

**Voice of Thanksgiving**  
**Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer**  
Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of June 25, 2006

**A Call to Prayer**

*And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do,  
that the Father may be glorified in the Son.  
If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*  
John 14:13-14 (KJV)

**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)

**Bernhard and Lisa Prumbach** – Pray for Bernhard and Lisa as they prepare to go to Germany. Pray for all the preparations and details that must be complete before they go.

**DK Limbu Daniel** – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the pastors he works with in Nepal. Pray for:  
*Our building construction work is in progress, construction material cost is shooting up because of unstable economy in country. We are in need of miracles from God for 36000\$ to complete our project. Please list us in your prayer!*

*In this changing situation in New Nepal, the door for opportunity is opened to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ more powerfully. READY FOR THAT.*

*So please pray for Nepal and for conferences, training nationals, seminars, to teach Bible school, Mission trekking, prayer walks, revival/healing meetings and pray and support our mission efforts, gospel literatures printings etc.*

*We wish you spiritual and physical blessing as well as growth.*

*May God give you sound understanding of His plan and purpose, In Him,  
Pastor Deu K Limbu*

**The Inntal Prayer Initiative** – Pray for upcoming seminars on prayer. Pray for the Inntal region.

**Marianne and David Dean** – David and Marianne are close to having all of their support. *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 the church building and the remodeling they are completing.

**Marek Kaminski** – Pray for Marek and his church in Poland, pray for his ministry and duties across the region.

**Mark Spencer** – Pray for his trip to Nepal in October.

**The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference** – Pray for everyone returning from the BBB Conference.

**Joyce Abrahamson** – Pray for the school children, their education is important and their introduction to the Lord is imperative. Joyce also writes: *“We are still plagued by rain and mud and depending on God’s power and love to move forward each day. His Name is Wonderful.”*

**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**

#### **God Answers Prayer – A Test** David Williamson

A test can be a fearful thing. If the student is not prepared, a test can be fearful. The prepared students can enjoy the test and the demonstration of his or her learning. Test can be valuable for the student in revealing areas of lack as well as areas of mastery. It is important for us to know what is true over a false perception. This is true in every aspect of life including prayer.

Take a test on prayer; make it a self-exam. Let us begin, do you believe, actively, daily, fully, continually, faithfully, believe that God answers prayers? This is not to doubt you, but to encourage you to check and see if you are in the faith in this area. It is so easy to give lip service to our beliefs, but to slip into doubt. For this self-exam ask God to reveal your heart, so you and He might rejoice in your faith or repentance of your lack of faith. In a true self-exam, the Holy Spirit will often reveal shortfalls, and encourage us to grow with Him in faith. If He reveals areas that need work, if He reveals doubt or fear, if He reveals sin, let the Word of God and the blood of the Lamb wash you clean. The Holy Spirit, our teacher, is there to pick us up and help us to grow strong in faith.

God answers prayer by His grace.

It is in no way by my strength, ability, or position. Israel got into trouble because they thought their position as God's people gave them position. God answers, not by position, but by grace. He has chosen to answer prayer. Today people fall into this same trap. They expect answer because of their position, church, ministry, or good works. But it is still true, even as it was in the time of Paul, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23 (NKJV). If answers depend on our ability or goodness then there will be no answer. God answers prayer by grace.

***For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; You shall weep no more.***

***He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry;***

***When He hears it, He will answer you.***

Isaiah 30:19 (NKJV)

God answers prayer and sometimes He answers immediately.

God is amazing, at times, He answers so quickly it takes our breath away. We pray and in walks the answer! Wow, we love this. The prayer life is great! But, immediate prayer is fraught with danger. It is very easy to fall in to the snare of the enemy even here. It is easy to view immediate prayer as a measuring rod. This takes many forms. For example, if I get quick answers, I must be spiritual. This is deception and very dangerous. Ministers face this deception often. If many people come to church, the minister must be good. Many of the ministries that have fallen into sin have fallen in this way. My ministry is saving many, so God approves of what I am doing. Soon this can become God winks at my sin. Then God okays my sin. Oh, what a stumbling block success can be. God answers prayer. He asks us to pray and He delights to answer. His answers are not a vindication of our life; His answers are answers to prayer.

