



WEEK OF PRAYER 2011



Week of Prayer 2011
With thanks to Greece and Cyprus

Sunday, January 2, 2011

Unity is in the Heart of Jesus

Verse: John 17:22 "...that they may be one, as we are one."

Reading - John 17: 9-23
- Luke 22:24
- Mark 3:24-25



Thought for the day

Unity in the Body of Christ is not a luxury but an urgent need. It is a source of good testimony for our Lord. In His prayer He said that his disciples should be united among themselves and with God **"... in order that the world may know that You have sent Me" (17:21)**. And elsewhere: **"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another" (John 13:35)**.

The extent and nature of our unity depend on how close each one of us is in fellowship with God. To the extent that the Christian grows in Christ and enjoys the "fellowship of the divine nature" in which he participates (2 Peter 1:4), he crucifies the flesh, fights self, overcomes the worldly mentality, and lives the resurrection life.

This should reveal itself within our families, in our friendships, in our cooperation with each other as well as within the work of God, in our Churches, and in our church bodies! So we need to fight to maintain "the unity of the Spirit" (Ephesians 4:3). This fight concerns each one of us separately, not the "other person," but primarily "me."

Since our Father God has comforted us all with His love, since He has encouraged us, and since all of us participate in the same Spirit, we should have the same love, unanimity, and mindset (Philippians 2:1-2). This behavior reflects the heart and the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5-8). We cannot do differently. It doesn't happen any other way!

Prayer Requests:

- For a greater answer to Jesus' prayer for His Church.
- For every carnal motive and direction not to find room within the Church.
- That within the church every attitude that "we are more spiritual," that "we know better," may be wiped out.
- That we may understand the danger of divisions that prevent the church from being effective.
- For the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer, maintaining unity in the centre of our heart.

Today we pray for –

Israel and the regions of Palestine, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Malta and FYROMacedonia.

Monday, January 3, 2011

Unity is expressed through His Church

Verse: Acts 2:1 "...they were all with one accord in the same place."

Reading - Philippians 2:2-4
- Romans 12:10-11



Thought for the day

The really humble person contributes to the unity of the church because he cares about what benefits others. *"Fulfill my joy, that you be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord and of one mind. Do nothing through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each one esteem others better than himself" (Philippians 2:2-3).* When I am humble, I do not strive or compete. I consider that the other person is more important. Consequently, if we want to be united, we should be humble. Ultimately humility is the key to unity. The humble person can see himself properly with reference to God, and for this reason the ministry or recognition of the other person is not "burdensome" but is seen to be reasonable and appropriate.

Humility serves. It allows itself to be put down in order to lift others up. Humility sees the needs of others and spends the time and effort to serve them. Christ took the form of a servant and humbled Himself to the point of dying on the cross: *"For the Son of Man did not come in order to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).* Humility measures its deeds on the basis of whether an action is good for others. Consequently, with my actions, with my words, and with my time, do I feed my own ego, or do I nourish the faith of others?

Prayer Requests:

- Communication among leaders of churches in each city.
- Close relationships that will express brotherly love and respect and promote unity.
- A common attitude about issues that concern the society in which we live.
- Growth of cooperation so that the body of Christ is more visible in each city (for example, charitable, educational and other needs of the city).

Today we pray for –

Moldavia, Montenegro, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania and Serbia., Croatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina

Tuesday, January 4, 2011

United prayer and intercession moves the hand of God

Verse – Acts 12: 5 “...prayer was being made without ceasing of the church.”

Reading - Acts 4:24, 29-31
- Jeremiah 50:4



Thought for the day

As individuals, we constantly live with ignorance. Because ignorance exists, there is also uncertainty and risk in general in our life. For God this is not the case, because He knows the end from the beginning. And this is what distinguishes Him from each false entity that wants to be called god. This truth is proclaimed again and again in His Word. (Isaiah 42:8-9, 44:6-8, 46:9-11). The united Church in Acts recognized that God is sovereign in history: "*Lord, You are God...*" (Acts 2:24). During panic, in the midst of persecution, in spite of intimidation, God is sovereign! ... and the Church prays.

Their prayer was not "Lord, remove our problems," nor was it "Lord, take care of us," but "give us power to do Your will." And that was nothing other than that they continue to testify in His Name, despite the persecution and threats!

In the hands of God I am secure, not with the meaning of a guarantee as the world means it, but with the meaning that He keeps me in His hands and no one can take me away. The ultimate goal of everything is not my own security, but the glory of God.

