

#12:  
A  
SCOUT  
IS  
REVERENT

Book #2

Thomas E. Kubow  
1997

*Traveling Prayer* – I know, O God, that wherever I travel, you will be with me. There is nowhere I can go, no situation I can face, that is outside your love and strength. And so, I commit myself into your care and keeping on this journey, knowing that at all times, I am in your hands. Amen.

*Important Things* – For the important things in life we thank you, God. We thank you for health, for life, for food, for shelter, for vigor, for work, for opportunities to love, for people who care, for forgiveness when we fail, for opportunities to being each day with a new start. Amen.

*The First Step (Peter Marshall)* – O Lord our God, as we seek Your guidance this day we do not ask to see the distant scene, knowing that we can take only one step at a time. Make that first step plain to us, that we may see where our duty lies. But O Lord, give us a push, that we may start in the right direction. In your name we pray. Amen.

*Grace* – Father, we around this table thank You: for Your great gift of life, that Your love for us is not dependent upon any worthiness of ours, for good health, that we know neither hunger nor want, for warm clothes to wear, for those who love us best, for friends whose words of encouragement have often chased away dark clouds, for the zest of living, for many an answered prayer, for kindly providences that have preserved us from danger and harm. Amen.

*Las Flores Grace* – Earth, sun, moon, and sky – nature at its finest.  
O Lord, thank Thee for Thy sustenance, love and kindness. Amen.

*For Food to Eat* – For food to eat, those who prepare it, for health to enjoy it, friends to share it; we thank you, good Lord. Amen.

*For Food* – For food we eat, for clothes we wear, for nightly rest and daily care, we thank you, heavenly Lord. Amen.

*Prayer for Protection* – The light of God surrounds us; the love of God enfolds us; the power of God protects us; the presence of God watches over us. Wherever we are, God is! Amen.

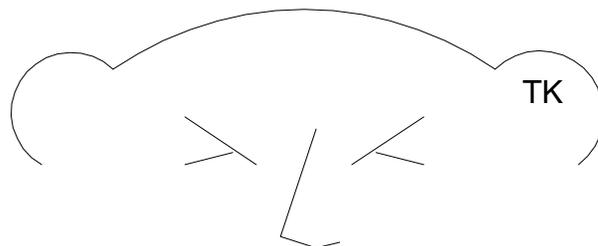
For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
Lord of all to Thee we raise this our prayer of grateful praise. Amen.

*Camp Beaver Lake Prayer (Mataguay)* – O Lord we stand before you now asking once again that you please bless this food and all that we have. We thank you Lord. Amen.

*Philmont Grace* – For food, for raiment, for life, for opportunity, for friendship and fellowship, we thank thee, O Lord. Amen.

## Foreword

This is the second booklet of church services that I have compiled for Scouts to use. After my first collection of church services, *#12: A Scout is Reverent*, there was such a good response that I brought together another collection of services. Use them while out camping or backpacking, or use as openings or closings for your Troop meetings. If your Troop does not have a Chaplain's Aide, elect one. Use my two church service booklets and the reference lists in them, and live up to your oath to do your duty to God. Remember, a Scout is reverent.



WEM - 49 - 94

This booklet is dedicated to my wife, Terri with much thanks for all her help and encouragement; to my son, Kristopher, and daughter, Karalee for their inspiration; and to the Scouts and Scouters of Troop 1212, the finest Scouts I know.

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## A Round Tuit

*Meditation:* You can accomplish more in one hour with God than one lifetime without Him. – G.L.I.B.

With God all things are possible. – Matthew 19:26

*Opening:* **CA** Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!  
Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.  
Give thanks to Him, bless His name for the Lord is good  
His steadfast love endures forever and His faithfulness to all generations.

*Song:* O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law.

*Reading:* **CA** 1 Timothy 4:13-16

*To think about:* **(Chaplain)** A Round Tuit

*Prayer:* **CA** A Philmont Prayer

*Song:* God be with you 'til we meet again  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you 'til we meet again.

*Chaplain's Thought to Leave/Live By:*

Reread the opening meditation, then consider this:

Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein.

CA= Chaplain's Aide

## **Prayer**

God, our Father, we thank you for the beauty of the earth, for the food we eat and for the comforts we enjoy. Help us to love others more, to be concerned with the problems of our day, and to understand Your will in our actions. Grant us the strength to live wisely and well, to be worthy users of Your creation and ready and willing workers for the causes of goodness. Amen.

## **1 Timothy 4:12,15 -16**

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

## **A Round Tuit**

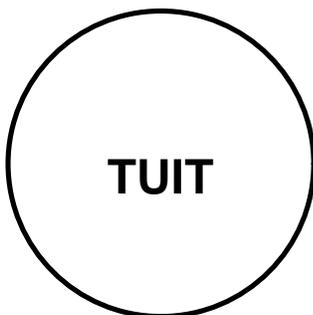
This is yours! Cut it out and keep it!

