

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of September 3, 2006

A Call to Prayer

Desire single-shots at its objective. There may be many things desired, but they are specifically and individually felt and expressed. David did not yearn for everything; nor did he allow his desires to spread out everywhere and hit nothing. Here is the way his desires ran and found expression:

“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple.”

It is this singleness of desire, this definiteness of yearning, which counts in praying, and which drives prayer directly to core and centre of supply. From *Necessity of Prayer* by E. M. Bounds

Continue Earnestly in Prayer

Today is calling out for prayer. We live in a time of great difficulties and possibilities. The world and everything in it is in need of the Gospel message and its power. The declaration of His message and demonstration of His power depends on prayer. Now is the time for great diligence in prayer for nations, ministries, people, and needs. The question of the day, will you pray?

Pray for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem –This week and for the next few weeks and months let us join together as a company and pray for Israel. 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 and the peace of Jerusalem.

Marianne and David Dean – David and Marianne ask for prayer for open doors of opportunity for the spread of the Gospel message.

For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

1 Cor. 16:9 (NKJV)

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.

*For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel,
not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.
For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

1 Cor. 1:17-18 (NKJV)

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.*”

*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)

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.

Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer

Let Us Pray!

David Williamson

Who is the best? We love to think about men and women and compare them. Part of the comparison process is to argue about who is the best. Who is the fastest man? Who is the most

popular? Who is the best singer? The argument about the best goes on and on, but this kind of argument can help us to pray better.

One of the key ingredients in the argument for candidates for the best; is the way they work at what they do. Most are craftsman; they work hard to be the best they can be. They are not satisfied to be like everyone else, they strive for perfection. My dad was a craftsman. He could build cabinets and furniture that were family heirlooms from the day he delivered the piece. When I worked with him I learned to build things, but dad did not build, he crafted. He worked to make every aspect of the piece perfect. He would joke, "We strive for absolute, but perfect is good enough!" Today there are few craftsmen around in any field. People want things quick and cheap. Even in much of Europe the old traditions of great craftsmanship is yielding to the new wave of quick and cheap. People just will not pay the price for craftsmanship.

Prayer has succumbed to this same malady. People want prayer to be quick and cheap. If prayer is going to cost, then people are not interested. We want prayer, but once people see that prayer isn't quick and cheap, they look for something else and leave this key part of the Christian life on the shelf. Only when faced with dire emergency will they even consider prayer. In far too many places the church is in a sad state and one key cause of this condition is a lack of prayer. Very simply put, we have drawn away from prayer and the church has suffered for it.

Throughout history there have been men and women who were willing to pray. They would give of themselves to the time and effort needed to pray. They would give both physically and spiritually. There is nothing sacred about rising early for prayer. A man can pray at any time of the day or night, but for most people if there is no early morning prayer, there is no prayer. The day just is too full of things and the things do not leave room for prayer. The lesson of history here is that those who have been great in prayer made time, often by early rising. The Bible injunction, early will I seek thee, is the base for their commitment and prayer is the result. The testimony of many a saint who will not rise early is they could not find time for prayer.

The need today is more than just a new commitment to find time. The need today is for craftsmen of prayer. Men and women who will go from prayer as practiced, to prayer as commanded by God. This difference is like the things I built compared to the things my dad crafted. The craftsman of prayer goes far beyond normal practice. The craftsman goes beyond wherever he or she may be today in prayer, they seek to be the best.

I heard a man, a very good preacher and teacher of the Gospel, once say that he longed to preach and teach like Bach wrote music. This man loved Bach, he saw him as one of the best ever. What he was expressing was not a jealousy of Bach, but a desire to elevate his preaching and teaching to be the best he could be. He worked at his craft, both spiritually and physically. He worked at every aspect of his spiritual life, making the Word of God, Word for his life. It was he himself that he preached to first, checking to see if he was in the faith and applying all he learned from the Spirit to making his life more like Jesus. He also worked at his profession, working to make all that he desired to express, clear to the hearer and available to all whom would listen. He was a craftsman of preaching and teaching and men and women around the world were touched by his ministry.

This same spirit of the craftsman is needed in prayer today. We need men and women who will work to be the best. Those who will move from prayer to greater trust in God and obedience to all He commands for prayer. Men and women who will give of their life, physically and spiritually, to be

the best in prayer they can be. We need men and women who espouse to be like George Muller, to be like Andrew Murray, to be like Rees Howells, to be the best in prayer. It is not competition, but commitment to step beyond your individual norm, and stride day-by-day to new places in prayer. To step on toward being the best, the best you can be in prayer.

For some people this will be a call to prayer, to a real prayer life. Where daily they find (make) time for prayer. Where daily they yield to the teaching of the Holy Spirit and learn to pray. For others it is a call to step up, longing for more of God and more from prayer. They must learn more about how to pray. The lessons learned are but a base for new lessons, not a place to stay. For others this is a call to even greater strides, to go from prayer to the prayer of the craftsman, prayer that changes nations and people, prayer that hears from God and then moved the world for Him, by His power.

Today needs men and women of prayer who will be listed among the greats of prayer. They question is will you pray? Will you strive for your best in prayer? Will you be a craftsman of prayer? Take inventory of your prayer life, where do you stand? In your inventory check on your desires as well, are you striving to be your best. Are you willing to wander through life taking what comes or are you working to learn to pray as Paul prayed. Are you satisfied with where you are or do you have a goal to pray like Jesus? Chose to be a craftsman of prayer, the best!

*Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected;
but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which
Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.
Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended;
but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and
reaching forward to those things which are ahead,
I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*
Philip. 3:12-14 (NKJV)

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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