

(See also 29, 30 January, 17 February, 12 May)

- 1 In India, Gandhi mounted a campaign of “civil disobedience” against British rule. In 1930, he campaigned against the British tax on salt, which was particularly unfair to the very poor. He marched 600 km (375 miles) to the coast, with many joining him on the way. There he set some sea-water to evaporate in the sun, leaving the salt behind. Paying no tax on the salt, he was put into prison.
- 2 The Indian “sub-continent” had a sixth of the world’s population. Against Gandhi’s wishes, different religious groups insisted that the country be partitioned at the time that Independence was granted in 1947. Pakistan was to be of mainly Muslim people, and the remaining part (to be called “India”) of mainly Hindus and Sikhs. Up to ten million people began to move, thinking they would be persecuted in a country of a different religion. There was terrible bloodshed as Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims turned on one another, and about 220,000 people were killed. Gandhi announced that he would fast - would go without food - even if that would result in his death, unless the people stopped fighting and killing one another. He was successful.
- 3 It was on this day, 30th January, in 1948, as Gandhi was walking to a prayer meeting, that a fellow-Hindu killed Gandhi with a shot from a gun. So shocked was everyone by Gandhi’s murder, that the communal violence that had started up again came to an end.
- 4 Gandhi and his followers had fought prejudice and discrimination with courage, informing people of the truth, and practising non-violence. Gandhi set out to look at matters from the viewpoint of those who thought differently from himself.
- 5 He advised people to say to themselves each morning:  
*“I shall not fear anyone.  
I shall not bear ill-feelings toward anyone.”*
- 6 *Let us pray:*  
**Lord,  
this day and forever,  
may I have the courage  
never to be afraid of anyone.  
May I have the generosity  
to bear ill-feeling toward no-one.  
Lead me to live in such a way  
as to treat others  
in the same way  
as I would like to be treated.  
Inspire me  
never to be violent  
in thought, word or action,  
and lead me  
to conquer evil with goodness.  
Amen.**
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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  
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