every believer to take such an interest in the progress of the work of God's kingdom that he may feel and hear the burden of its great need. Only thus can he realize the impossibility of its being done without God's own power, and he may learn to cry for more men and money, for the Spirit's power, and for the ingathering of souls. Andrew Murray from *Key to the Missionary Problem*

Jesus is calling you today. His eyes are on the nations. Will you breakup fallow Ground, take yoke and burden and pray? Will you pray for the harvest of souls from the nations?

***Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me,  
for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.  
For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.***  
Matthew 11:29-30 (NKJV)

**Breakup the Fallow Ground**

### ***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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