

- 1 In October 1997 some newspapers reported that an investment bank had given all its employees a day off to do charity work. From the secretaries to the chairman there were over 1,250 volunteers from the London office of Goldman Sachs. The scheme was also offered to the 10,000 staff world-wide.
- 2 The company did not seek publicity, and they acknowledged that some other firms also set aside a day for charity work. They said that they were determined to give something to local communities and, at the same time, help to build up the company's strong team spirit.
- 3 Some charity work involved being with young people. One group worked in an adventure playground, making as much noise as the children themselves. It was a new experience for some of the children, finding adults who were willing to spend quality time with them and play games with them. One bank employee later said that he was glad of the opportunity: *"My work is quite intense, with long hours and lots of travelling. You lose focus on things like this. It's good to get a proper balance on the real world."*

4 Let us pray:

Lord,

**let us never be so tied up or occupied
only with our own concerns
that we lose focus on the real world.
Inspire us to live in such a way
that we live
balanced and unselfish lives,
having quality time for others
in which we are genuine
in our attention
and compassion and care,
knowing that we are all
brothers and sisters.**

Amen.



☞ *One group offered sports to children, giving each team-member of the 6 teams a coloured T-shirt with a letter from the word "united" on it. On the back of each was the letter and a word. "U" stood for "understanding", "N" for nation, "I" for "international", "T" for "trust", "E" for "equal", "D" for "determination". What other words could have been chosen for the 6 letters of "united"? What words other than "united" could have been chosen, and what words could then have matched those letters?*

☞ *Hebrews 10²⁴. "God is faithful. Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in showing love and doing good." See also James 2¹²⁻²⁶ - faith and good works.*

☞ *Some Christians commit themselves to a "tithe" (as did the Jews) - giving a tenth (or another proportion) of their salary to the Church - see Deut 14²²⁻²⁵, 2 Chron 31⁵, Neh 10³⁸, Tobit 1⁶⁻⁷. In a similar way, Muslims give money for the poor - "zakat" is one of the "Five Pillars" of Islam.*

♪ All that I am; If I am lacking love; I give my hands; O Lord all the world; Take my hands; Whatsoever you do

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