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Excerpts from **Pray as you Go** by *Revd Helen Brown*

The Lord's Prayer

'Our Father, who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name.'

We acknowledge the Lord is 'Our Father', not just mine or yours. Saying 'Father' we are recognising our need for a father figure to talk to in prayer. We accept our reliance on him and acknowledge that He is there for all. Hallowing his name, we treat him with reverence and accept the Lord is beyond our comprehension.

1. What does it mean to say, 'Our Father' to you and how does it affect you?
2. Do you come to the Lord in reverence when you pray?

Our Father, who art in heaven..... when the Lord Himself prays to the Father He is connecting with the Divine Love within Him, which is His very soul. Heaven is the deepest or innermost part of us. A name isn't just a name but everything a name represents. When we say someone's name it brings to mind their whole character. Just think of Nelson Mandela for example, what comes to mind? Or, in the opposite sense, Adolf Hitler?..... For me, this section of the Lord's prayer is like an appeal to the pure love of God, which is deep within us and available at all times, asking Him to come forth with all that His name represents, so that His love can be present, not only deep within us, but come right down into our living so that love (His name) will be greatly revered and honoured (hallowed) in our world.

The One who always has his face turned towards me is my Heavenly Father.
Whose Love is boundless and compassionate.
Whose guidance is for my eternal well-being.
Who gives me all that is good and true.
I trust in you.

This is the link:

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The New Church Children's Society *by Geoffrey Bentley*

Archives are being moved from Geoffrey Bentley's attic to the archive room of the Swedenborg Society in London.

NCCS started as the New Church Orphanage in 1881. It was founded by Mr E H Bayley in memory of his wife. He stipulated that there should never be a building called the N.C.Orphanage. All children referred should be brought up in families, an incredibly enlightened stipulation in 1881.

All the children were called 'wards' in the early days, a practice long since stopped. The only hark back to the beginning is the name of the governing council which still bears the name 'The Board of Management'.

There is a leather bound book entitled 'Ward Register of the New Church Orphanage'. I now quote the circumstances surrounding some of the early referrals. All names are omitted as descendants of these children may be alive today.

In May 1883 3 children age 10, 7 and 1 were given support. The mother of the children had died in 1882. The following year the father, the captain of a fishing vessel, was drowned at sea. The case was referred by Rev Joseph Deans. The youngest child, a girl, and her 10 year old brother were sent to a lady in Oswaldtwistle near Accrington. The middle 7 year old child, another girl, was sent to a family in Clayton le Moors. In the register it states that the children were 'adopted'. It is certain that this does not mean adoption as we would understand it today. How these orphans found industrial Lancashire after early life by the sea-side we do not know.

In these early days there was no Social Security nor the legal framework about adoption that we have today.

In another case the parents were members of the Church of England. The father occupied a respectable position but lost all his money by the absconding of his stock broker. In destitution the father lost his reason and took the life of his oldest child and attempted the life of a young daughter. He was put in a 'place of confinement'. The mother was left with 6 children to support. The 3 year old girl, whose life had been threatened was placed with a single New Church lady in Kensington. The girl became a life member of the New Church.

In the early days when the boy or girl reached the age of 14 they left support by the Orphanage, the girls would go into service and the boys into apprenticeships as the following account shows.

A boy born in 1884 began to be supported in 1886. I quote the entry in the Ward Register. "The father died leaving a widow and five children utterly unprovided for, the oldest being 8 years old. The mother's time is so much taken up with the children that she is able to earn only a scanty weekly pittance."

On October 30th 1899 the 15 year old boy now was given an outfit and took a situation in a gold chain makers at 4 shillings a week. Presumably the family was able to stay together with Orphanage support.

Today young people move into tertiary education so that support from the New Church Children's Society ceases when they graduate and get employment in their early 20's.

Support was supposed to be given if the father died as he was the bread winner for his wife and family. Many of the fathers are recorded as dying from T.B. which was a scourge in the 19th century. Four of them were killed in the 1st World War.

Today the reasons for giving support are not as dramatic as those listed from the early days but are no less real. 15 children and young people are being helped in this

country and one child overseas. Two overseas children's organisations are receiving help.

Any child or young person in connection with the New Church can be referred to the NCCS secretary who is:-

Mrs Sue Chesworth, e-mail address:-

sue.chesworth@generalconference.org.uk

Any donations can be sent to the treasurer who is:-

Mrs Charlotte Rowlands, e-mail address:-

charlotte.rowlands@talktalk.net

Any future enquiries from anyone wishing to know if an ancestor was helped by either the Orphanage or its descendant NCCS will have to be directed to the archivist at the Swedenborg Society.

Geoffrey Bentley Former Secretary and President of NCCS.