In the first case (Acts 4) the Church was filled with the Spirit of God and everyone courageously continued in the race. In the second case (Acts 12) Peter was released. Indeed, God answers the united prayers of His people, when what is asked is in accord with His will.

Prayer Requests:

- For the persecuted church, to grow in boldness and to do the work of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- That doors of prisons in closed communities and minorities may be opened.
- That there will be unceasing united prayer in every country.
- That Churches in Europe will again experience and stay in revival.

Today we pray for –

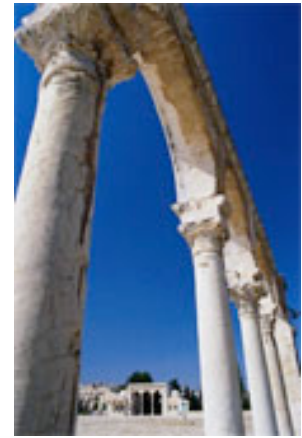
Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, and Germany.

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

A Common Church Vision for our city / country

Verse – Nehemiah 2:12 “...what God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem...”

Reading - Proverbs 29:18^a
- Nehemiah 2:16-18
- Joshua 1:10-11



Thought for the day

If we feel that our faith is small or useless, it may be due to the fact that we reduce the God of the universe to a deity that attends to our own needs and those of our family. Christ challenges us to acquire a vision for our life!
"Since, therefore, you are risen with Christ, set your hearts on things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your affections on things that are above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:1-2)

You see, “setting your heart on things that are above” means that the goal of my life is something much bigger than meeting my needs. The goal of my life is to live as many years as God allows, and to participate in whatever God is doing in my generation. As I do this, He will meet my needs.

It is not possible for me as a Christian to spend my entire life concentrating on what I will eat and drink and what I will wear (Matthew 6:31-33). It is not possible for my prayer and my faith and my interests to not include what God is doing in the world, what He is doing in my country, in my city, in my church, in my neighborhood.

Seeking that which is above (in heaven) means that my heart beats for a the world that God loves and also for the work God is doing. I raise my children with this passion. I work at my job and live for the purposes of God. My life finds its purpose and meaning in God.

God us calls to repentance because many times our interests, our goals, our dreams and desires, center exclusively on ourselves, our families and our needs. However, after God is reconciled with us, after He brings us from death to life, He allows us to continue living in order to work for His kingdom and glory. This is our vision!

Prayer Requests:

- That God will give new vision to leaders for their city / their country.
- That He will help them find ways to approach and convey the vision to other leaders and to their entire flock. May the vision be maintained.
- To reveal to us the condition of the city / country and how it can change and be rebuilt.
- That the shame of the church will be removed and His glory revealed in and through His church.

Today we pray for –

Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Finland, Denmark, Holland and Belgium.

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Cooperation for Implementing the Vision

Verse: Nehemiah 4: 6 "So we rebuilt the wall and joined it together, for the people worked with all their heart...."

Reading – Nehemiah 4:16-20
- Isaiah 11:13-14
- I Corinthians 3:6-7



Thought for the day

If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you will help me; but if the children of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come and help you. Be of good courage, and let us fight bravely for our people, and for the cities of our God, and the Lord will do that which seems good to Him. (II Samuel 10:11-12).

Above are the words of Joab, the general under King David. Joab was a dark figure in the life of David. He was however a great warrior. This means that he was not so foolish as to believe that he could never lose. He was not ashamed to ask for help. **Those participating in group ministry must be humble.** Humility gladly recognizes its own limitations. It is ready to accept help, to be taught, and does not complain when it hears advice.

In group cooperation, **diversity is important.** We are not all the same. Joab goes against the Syrians and Abishai goes against the Ammonites. It is biblical truth that God deliberately made us different as personalities and he also deliberately gave us different talents.

Group cooperation also presupposes **mutual help.** *If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you will save me. If, however, the sons of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come and save you.* The fact that we are different does not mean that we cannot stop, or for a while set aside what we are doing in order to help someone else. Mutual help leads to **greater strength:** ... *be of courage and let us fight bravely.*

The benefit is not for us: *for our people, and for the cities of our God.* The goal is the work of God. **The glory of God.** The blessing and the building of His Church. Is not our own work. All these are done with **confidence in God's plans,** which we may not know: *the Lord will do what is best in His eyes.*

Prayer Requests:

- That we will recognize our role as individuals and as a local church
- That we will support one another in the time of need.
- That there will be mutual forgiveness and reconciliation.
- That there will be new bases for cooperation and implementation of the vision.

