

# The City Church, New York

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Sunday December 4, 2005

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The International Bible Society was founded here in New York City on this day in 1809. It publishes the most widely read English version of the Bible. Let us pray.

Our Father:

We thank You for the Bible – Your own solemn word that You love us. We're comforted by the fact that we don't have to count on our merely wishful words about that. We can count on Your trustworthy word of grace and truth – truly "a lamp for our feet and a light for our path" in this dark world. We're grateful that, in the Scripture and by Your Spirit's illuminating our hearts and minds to its truth, we know Your love so much more clearly and so much more surely than we could ever know it by mere observation or speculation.

So, especially this morning, we're thankful for faithful forefathers who founded a Bible Society that provides such wide distribution of the word even down to today. Continue to bless the Society. We rejoice to know that no sincere search of Scripture will ever fail to find You, for You draw us to Your word and You accomplish that for which You reveal Yourself there. Here in our meeting this morning, thank You for blessing what we've heard read. Give us ears to hear Your word and hearts eager to live by it.

And Father, as we look forward this week to the opening of the Narnia movie, we thank You for our brother's wonder-filled Gospel paraphrase for a parallel world. And while it can be enjoyed as the fairy tale it is, we pray that, in Aslan – "not a tame lion," "not safe, but good" – in his sacrificing himself to save "Sons of Adam and Daughters of Eve" and rescue a cursed world where it's "always winter and never Christmas," audiences will, by Your grace, go "further up and further in" to find, beyond Narnia and beyond even the "Shadow-lands" of this world, the Joy and "a magic deeper still" in Your "Great Story," the everlastingly true story, where "every chapter is better than the one before."

We trust You to meet every need of ours, according to Your will – the very best will in this world and in all the worlds to come. Thank You for the assurance that You do hear us, always, and love us forever. Now we add the prayer we were taught to pray, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 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.