

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of August 20, 2006

A Call to Prayer

DESIRE is not merely a simple wish; it is a deep seated craving; an intense longing, for attainment. In the realm of spiritual affairs, it is an important adjunct to prayer. So important is it, that one might say, almost, that desire is an absolute essential of prayer. Desire precedes prayer, accompanies it, is followed by it. Desire goes before prayer, and by it, created and intensified. Prayer is the oral expression of desire. If prayer is asking God for something, then prayer must be expressed. Prayer comes out into the open. Desire is silent. Prayer is heard; desire, unheard. The deeper the desire, the stronger the prayer. Without desire, prayer is a meaningless mumble of words. Such perfunctory, formal praying, with no heart, no feeling, no real desire accompanying it, is to be shunned like a pestilence. Its exercise is a waste of precious time, and from it, no real blessing accrues.

And yet even if it be discovered that desire is *honestly* absent, we should pray, anyway. We *ought* to pray. The “ought” comes in, in order that both desire and expression be cultivated. God’s Word commands it. Our judgment tells us we ought to pray—to pray whether we feel like it or not—and not to allow our feelings to determine our habits of prayer. In such circumstance, we ought to pray for the *desire* to pray; for such a desire is God-given and heaven-born. We should pray for desire; then, when desire has been given, we should pray according to its dictates. Lack of spiritual desire should grieve us, and lead us to lament its absence, to seek earnestly for its bestowal, so that our praying, henceforth, should be an expression of “the soul’s sincere desire.”

From *The Necessity 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)

Pray for Israel – At some point the prayers of the saints will be full for Israel and God will pour them out on the earth. Just as this verse records, so will God act with His full strength and righteousness. Today Israel once again faces the wrath of the world. Nation after nation aligned against God’s chosen people. They would wipe Israel off the map and destroy any people who

would stand with Israel. This is not the first time, or even the second time Israel has faced adversity and possible destruction. However, this is our time. How will we respond to this threat to Israel?

The Bible talks of golden bowls full of incense, the prayers of the saints. When the bowl is full God pours the prayers out on the earth. Today as we pray for Israel, as we pray for the fulfillment of these verses from this Psalm, we add our prayers to these bowls. Rev. 5:8 and Rev. 16:1

The alignment of so many prophecies seems to indicate we are near to the end of this age. Are the bowls waiting for just a few more prayers? Are they waiting for your prayers? This week and for the next few weeks and months let us join together as a company and pray. Let us join with other companies of prayer around the world and pray. Let us join our prayers with the prayers of many generations and pray for Israel.

Marianne and David Dean – David and Marianne ask for prayer for open hearts for the college students they meet and disciple the next four years in East Asia. Galatians 4:6

Marek Kaminski – Pray for the BBB Conference and future ministry. *Pray for God to guide us as to how to fulfill God's will for this ministry, for time (for travel), and for finances.*

For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Cor. 2:16 (NKJV)

The Inntal Prayer Initiative and Mark Spencer – Pray for Mark who will be ministering in conferences in Germany and Nepal in October. Pray for God's anointing for these meetings and for all the arrangements that must be made. 2 Tim. 4:1-2

DK Limbu Daniel – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the conference in October. Pray for the arrangements for the conference and the preparation of hearts to receive from the Lord. Pray that this conference will be a prosperous time for all.

***Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health,
just as your soul prospers.***

3 John 1:2 (NKJV)

Jacek Gromadzki – Pray for Jack and his church in Kolobrzeg, Poland. Pray for outreaches with an American team in Poland this summer. Pray that many people will be reconciled to God.

***Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ,
as though God were pleading through us:
we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.***

2 Cor. 5:20 (NKJV)

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.

