

Two Prayers written by Rev. Roger O. Colvin

Are You Awake, God?

A Prayer by Roger O. Colvin

Are you awake, God, at this ungodly hour? Did we beat you up this morning?

Have we come—whether by custom, chance, or choice—to speak to empty skies and knock on doors yet locked? God, are you awake? Are you awake to hear an Alleluia or two, to hear us as we shout the words about a risen Lord? Are you awake? We do not

If by chance you are yet asleep, we can surely understand. Yesterday was not your day nor the day before that. Have we stood and watched (only watched) all that has transpired? Did we watch, only watch, the nineteen centuries' worth of hate that's still as

God, are you awake? Are you awake to help us make this day a day whose dawn is more than sun and rays and air that's fresh, a day that quickens blood within our breasts? Are you awake to fill our time with more than minutes that only count our lives till they are gone? Are you awake to give us hope that will send us out from here to there with words and deeds that make for peace?

God, are you awake for those who see this day from battlefields and wonder if they are forgotten, there where heroics and hatred are mixed in one great bowl with blood

God, are you awake for those who greet the day as any other from hut and hovel? You can spot them by the cheerful signs which make their walls: "The pause that refreshes" or "Winston tasted good like a cigarette should." Are you awake to help them fill the emptiness of stomach and mind which maybe we have helped

Did you stir, or was that just the wind? Maybe we, O God, are still asleep, have not awakened yet to what this day could be. Maybe we have come in stupor and trance and only mark the time, never move, dream that yet you sleep. Wake us who sleep, who forget; wake us by what we say: Jesus Christ is risen.

Contracts and Agreements

A prayer by Roger O. Colvin

Our Father, we are a people of contracts and agreements and would seek to enter into such with you. Whether we propose an updated version of the Testaments, we do not know for sure, but hear us out, O Lord, as to what we propose this day. Permit us to make it in the form of a resolution and these are the words we choose.

Since over half the world goes hungry, since many have never been without such pain, since indigestion never is their problem because there is so little to digest, since children's bodies are bloated from malnutrition, since others scrape the garbage to keep alive (more like animals than what we call mankind), therefore be it resolved that you, O God, give us this day our daily bread. Since there are wars and rumors of wars, plans for an inevitable war, training for a potential war and production for a possible war, and since our earnestness for peace is qualified by its color and its size, therefore be it resolved that you, O Lord, give us the Since the sick and the suffering are everywhere about us, since diseases are yet without their cure, since the world's minorities if not majorities have not the resources for their care, therefore be it resolved that you, O Lord, command the lame to walk, the sick to rise, the weak to be strong and the ill to regain health.

We could think of more, O Lord, though these will do for now. But upon further contemplation, Father, it seems that our resolutions are not needed. All that we have resolved with our therefores, you have already given in abundance. If the problems still exist, it must be that somewhere we have not used the production of

the land, the things that make for peace or our insights and our resources for our health.

Help us then, O Lord, not to continue with our resolutions but to take what we have at hand and put it to its intended use. If we insist upon writing resolutions, let the resolutions have to do with what we could not or would not do. Let it be resolved that we will not hesitate to lean heavily upon you nor be ashamed to call upon your name. Let it be our resolution that we will be guided in our decisions and deliberations by you, our God and Lord.