

# The City Church, New York

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Sunday March 19, 2006

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A young Scot, recently graduated from medical college in Glasgow, heard missionary Robert Moffat say this: "I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been." David Livingstone – born on this day in 1813 – responded to that vision by becoming, himself, a life-long living sacrifice to the villagers of Africa.

Let us pray.

Our Loving Savior and Lord: Here in this city and in our day, we're enmeshed in a very different attitude from that of our elder brothers, Robert and David, for whom we thank You. The sad fact that people have not heard Your good news tends not to move us even to take note, much less to grieve over this or lift even a finger to make a difference, and still far less to give our lives that they might hear and believe. We're told "proselytizing" is politically incorrect. We're told we mustn't "impose" our religious views on others. Yet, Lord, the critics would impose their views on us. You alone are our Lord – not they. We pledge to yield to no other but You. You called us to go into all the world to share the good news of Your love. We thank You for what we've been given to share for it is truly Light in darkness and Life in a dying world. And so we thank You for the privilege of passing it on. Give us such a gratitude for Your love, such a burden for those who are bogged down trying to make sense of it all on their own, not knowing that You love them, that we might be Your faithful followers in the footsteps of our forebears in faith as they followed in Yours. May we realize, too, that what You once called "the uttermost parts of the earth" are right here around each corner in this, our city across the seas. Help us to be good witnesses in our everyday lives, that friends and neighbors, associates and even strangers might see You in us, and be led to look beyond us and glory in You alone.

And help us not to neglect our fellow worshippers here who struggle with many needs. We're somewhat aware of some of the needs. Yet You know them all as only a loving Father knows his children's needs. So we lift up one another and ask that Your perfect will unfold in the beauty of Your holiness in each life. And give us each a part to play in Your answers to this prayer. Thank You for answering in Your wisdom and Your way. And now, once again, with thanks, we add this further prayer, so graciously taught to us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.