

- 1 When the Nazis occupied Holland during the Second World War, they soon began to round up the Jews - as they did elsewhere - to be taken away and killed. A Dutch family of watch-makers were determined to do what they could to protect Jewish people. They had a secret room built in their 3-storey house in Haarlem, above their corner-shop where they sold and mended watches and clocks. Secretly a workman created a hiding-place by building a false wall about 75 centimetres from a bedroom's end wall. The entrance was through a panel at the bottom of a built-in cupboard. If the Gestapo or soldiers arrived, the 4 or 5 Jews who were hiding upstairs at the time, could quickly climb through to the secret hiding-place, remaining there in silence.
- 2 Eventually the Ten Boom family was betrayed, and they were sent to a concentration camp, although the Jews they were hiding were not discovered. In the hell-on-earth that was Ravensbruck Concentration Camp, the tall chimneys belched out smoke from the incinerated bodies of those who had been done to death. Even there in Ravensbruck, Corrie Ten Boom remarked that
"there is no pit, no hole, so deep that God's love is not deeper still."
- 3 Amidst the terror and the evil of that place, Corrie showed people how still to give thanks to God in **all** the circumstances in which they found themselves.
- 4 One day, as all the camp was gathered for early morning roll-call, the number by which Corrie was known was called out. She walked forward, thinking that, like other times at roll-call, this would mean being called to death. Instead, an administrative error had been made.

Corrie Ten Boom found herself being released - by mistake! Her release-papers were stamped by the Nazi guards with tomorrow's date: "28th December, 1944."

- 5 When the War was over, Corrie helped to look after people who had been severely traumatised by what had been done to them. She was invited by people of many countries to talk of her experiences, and especially how she lived in faith and encouraged others to forgive those who had hurt them.
- 6 *Let us pray:*

**God, Father of us all,
you who call me by name: *Is 43¹*
you are my hiding-place,
my shelter, *Ps 32⁷*
amidst life's difficulties.**

**Remind me
that there is no pit, no hole, so deep
that your love
is not deeper still.**

**Lead me to give thanks
in all my circumstances, *1 Thess 5¹⁸*
and show me
how to transform
whatever suffering or difficulties
I may experience,
into something that will benefit others
and will set me free.**

**I make this prayer,
knowing that you
lavish your love on us *1 Jn 3¹*
and you set
the down-trodden free. *Is 61¹; Lk 4¹⁸***

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