

St. Andrew's-tide Missionary Intercession

Wednesday, 29th November, 1939

These days of hazardous living for individuals and for nations should constitute for the Christian a challenge to more devoted service, not least in that most effective form of all service—prayer. With the recurrence of St. Andrew's-tide, comes once more the call to us to consider with deep earnestness the possible consequences for men of all races that may follow the present world conditions. How can we best help this situation? Surely by seeking ourselves to be in line with God's will, and by endeavouring to bring others there, too, by seeking God's face on their behalf.

It is imperative that Christian men and women pray not merely for peace, but that we may be worthy of peace and may be able to use it aright. It is imperative that we seek the way to present to all men the Gospel in all its converting and saving power, and that we strengthen the hands of those who are our representatives and who seek to show the way of Christ to those in other lands.

So the call comes once again to prayer—prayer for Asia, for Europe, for Africa and America, for Australia and the Islands of the Sea—prayer especially that men and women of Asia and Africa—babes in Christ—may not be hampered in their growth because those to whom they have looked as mature in the faith have not yet learned to outlaw war; prayer that God in His majesty and power may yet make the wrath of man to praise Him in these days of turmoil, and that somehow, even though we cannot see how, there may come out of this conflict a purified people, and that everywhere such spiritual forces may be released as to change the world and establish everywhere the reign of the Prince of Peace.

It has been well said that if Christendom does not evangelise heathendom, heathenism will reassert itself in Christendom. The weeds that we allow to flourish in the field around us will surely find a seeding place in our own garden. Were it for no other reason, our own spiritual self-interest calls us to intensive prayer and effort for the evangelisation of the whole world, at home and also abroad.

To this end I call upon you all to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the St. Andrew's-tide arrangements for missionary intercession on November 29 in St. Andrew's Cathedral, when information will be given and prayer will be offered based on that knowledge.

There will be a celebration of the Holy Communion at 8 a.m., and Intercessions commencing at 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., when Evening Prayer will be said and an address given by the Rev. Canon Denman.

HOWARD SYDNEY.

26th October, 1939.

(To be read in Church on the Sunday prior to the date.)