

PASTORS BLOG April 20, 2020 A CALL TO PRAYER

Twentieth Day Morning..... From John Baillie. *A Diary of Private Prayer*

ALMIGHTY God, in your infinite wisdom you have set my life within the narrow bounds of time and circumstance; so let me now go out into the world with a brave and trusting heart.

It has pleased you to hold back from me knowledge of everything; therefore give me the grace of faith so that I may grasp what I cannot see.

You have given me little power to shape things to my own desires; therefore use your own great power to make what you desire happen within me. It is your will that through hard work and suffering I should walk the upward road; so be my fellow traveler as I go.

Let me face what you send with the strength you supply; When you make what I do effective, help me to ensure that your word is effective in my heart;

When you call me to go through the dark valley, do not let me persuade myself that I know a way around; Help me not to refuse any opportunity to help other people that may come today, nor fall into any temptation that may lie in wait for me;

Do not let the sins of yesterday be repeated in the life of today, or the life of today set any evil example to the life of tomorrow. O God of my ancestors, in every age you have enlightened the souls of the faithful.

Thank you for the gift of shared memories through which the great stories of the past live with us today.

Thank you for the lives of the saints, and for the help I can gain from their example. Thank you for the memory of ___ and ___; for the apostles, prophets, and martyrs; but most of all for the incarnation of your dear Son, in whose name these prayers are said. Amen.

Twentieth Day Evening

I CALL upon you, O Lord: come quickly to me; give ear to my voice when I call to you. Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits: who forgives all your iniquity; who heals all your diseases; who redeems your life from the pit; who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy; who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. Amen.