

Mothers' Union Dioceses of Edinburgh, Colombo, Kurunagala,
Mpwapwa, Port Sudan and Isikwuato

Intercessions May – August 2010

Relationship Not Rules

Here are some ways in which we can be alert to God's presence in our lives, and focus on our relationships rather than just the rules:

- **To make time** to meet God in *this* moment, not in the future but *now*.
- **When God seems far away** for reasons I don't understand, to pray that in those moments I can learn new aspects about God and my relationship with him.
- **When I am in the depths of despair** remember that God is there with me too.
- **Whenever I fail**, I can always start again.
- **My desire for God** goes up and down, but I know that his love for me is constant.
- **Every aspect of my life** is of importance and genuine interest to God.
- **My path** to God's presence is unique to me.
- **I can see God in any human being** and they can in me but do I always acknowledge this to myself and to them?

Set our hearts on fire with love to you, O Christ our God, that in its flame we may love you with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul and with all our strength and our neighbours as ourselves, so that, keeping your commandments, we may glorify you, the giver of all good gifts. *Eastern Orthodox Church*

The Gift of Love

Almighty God, we thank you for your great gift of love – the love which we are able to share with those around us, which gives us a sense of self-worth and belonging, which enriches our lives in so many ways. You have opened your heart to us – **help us do the same to you.**

We thank you for your love which defies all expression, constant, total, inexhaustible, flowing out to us like a never-ending stream. You have opened your heart to us – **help us do the same to you.**

We thank you for loving us before we ever loved you, and for continuing to love us even when we fail to love you in return. You have opened your heart to us – **help us do the same to you.**

Deepen our love for you and for each other. Help us to be faithful and true in all our relationships, and most especially in our relationship with you.

You have opened your heart to us – **help us do the same to you, in the name of Christ. Amen** *Nick Fawcett*

As you pray this Litany of Remembrance pray for all our members around the world working to alleviate suffering while many of them are suffering themselves.

Litany of Remembrance by Joyce Rupp from Out of the Ordinary

I remember the children of the world. As Jesus called the children to come to him, so I gather in prayer the children of my world who are hurting. I embrace them with loving kindness and with a desire to mend the systems that bring pain to their young lives. I remember the children:

...who will go hungry today, ...whose parents are on drugs, ...who have no one to teach them to read, ...who are handicapped and unattended, ...who do not know love, ...who live in filth and degradation, ...who have no friends, ...who are not listened to, ...who have never been sung to or read to or taken by the hand or experienced earth's mystery and beauty,

...who do not have anyone to tuck them into bed at night, ...who are shunned or mistreated because of their colour, their religion, or the place where they live, ...who have no awareness of their inner goodness, ...who have stopped believing in love, ...who are filled with anger and hate, ...who are receiving poor education, ...who are ill or in pain, ...who are grieving the death of a loved one, ...who are suffering from AIDS or drug-related diseases, ...who feel lonely, desolate and unloved, ...who are filled with fear for their lives, ...who hear only harsh words and hostile language, ...who have been bruised, beaten and mutilated, ...who are victims of incest, rape and pornography, ...who hide in fear from the sounds of war, ...who are ill and have no medical attention.

Yes, I pray for the children of the world today and I pray for each man and women of this world, including myself, that we will do our part to create better living conditions for these children. Show us the way and prod us into action, God of justice and compassion!

Summer Prayers

We thank You, God, for blossom: its beauty reflects the harvest yet to come. We thank You, God, for strawberries: their fullness reminds us of Your grace. We thank You, God, for raspberries: they are worth the toil to protect them from the birds. We thank You, God, for bilberries: so small and delicate, yet in clumps so rich. We thank You, God, for apples: so familiar and reliable, like Your Care for us. We thank You, God, for blackberries: not the fruit from our labour – but we collect them anyway. Thank You, God, for Your abundant love. *Elizabeth Kime*

God of golden fields and blue skies THANK YOU FOR SUMMER
God of white waves and wet pebbles THANK YOU FOR SUMMER
God of ripe plums and meadowsweet THANK YOU FOR SUMMER
Thank you for warmth and beauty and wonder THANK YOU FOR LIFE

Ruth Burgess

Summer Solstice

Then God said, "Let there be light", and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good." (Gen 1:3-4) On this day, in Britain, we experience more hours of light from the sun than on any other day. The short, cold days of December seem far away, as we enjoy the long, warm days.

"Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us." (Ps 4:6) Light brings us warmth and comfort. Light shines into dark corners and shows us that there are no hidden monsters waiting to pounce. Light reveals the beautiful colours of our world. Light always shines, even through storms. *"Truly the light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun." (Eccl 11:7)*
Elizabeth Kime

People go to work to get some money to go on holiday to have fun to go to the seaside to get shells.
Paul, aged 8

Closing Prayers

(From Worldwide council Eucharist, February 2010)

Lord God, you have appointed us to go and bear fruit for eternity. Help us to walk in *the* love, joy and peace given for our support along the way. May our relationships flourish as we follow Christ's example of sacrificial love. **Amen.**

Journeying God, you have a great adventure mapped out for us, and we want to travel with you. Help us to shake off the past, to take on the future and go forward with you. We will not fear the heights, for you will steady us. We will not fear the rough places, for you will equip us. We will not fear the valleys, for you will sustain us. With you we go forward, and we trust you to bring us home. **Amen.**

Jenny Ritchie