

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of May 21, 2006

### *A Call to Prayer*

“As He was praying,” so we are to be praying. If we would pray as Christ prayed, we must be as Christ was, and must live as Christ lived. The Christ character, the Christ life, and the Christ spirit, must be ours if we would do the Christ praying, and would have our prayers answered as He had His prayers answered. The business of Christ even now in Heaven at His Father’s right hand is to pray. Certainly if we are His, if we love Him, if we live for Him, and if we live close to Him, we will catch the contagion of His praying life, both on earth and in Heaven. We will learn His trade and carry on His business on earth.

from the *Reality of Prayer* by E. M. Bounds

### *Continue Earnestly in Prayer*

There is a great stirring in many of the areas of our prayers. God is hearing and responding to our prayers. Now is the time for great diligence in prayer for these nations, ministries, and people, as well as other projects you are a part. This time is one of great darkness coming over people and a time of the great light of the Gospel setting men and nations free. People and nations hang in the balance, will you pray?

*And give Him no rest till He establishes  
And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*

Isaiah 62:7 (NKJV)

**Mark Spencer** – Pray for Mark and the team going to Belarus and Poland May 21. Pray also for other teams going to the conference. Pray for safety, protection, and provision.

**The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference** – Pray for the BBB Conference, June 2 – 4.

**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.*

**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*

**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 and duties across the region. Pray for all of the arrangements being made for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual BBB Conference.

**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**

#### **Wait for the Lord**

David Williamson

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Western world, and very quickly this is becoming true all over the world, the word wait is defined as waste. In a world where men and women are measured by how much they produce, wait is counter-productive. We go to great lengths to avoid waste of time. Anything that is not immediately productive is perceived as waste. So wait no longer is viewed as a virtue.

Wait is old fashioned; a relic of a time long gone by when waiting was a necessity and thus viewed as a virtue. This was a commonly held view, but now this has passed and with its passing we do damage to our Christian and prayer life. When, “they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength”, is an old fashion, quant expression, the Christian life and prayer life will be incomplete and suffer great restriction. Failure to embrace the concept of *wait* taints our values, inhibits our actions, and limits our ministries.

The most well know verse concerning waiting is found in Isaiah 40:31.

***But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength;  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,***

***They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.***

Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

With the embrace of the world around us and its values, this verse has been twisted. It has become a verse for not waiting. It is read as saying we can run and not be weary. Waiting has been left out of the equation. This verse has become a special vitamin, an alluring new magic elixir. We see this as another opportunity to take a verse and not have to deal with God. There are many aspects of life where men and women are working to remove God. People long to win the lottery, not so they will have money for missions or to give to good causes, or even for their church, for many people the lottery is a way to remove the need to trust God. Tucked in the heart of man, some tucked away better than others, is rebellion trying to rule and reign. Waiting on the Lord is similar; it rubs against our rebellious nature and is never popular. Just as trusting God for our daily needs goes against our rebellion and self-sufficiency, so also waiting on the Lord is difficult to do. How can wait get anything done, I must do, not wait.

Wait as used here is not an invitation to wasting time. The dictionary gives a definition of wait as, "to stay in place in expectation of". Prayer is expectation of God answering His children. Our old nature, the nature of the world insists on action now. Our old nature longs to make prayer a tool making God a rubber stamp waiting for our requests. We ask and He delivers, on our schedule and in our way of answering. This is not a relationship of man and God, but one of man and servant. This is the longing of rebellion, looking not to trust God, but to tame God and make Him our pet.

Being in control and ruling over God may seem good in a childish way, but God will be God. He has so much more for us than we can ever imagine. Our worldly views of God miss His best by a mile. Our expectations can be high because He is our salvation, glory, strength, and refuge.

***My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him.  
He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.  
In God is my salvation and my glory;  
The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.  
Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him;  
God is a refuge for us. Selah***

Psalm 62:5-8 (NKJV)

In Christian life and in our prayer life we have a choice. We can walk the way of the world and not wait for anything or we can wait on the Lord. The benefits of waiting are spectacular, but it is hard to learn to wait. However, if we will spend a little time everyday waiting on the Lord. If we will take time in prayer and be still before Him, a time when we stop our constant motion and talking, He will bring us to a place of true waiting. Waiting on the Lord is well worth the effort it takes to learn.

But they that wait upon the Lord shall...

Be heard

***To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.  
I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry.***

Psalm 40:1 (NKJV)

Be blessed

***Therefore the Lord will wait, that He may be gracious to you;  
And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you.  
For the Lord is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him.***

Isaiah 30:18 (NKJV)

Experience His goodness

***The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him.***

Lament. 3:25 (NKJV)

Inherit the earth

***For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the Lord,  
They shall inherit the earth.***

Psalms 37:9 (NKJV)

Rejoice in His salvation

***And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God;  
We have waited for Him, and He will save us.  
This is the Lord; We have waited for Him;  
We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."***

Isaiah 25:9 (NKJV)

Receive glorious things

***For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear,  
Nor has the eye seen any God besides You,  
Who acts for the one who waits for Him.***

Isaiah 64:4 (NKJV)

***Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage,  
And He shall strengthen your heart;  
Wait, I say, on the Lord!***

Psalms 27:14 (NKJV)

### ***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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