

1 Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh in 1819. He is now perhaps best remembered for having invented the telephone. He died in Canada on this day in 1922.

2 When he was aged 11, his friend's father saw Alexander and his own son playing around his water mill where farmers went to grind their corn. They were a distraction, and he asked if they could find something useful to do. He handed them some wheat and asked them to take the husks off the head of wheat. They set to experimenting and, later in life, Bell would look back on this moment as the time when he began to be creative and invent.

3 Alexander's two brothers died of tuberculosis (T.B.). His parents, anxious not to lose their remaining son, sent him to Canada, away from the dampness of Scotland. A year later his health improved and he moved south to the United States, teaching in the Boston School for the Deaf. He was particularly keen to invent something that might change the sound of a person talking into something that somehow could be seen by deaf people. As it happened, his experimenting led him to invent the telephone.

4 Alexander worked with people who had problems with speech and hearing, as also did his father and grandfather. His mother was almost completely deaf. He grew up with a sensitivity towards people with difficulties, and he knew that people tended to take their senses for granted until they were lost. He wrote these words:

5 *"We are all too much inclined, I think,
to walk through life
with our eyes closed.
There are things around us
and right at our very feet*

*that we have never seen
because we have never really looked."*

6 *Let us pray:*

**Lord our God, open us up
to your Spirit living within us,
that we may live fully
each day of our lives.**

**Touch us,
that we may become more aware
of all that is around us,
growing in a sense
of wonder and awe,
and in appreciation
for all that we see and hear
and touch and taste and smell.**

**May we live in such a way
that we never
take anything for granted,
but always be appreciative
and express our thanks
to those who are part of our lives.**

Amen.

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in
'Praying Each Day of the Year',
a 3-volume book
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine
to research this topic further.

This material is part of
the prayer and education website
of the De La Salle Brothers
in Great Britain:
www.prayingeachday.org