

Melissa's Thought for the Month – October 2015

The theme of the 2015 Flower Show was, if you recall it, “China”. Shall we quickly forget the beautiful flower-decked pagoda which greeted us as we entered the Grand Floral Marquee?

My thought for the month was already planned as the one type of prayer I have not yet considered here – meditation or contemplation. The typical picture we have of the Buddha is sitting considering his navel.

My first reaction to that was “How silly!”. Thinking it over I realise that it is anything but foolish. After all the navel is the point at which we received life giving blood from our mothers while we were still in the womb. It is intriguing that when we refer to our inherited characteristics we at times call it in the blood line, that we usually associate with our father's family!

I always say that we British have a great deal in common with the Chinese people. Is that why so many enjoy eating Chinese meals? I know that while I was still going out for midday meals I liked best to go to a restaurant which not only served Chinese food but was also staffed by Chinese people.

Like the British they strike me as being essentially practical – no airy fairy stuff about religion. Basically Christianity is fundamentally “down to earth”. That is exactly what Jesus was when He literally “came to Earth as a genuine human being”. The God we worship does not go in for half measures. He cares so much for every part of His creation that He was obliged to experience for Himself the limitations of human life. He “emptied Himself of all but love”.

Sometimes we wonder about our own limitations – physical, mental and spiritual. No one of us is perfect in any of those ways, I certainly know that I am not. Each night before going to sleep I recall the time I have not used to the best advantage of everyone else. That must come before the quiet committal of my friends, the world and myself to the loving hands of God. Even then, I recall that “the sun that bids us rest is waking our bretheren “neath the waters sky”.

Of course, I am fortunate enough to know individuals who live in a number of those countries. Such experiences give much more reality to world wide intercessions. Even those whom I do not know personally are involved in situations which I understand for myself (within my limits).

Those Chinese people who have not (yet!) found the richness of the Christian faith do not adopt the more primitive forms of ancient worship. It is more wonderment at the way in which life flows from one generation to the next.

The Chinese typically follow Confucious – the practical law giver and/or Buddhism, with its stress on the continuity of life. We to may wish to consider “The Rock whence we were born!”

Melissa.