

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of April 23, 2006

A Call to Prayer

'Lord, teach us *to pray*.' Yes, *to pray*. This is what we need to be taught. Though in its beginnings prayer is so simple that the feeblest child can pray, yet it is at the same time the highest and holiest work to which man can rise. It is fellowship with the Unseen and Most Holy One. The powers of the eternal world have been placed at its disposal. It is the very essence of true religion, the channel of all blessings, the secret of power and life. Not only for ourselves, but for others, for the Church, for the world, it is to prayer that God has given the right to take hold of Him and His strength. It is on prayer that the promises wait for their fulfillment, the kingdom for its coming, the glory of God for its full revelation. And for this blessed work, how slothful and unfit we are. It is only the Spirit of God can enable us to do it aright. How speedily we are deceived into a resting in the form, while the power is wanting. Our early training, the teaching of the Church, the influence of habit, the stirring of the emotions—how easily these lead to prayer which has no spiritual power, and avails but little. True prayer, that takes hold of God's strength, that availed much, to which the gates of heaven are really opened wide—who would not cry, Oh for some one to teach me thus to pray?

from *With Christ in the School of Prayer* by Andrew Murray

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.

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the pastors he works with in Nepal. Pray for the necessary paper work for his up coming trips. Pastor Daniel writes:

Greetings in Jesus' Name!

We are fine and blessed in the Lord. Despite the difficult situation, God has protected us and people are coming to the Lord Jesus for the salvation. Please add Nepal in prayer matter for safety and growth of Church of God in Nepal. My country is on the verge of change. Since 10 days country is closed and under strike against monarchy. Everyday there is a demonstration, no vehicle may leave capital and enter. Everything's price is shooting up. In this 10 day movement over 4000 are arrested and 2000 are injured and 5 are killed, dozens are missing. Government is being pressured from everywhere and King is troubled. We had to graduate our school last

week. But we are not worried about this, but only worried about souls. Pray for souls that they may come to the Lord more than ever before.

May God bless you all.

In His service in Nepal,

Pastor Deu K Limbu

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 work of the ministry. Pray also for the preparations and details for a successful ministry trip.

The Inntal Prayer Initiative – Pray for upcoming seminars on prayer. Pray for the Inntal region. Heike writes, *we also feel like "there is something in the air" in our area please pray for protection and manifestation of God's power. Please do also pray for the Christians to wake up and pray! It is obvious that we need the church to intercede.*

The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference – Pray for the men and women (pastors from across Europe) coming to the BBB Conference June 2006 in Poland. There is a great move of the Spirit working in Belarus.

Pray for Belarus, this is a time of great change. Now is the time for prayer. Pray for God to change this land so the Gospel will have free opportunity. The country needs government and leadership that open the way for people to hear and respond to God's call.

Pray also for the team preparing to go to Belarus from America later this year, pray for the paperwork necessary for this trip.

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.*

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jack and his church in Kolobrzeg, Poland, pray for outreach in Kolobrzeg and this northern part of Poland.

Marek Kaminski – Pray for Marek and his church in Poland, pray for his ministry in his church and his duties across the region. Pray of all of the arrangements for the 4th annual BBB Conference.

Mark Spencer – Pray for Mark and his plans for this year's seminars and other obligations that he must fulfill. Pray for wisdom and understanding.

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

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.

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

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Look and Listen

David Williamson

What, may I ask, are you looking at? The world is filled with thing to look at. The National Graphic Magazine is dedicated to, “The World and Everything in it”. Since 1896 the New York Time’s newspaper masthead logo claims, “All the News That’s Fit to Print”.

Everywhere we look there things designed to keep your eyes (and mind) busy looking. TV, email, text-messaging, internet, and many other electronic devices strive to fill our days to overflowing with eye capturing material. The Devil works to keep eyes busy. His goal, is every moment of every day every eye of every man looking everywhere except at Jesus.

To what, may I ask are you listening? This is a generation that is willing to spend hundreds of dollars to go to a place of solitude and then listens to their iPods. A 30 second silent prayer in church seems, for many people, to be an eternity. We listen to so many things so much of the time that a moment of silence is painfully uncomfortable. From the rising of the sun, to the going down of the same, noise fills our every moment. The Devil works to keep every ear busy. His goal is so filling our hearing, so we cannot hear the voice of the Spirit.

Distracted eyes and filled ears is common operating procedure for most people. However, this should not be the normal for Christians. We have been designed to see and hear.

***The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The Lord has made them both.
Proverbs 20:12 (NKJV)***

There is a specific purpose for our seeing and hearing. Many people are just as Jesus described.

***Having eyes, do you not see?
And having ears, do you not hear?
And do you not remember?
Mark 8:18 (NKJV)***

Christ’s questions still stand for today, having eye and ears people still do not see or hear what is important. Most people have their eyes on everything except Jesus. They are willing to look at everything except Jesus. They are willing to listen anything except the truth. Rumors are received with ease, while the truth is rejected. People look to and listen to anything except the Gospel. It is not surprising that people struggle to find faith.

***looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)***

This problem affects Christians as well. Too often we are caught up in the things of this world. We look at and listen to the world before we seek Jesus. We look here and there for answers. We listen

to this one and that. It is not surprising that our prayers are infrequent, weak, and faithless. Our focus is on the world, not on Jesus.

Israel when they walk in the desert saw the problems and concerns. They hear the bad report of the spies. They were ready in every case to believe the world's report and dismiss the word of faith. Their eyes and ears were so filled with the world, they were filled with unbelief.

*Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned,
whose corpses fell in the wilderness?*

*And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest,
but to those who did not obey?*

So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest,

let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

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 3:17-4:2 (NKJV)

How long will the eye candy of the world fill our time? How long with the sounds of this Earth ring in our ears? If we are to pray effectively we must come to the place where our eyes and ears are fixed on Him.

And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,

And seeing you will see and not perceive;

For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing,

And their eyes they have closed,

Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,

Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

for assuredly, I say to you

that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see,

and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Matthew 13:14-17 (NKJV)

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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