Today we pray for:

Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Friday, January 7, 2001

Obstacles and dangers to Unity

Verse: Nehemiah 2:19 "...they mocked us and ridiculed us..."

Reading: - Nehemiah 2:19-20
- 2 Kings 6: 14-17
- Psalm 121:1-3

Thought for the day

In the work of God there are always obstacles that need to be overcome; the danger of disappointment always lurks; doubts and criticism will contest the value and the goals of our efforts.

By the grace of God however, the work needs to continue and it will continue: *Though we are hard pressed on every side, we are not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not abandoned; **struck down, but not destroyed.** (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).*

The power of resistance in these cases is our personal fellowship with God, the encouragement among believers, the constant reminder of the promises of God and the vision for His work. The words of enemies discourage. When you hear rumors, those rumors grow and from snowballs become an avalanche between people. This is why we need to hear the truth. This is exactly what Nehemiah did. *After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." (Nehemiah 4:14).*

What is the truth? God is with us! He is the great and awesome God. So let's not be afraid. Let us continue the fight because He is with us.

Prayer Requests:

- That we will not be disappointed by the situations around us and what we are going through personally or as a church
- That we will not see only the problem but also the solution/answer from God
- That we will see behind the circumstances
- That we will recognize how great our God is and how much He loves us and is interested in what we are going through.

Today we pray for:

Luxembourg, Lichtenstein, Monaco, Andorra, San Marino, Austria and Switzerland.



Saturday, January 8, 2011

Unity will cost

Verse: 2 Samuel 24: 24 "...I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

Reading: - 2 Samuel 24:17, 24-25
- I Corinthians 12:12, 20-26



Thought for the day

For we are the Body of Christ, but each person is created different from everyone else; you cannot say to anyone "I don't need you" (I Corinthians 12:21). You cannot say, "why do we need him, or her, we would be better off if that person were not around." No way! Not only this, but the members that are weaker are necessary (I Corinthians 12:22). What we do not consider important or honorable, these have their own beauty. God made the Church. In His wisdom and sovereignty, God has placed in each Church you and me and those who sit next to us. Let's remember that God does not make mistakes, nor does anything happen accidentally – God brought them. "You need them," He says.

Of course, this costs! It costs my pride when I remember that I do not know everything. It hurts me to I realize that the other person was right and I was wrong. It bothers me when someone corrects me. I do not like it that others can have better accomplishments than I. It costs me to accept that I must sacrifice myself and to be humble in order to promote unity.

The solution? Genuine, real, daily, repentance; confession from my heart to God and whichever persons I find it necessary to confess to. If this "price" is paid, then the way for God's blessing and fruit-bearing in my work is wide open.

Prayer Requests:

- That we will be willing to pay the price, whatever it is, and no matter what it will cost us.
- That we will recognize that we all need other people to be able to do God's work well. This is true for individuals and churches.
- That we will place value on the life of others as the Lord gives them value.

Today we pray for:

Poland, Belarus, Slovakia, Slovenia, Russia, Ukraine and Czechoslovakia

Sunday, January 9, 2010

Unity promotes and proclaims the Gospel

Verse: John 17:23 "...may they be brought to complete unity, in order to let the world know that You sent Me"

Reading: - Matthew 18:19-20
- John 13:34-35
- John 15:12-13



Thought for the day

Competition flourishes wherever there is the possibility of personal gain. The work of God is not the place for personal ambition or self-display. The work of God is the common fight for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. It's for God's benefit and not ours, if you want to say it that way.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel. (Philippians 1:27).

Christian faith and life is a struggle. The Christian resembles an athlete who runs. However, there is a great difference. The Christian athletes who are running in the stadium of God's service, are not in competition with each other. They are running next to each other, helping each other. The enemy who fights us is Satan, and he fights us with the mentality of world, trying to make our life like those people without God. He tries to trip us up with our sinful nature. He is the enemy. The enemy is outside, not inside.

The church of God is a family, all of the members of which have been born by the Spirit of God and this family is at war. The only way for the Gospel to move forward and for souls to be won, is for us to stand in this reality: that we have the same Holy Spirit and strengthened in Him "together" we run the race for the faith of the Gospel. We run together to live holy lives and to win souls to Christ.

Prayer Requests:

- That our unity will not be motivated by personal gain, but that it will express itself in practical ways, in order to have a testimony that will impact the world around us.
- That our unity will have pure motives and be grounded in love.
- That we will raise the standard of unity.
- That we will be willing to lay down our lives for one other.
- That the Lord will give us creative ways to evangelize the world.

Today we pray for:

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan.