

Melissa's Thought for the Month – September 2015

I was very interested in the July/August edition of this magazine, so many references to "Prayer". What an excellent topic for the Young People's Anniversary!

My first experience of prayer was when, at the age of 3½, I came to live with my aunt and my grandmother in Ainsdale. One of them always knelt by my bedside to say the prayer which ends with the words "Bless Thy little lamb tonight". It was only very recently that I discovered that this was a prayer regularly used in Victorian families. Of course, both of them were Victorian. They were born in 1850 and 1878 respectively.

Later I became familiar with the Pooh books by A.A. Milne. One verse I recall first from reading and later in singing class at school – "Hush, hush, whisper who dares : Christopher Robin is saying his prayers".

Prayers in church were also a regular part of life. We then used "Morning Prayer" from the Book of Common Prayer though we were always a Wesleyan Methodist Church here in Southport. I keep reminding myself that the Wesleys were and always remained Anglican. John and Charles never thought about starting a new "Methodist" denomination.

I would like this month to make two little offerings about prayer, which I have found helpful myself.

The acronym "ACTS" makes sure that my private prayers are balanced. Each day I know I should include Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. Note that "Supplication" - asking for things – comes last. First consider the greatness of the God we worship. This puts into proportion all our best efforts and leads directly to confession of the "poverty and selfishness" even of much of my prayer we can though say a very big "Thank You" for the forgiveness so freely offered to us. Our God knows our very great weaknesses not only of body and mind, but also of spirit.

It is only then that I come to making requests for others as well as for myself. This leads naturally to thoughts of those about whom I care particularly and who care for me. Then the view widens to those whom I have read about in the newspaper or learned about via the television.

There are situations world-wide which we hold before our Heavenly Father. At the moment we think specially of the migrants crossing the Mediterranean in search of a better life for their families and those suffering as a result of earthquakes in the Far East.

It is not of course that the God of all the world does not know or care, but He chooses to work through frail humans like us.

"He has no feet on earth but our feet,
No hands but ours to do His bidding

No hearts but ours to share His love
The drum beats of His army are the heart beats of our love”

Melissa.