

Melissa's Thought for the Month – February 2015

My uncle who emigrated to Australia the year when I was born had apparently a favourite saying which was often repeated to me. It was "Perseverance, cork and glue; Eighteen eighty two". I have only just been wondering what it really meant to him, 1882 was the year of his birth, but why cork and glue?

Now I can visualise bottle corks bobbing about in a pond. Did the young "uncle" Norman try to make tiny model boats by glueing match sticks to corks (or half corks) and match sticks glued on for keel and mast? Certainly such a project would require considerable "perseverance".

In life there are many things which need us to persevere. I have written before of Dr Sangster's "Path to Perfection" and the near impossibility of keeping on that path or building local Church community so that really expresses "the Body of Christ" in the world.

There is another saying which is "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again!". It is up to us to remember that each new day we can sing (mentally if not audibly) "One more step along the world I go" and "Each new thing that I see You'll be looking at along with me".

As we have lately been frequently reminded of the First World War we recall some of the songs sung on the march. Another one "It's a long, long way to Tipperary, but my heart's right there." Do I remember correctly that Tipperary is in the centre of Ireland? If so it was certainly a long way from the battlefields of the Somme in the days before regular travel by air!

There is also "a long, long road a winding" ahead of us. None of us know how long that "road" on Earth is to be in our care. People are living longer and longer because of the good medical care and encouragement of healthy life styles.

It is also said that "only the good die young". If the reverse is true, I have no complaint about that! I alone know how very much more I have to learn and to improve and how much perseverance I need to make that further step along the road.

There is also a "long, long road a-winding", "Round the corners of the world I turn" and "(we) know that all the new things that (we) see (our Lord) will be looking at along with (us)"

Some of you will have been watching the series "Planet Earth" on television. I was glad that Professor Brian Cox left open the whole question of religious belief and suggested that possibly Earth was the only planet in the whole Universe where humanity had evolved and been able to grasp the idea of a Creator God. Long gone are the days of my youth when there was supposedly a conflict between Science and Religion!

Certainly we can all persevere to the end of our own individual personal road trusting God to fulfil this good purpose for each of us and each of our loved ones.

Melissa.