*Ask of Me, and I will give You
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

Psalm 2:8 (NKJV)

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

The Wonderful World of Prayer

David Williamson

Many years ago, when I was a little boy, we did not have a color TV. This was not unusual as most people did not have a color set, because there was very few color sets and little if any color programming. However, that began to change. For us it changed one Sunday night when we got invited to dinner at our minister's house. We had dinner and then we watched TV, but this night we watched their color TV. The first program we watched was the Walt Disney Show and on that night he introduced the world to the program "The Wonderful World of Color". It was wonderful! Now it is hard to imagine how wonderful because everyone watches in color, with High Definition and plasma screens. Unless you lived through the time before color, the shock of seeing color for the first time is hard to fathom. However, I still remember the awe I felt watching "The Wonderful World of Color" for the first time.

There is another wonderful world out there as well. It is the wonderful world of prayer, and it is far more wonderful than seeing color for the first time. The wonderful world of prayer is a place without compare. The beauty, grandeur, sensations, and color all comes from the majesty of God. It is He who makes this world of prayer wonderful. Daily you and I are invited to enter His world of prayer. This is the ultimate invitation this side of Heaven.

Recently I was reading about the Tabernacle Moses built in the desert and the temple Solomon built in Jerusalem. As you read of these, visualize the descriptions. Think what it must have looked like. With all that gold, silver, and bronze, they must have taken ones breath away. In Germany there are grand castles, many unique and interesting, but one is like a fairy tale castle. This is Neuschwanstein Castle. In this castle is a throne room. The grandeur of this room and the way it is decorated helps me to imagine how Tabernacle and Temple must have looked. They were wonderful, yet the wonderful world of prayer exceeds them both; for here God is present and He is inviting us to join with Him day and night. His presence is grander than any amount of gold or silver. He is grander than any earthly representation of Heaven, grand as these were. The best part of the wonderful world of prayer, you have been invited to come, and this invitation is for every day.

The gold, silver, and bronze of the Tabernacle and Temple made them beautiful, the presence of God made them wonderful. The presence of God makes the wonderful world of prayer wonderful. For those who do not know what I mean they are like people when I was a boy, in the time before color TV. We just did not know what we were missing. It was TV and that was all there was. However, once you saw color you knew a new world. Back and white was flat, empty, and boring

when compared to color. Life without prayer is all many people know. They strive to enjoy their world and even make great claims as to the wonders of their world. There claims are like ours of the black and white days. We saw tigers on TV, but until you have seen a tiger in color you have not seen a tiger. Life without prayer is a back and white tiger.

In prayer daily you have an invitation to come boldly before God. Men and women of the Bible have gone into many of the great throne rooms of the world. Moses before Pharaoh, Ester before Ahasuerus, Jesus before Pilate, Paul before Claudius and many more stood in great throne rooms. King Ludwig's throne room in Neuschwanstein is overwhelming in size and grander, but none for these throne rooms can compare to the wonderful presence of God in His throne room. When Moses went into the Tent of Meeting and the presence of God would come in with him, the result was Moses' face would glow; this gives us a glimpse of the wonder of being in the presence of God. And this was under the old Covenant and we are under a better Covenant. The wonderful world of prayer is wonderful.

***Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

Today let us come boldly before His throne, let us pray. God has made a way for us to come, He has called us to come, and He has promised to be there for us. Our part is to come. We must break free from the hindrances and shackles that would keep us from prayer. What can you change in your daily living so prayer has a prominent place in your life? What will you change? What mental hang ups and hindrances can you permit the Holy Spirit to deal with so you can come freely before God? What will you permit Him to deal with? What change of heart can you make that will allow you freedom with God like David, a man after My own heart, enjoyed. What changes will you make? There is a place open to all who will come; it is the wonderful world of prayer. There is no place like it anywhere on earth. Yet, few come to this place, not knowing of this place or not choosing to come. Even some of the people who pray choose to remain in the anterooms and never see the wonder of His throne room.

Many of you that are part of this company know of the wonderful place of prayer, it is a place you visit often. For you my prayer is that you will visit and explore this place more and more. I also pray that you will tell others about the wonderful world of prayer so they to will pray. Let us be people who come in. Let us be people who enjoy and experience the wonder of this place. Let us be the people who tell others about the wonders of this place. Let us pray!

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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