

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

A Call to Prayer

Paul appeals to the Romans to dedicate themselves wholly to God, a living sacrifice, and the constraining motive is the mercies of God: *“I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”* Consideration of God’s mercies not only begets gratitude, but induces a large consecration to God of all we have and are. So that prayer, thanksgiving and consecration are all linked together inseparably.

Gratitude and thanksgiving always looks back at the past though it may also take in the present. But prayer always looks to the future. Thanksgiving deals with things already received. Prayer deals with things desired, asked for and expected. Prayer turns to gratitude and praise when the things asked for have been granted by God. As prayer brings things to us which beget gratitude and thanksgiving, so praise and gratitude promote prayer, and induce more praying and better praying.

from *Essentials of Prayer* by E. M. Bounds

Continue Earnestly in Prayer

Will you Pray, men and women in countries of the world need the Gospel. Throughout the centuries of Christianity prayer has paved the way for the spread of the Gospel. This continues to be true today. Our efforts and work toward the spread of the Gospel is very important, but it is imperative that all we do is initiated in prayer, supported in prayer, and completed in prayer. 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 –Pray for Israel. Events continue to transpire that lead to a confrontation by nations and people concerning Israel. Pray for protection for the Jewish people and the hearts of people concerning Israel.

*Yes, many peoples and strong nations
Shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem,
And to pray before the Lord.’*
Zech. 8:22 (NKJV)

For the Week of September 17, 2006

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

The Inntal Prayer Initiative and Mark Spencer – Pray for the preaching of the Gospel with boldness and power at conferences in Germany and Nepal this October. Pray for God's anointing for these meetings and for hearts to be responsive to God's message.

*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)

Marianne and David Dean – Pray that ministry and language class will continue to go well for us, but in the midst of things going so well, we will continue to rely totally on the Lord and resist the temptation to become self-sufficient.

This week we will be trying to contact and meet with students who made decisions for Christ with some American students who came on a summer trip. Pray that these students made genuine decisions, that we will be able to get in contact with them, and that they will desire to grow and become involved in our ministry.

Pray for David and me to have some time to connect as a couple this week. Last week was good, but very very busy and tiring. I don't think we ate a single meal at home! Pray that we will have a more balanced schedule this week.

Thanks so much to all of you for your prayers, your love and support! You really have no idea how much it means to us!!

John and Helen Coon – Pray for their trip to Austria the beginning of October. They will be ministering in Salzburg, Austria.

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)

For the Week of September 17, 2006

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

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

Sacrifice of Prayer David Williamson

There is nothing like the love of a mother. She does it all, no sacrifice is too much and in family after family there is nothing that can compare to her love. A mother's love is demonstrated in her sacrifices for her family. This sacrifice is a picture of the sacrifice of the Christian life.

The Christian life is sacrifice. The ultimate example is Jesus who gave His all for us that we might be reconciled to the Father. After Him Christians have followed, Peter gave up his fishing business and followed Jesus. He lived a life of sacrifice giving his life for the faith. Paul gave up his standing, and the possibility of being the greatest Rabbi of his time, to follow Jesus in the faith in persecution, arrest, shipwreck, and even death. From that time to the present there is a continuous line of sacrifice for the faith by missionaries, preachers, and others who have given their love and life for the faith and faithful. A few years ago I met a

For the Week of September 17, 2006

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

man who still suffered from the frostbite that affected his feet. He had gotten frostbite during the time of Stalin when he had been forced into a Siberian prison camp. This man had been arrested for preaching the Gospel. These are just a few examples of the life of Christian sacrifice.

This life of sacrifice is a key to prayer. Prayer is sacrifice. It is true that people pray for selfish motives and seek answers for their own wants and needs, but far more important and powerful is prayer for others. This prayer requires that a man or women give of their time, effort, faith, and life for answers. The great examples of prayer recorded by history show this sacrifice in prayer in action time after time. Look at how E. M. Bounds explains sacrifice in prayer.

Our whole being must be in our praying; like John Knox, we must say and feel, "Give me Scotland, or I die." Our experience and revelations of God are born of our costly sacrifice, our costly conflicts, our costly praying. The wrestling, all night praying, of Jacob made an era never to be forgotten in Jacob's life, brought God to the rescue, changed Esau's attitude and conduct, changed Jacob's character, saved and affected his life and entered into the habits of a nation.*

The sacrifice of prayer can be a wide range of things. These include time, jobs, security, comfort, and recognition. Those who have responded to God's call for prayer, those who have made prayer their life, have given of themselves as a sacrifice. As is true in much of the prayer life, the sacrifice of many is unknown to most people. Only the Father knows the times of freezing cold mornings and long hours of prayer. However, beyond these areas of sacrifice, the main sacrifice of prayer is love.

Behind all of our sacrifice is our motivation. In prayer, as mentioned earlier this can be a selfish motive, I pray for me. However, the true nature of prayer, the proper nature of prayer is selfless sacrifice of love, giving of my time, effort, and faith as an expression of love. Once again note these words of E. M. Bounds.

He who essays to pray to God with an angry spirit, with loose and irreverent lips, with an irreconciled heart, and with unsettled neighbourly scores, spends his labour for that which is worse than naught, violates the law of prayer, and adds to his sin. How rigidly exacting is Christ's law of prayer! It goes to the heart, and demands that love be enthroned there, love to the brotherhood. The sacrifice of prayer must be seasoned and perfumed with love, by love in the inward parts. The law of prayer, its creator and inspirer, is love.*

Measure you time of prayer, is your time seasoned and perfumed with love? E. M. Bounds suggests this meditation to help with our motivation in prayer.

For the Week of September 17, 2006

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Gratitude is born of meditation on God's grace and mercy. "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Herein we see the value of serious meditation. "My meditation of him shall be sweet." Praise is begotten by gratitude and a conscious obligation to God for mercies given. As we think of mercies past, the heart is inwardly moved to gratitude.

Love is the child of gratitude. Love grows as gratitude is felt, and then breaks out into praise and thanksgiving to God: "I love the Lord because he hath heard my voice and my supplication." Answered prayers cause gratitude, and gratitude brings forth a love that declares it will not cease praying: "Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live." Gratitude and love move to larger and increased praying.*

Let us pray!

*Excerpts from *Essentials of Prayer* and *Purpose in Prayer* by E. M. Bounds

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

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of September 17, 2006