***"It shall come to pass***

***That before they call, I will answer;***

***And while they are still speaking, I will hear.***

Isaiah 65:24 (NKJV)

***Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel,***

***for from the first day that you set your heart to understand,***

***and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard;***

***and I have come because of your words.***

Daniel 10:12 (NKJV)

God answers prayer and sometimes He answers after a delay. Prayer and delay is a difficult issue.

Many have lost their faith in prayer do to delay, although you could make the case that many of those who lost their faith due to delay never had faith. God answers prayer, but when the answer tarries, it is hard to stay away from doubt, fear, and concerns. The enemy is very willing to whisper in your ear and try to destroy your confidence in God.

***Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,***

***for He who promised is faithful.***

Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV)

It is easy to question the answers delay. We are experts in the need at hand since we are so close to the need, which is not really true even in the natural. We improperly do and say many things because we are too close to the need to have any perspective. As in the old expression, we cannot see the forest for the trees. With our nose pressed against the window, we cannot see what is happening around us. However, God knows the correct timing for answers. He is never late. How often have we yielded to the pressure of the time, the whisper of the enemy, or heaviness of the need and given up just before the answer comes. Paul knew about this,

***Therefore take up the whole armor of God,  
that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.  
Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth,  
having put on the breastplate of righteousness,  
Ephes. 6:13-14 (NKJV)***

Does God answer your prayer, even if the answer is delayed?

***And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him,  
though He bears long with them?  
Luke 18:7 (NKJV)***

God answers prayer and sometimes differently from our desire. I know what I want, but I do not always know what is best. As parents, we know this. I like ice cream, and since man does not live by bread alone, he must live by ice cream. So, anytime, anywhere, ice cream for me; is my prayer. We know this is not a good prayer for God to answer (I would weight 400 pounds). But, often when we pray we are like a spoiled child. We throw a temper tantrum, kick and scream, if we do not get what we want. But, Father knows best.

Some would claim, see God knows best and so sometimes He does not answer prayer. Once again as parents, we know the answer to this concern. If my children knew what was good for them, they would ask correctly. Our Father knows what is best for us and He has sent the Holy Spirit to instruct us on prayer and guide us on what to pray. By the guidance of the Holy Spirit, my prayer is not for ice cream, but for my daily bread, (what I need for good nutrition and some fun). When we pray by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayers of the Father. We pray with understanding and wisdom. Jesus prayed what He heard the Father say. We should pray what Father, Son, and Holy Spirit say to pray.

***Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.  
And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you,  
for My strength is made perfect in weakness."  
Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities,  
that the power of Christ may rest upon me.  
2 Cor. 12:8-9 (NKJV)***

God answers prayer and sometimes goes beyond expectation. Do your prayers limit God? A few years ago, my wife had health concerns and the doctors determined she had to have surgery. Many people prayed for her, people from many churches and groups, in many countries. The surgery was very successful and she is doing well. Before the surgery, a well-meaning person said, Thank God for surgeons, which I do. Then this person said, often

surgery is God's best. I mumbled something and went on, but this was like a slap in the face. Nothing against this person, but Jesus did send the woman with the issue of blood to another doctor. He did not send the man with the withered hand to the doctor. His healing was God's best. How often do I limit God, how often do I restrict His best? How often do you?

*Call to Me, and I will answer you,  
and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.*  
Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think,  
according to the power that works in us,*  
Ephes. 3:20 (NKJV)

How did you do? Are there areas where you need to work? Prayer by prayer we must believe and act in faith until we know God's answers prayer.

### **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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