There is finally a sufficient quantity of these for all Scouts to have their very own. Guard it with your life. Never lose it, and don't let anyone take it away from you.

These tuits have been hard to come by, especially the round version. But there are now enough to go around, and the timing couldn't be better because the demand has been overwhelming. At long last, many of your problems concerning your relationship with God, Bible study, schoolwork and Scout advancement will be solved. You can expect your attention span to double and your interest level to increase dramatically now that you have your own round tuit.

As you have often said, "I will start spending regular time alone in prayer with God, I will improve my grades, I will earn that merit badge, I will read the Bible more, and I will finish my Eagle project when I get a round tuit." You have also commented, "I know I should read my Bible more, but I just haven't been able to get a round tuit."

Well, now that you've got it, use it!



## God and Country

*Meditation:* Church work and church attendance mean the cultivation of the habit of feeling some responsibility for others and the sense of braced moral strength which prevents a relaxation of one's own moral fiber.  
– Theodore Roosevelt

*Opening:* **CA** Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.  
– Psalm 100:3

*Song:* O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife  
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine,  
'Til all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

*Reading:* **CA** 1 Timothy 2:1-5

*To think about:* **(Chaplain)** *God and Country*

*Prayer:* by Reverend Edward L. R. Elson, Chaplain of the Senate, 1969

*Song:* God be with you 'til we meet again,  
By His counsels guide uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you 'til we meet again.

*Chaplain's Thought to Leave / Live By:*

Reread the opening meditation, then consider this:

The greatest act of faith is when man decides he is not God.

CA= Chaplain's Aide

## **1 Timothy 2:1-5**

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus . . .

### **Prayer**

Lord God, Eternal Father, deliberately and solemnly we dedicate ourselves to You. Take our minds, our wills, our speech, and our strength and make us wholly Yours. As we present ourselves to You so also we dedicate this Nation to a purer life, and unselfish patriotism and a more fervent devotion to freedom until, with all the nations of the earth, we come under Your sovereignty in Your kingdom of justice, love and truth. Amen.

### **God and Country**

There are many qualifications of leadership, but none more important than reverence, love of truth and prayerfulness. It is as difficult to imagine the great men who have built America lacking in these. Those men whom we remember with honor are men whom we can picture with bowed and uncovered heads, seeking help and wisdom from the giver of all good things. Our most cherished picture of Washington is not that of a triumphant general, but that of a man kneeling in prayer at Valley Forge. Of Lincoln we remember dark days of the Civil War, when the driving source of comfort and help was repeatedly and constantly sought.

Patrick Henry, as we were about to enter the Revolutionary War recognized the need for divine guidance and deliverance and said, "We shall not fight alone. God presides over the destinies of nations. The battle is not to the strong alone. Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! Give me liberty or give me death!" Benjamin Franklin, speaking to our national leaders who were gathered to create our constitution said, "In the days of our contest with Britain, when we were aware of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers were heard, and they were graciously answered. Have we now forgotten this powerful friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need His assistance? I therefore be leave to move that, Hence forth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing upon our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed with business."

Our nation's leaders have always asked for divine assistance and intervention. Only recently have some decided that we do not need God and we should be separate for God and God's word. There's a verse in Psalms that says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." The word blessed means happy. A nation who has God as its Lord is a nation which is happy. There's a verse in Proverbs written by David's son, King Solomon, that says, "Righteousness exalts a nation." Those two statements come together to define a nation that is experiencing happiness and exaltation. Is this what America is experiencing now?

## Run the River

*Meditation:* To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge, to find the will of God is the greatest discovery, and to do the will of God is the greatest achievement. G.L.I.B.

*Opening:* **CA** I lift my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber... The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

*Song:* Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bids the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those imperil on the sea.

O God, the Lord of hill and plain  
O'er which our traffic runs a main  
By mountain pass or valley low;  
Wherever, Lord our brethren go,  
Protect them by Thy guarding hand  
From every peril on the land.

*Reading:* **CA** Jeremiah 17:5-8

*To think about:* **(Chaplain)** *Run the River* from *Alive 2*

*Prayer:* *Grace Sufficient for All our Needs* by Rev. Edward Elson **(CA)**

*Song:* Thanks and praise  
For our days 'neath the sun,  
Neath the stars, 'neath the sky.  
As we go, this we know,  
God is nigh.

*Chaplain's Thought to Leave / Live By:*

Reread the opening meditation, then consider this:

It is impossible for that man to despair who remembers that his Helper is omnipotent – G.L.I.B. 2

CA= Chaplain's Aide

### **Jeremiah 17:5-8**

Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends of flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert...

But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when the heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

### **Grace Sufficient for All Our Needs – by Rev. Edward Elson**

Eternal Father, whose grace is sufficient for all our needs, take this day of our lives into your keeping. Inform our minds with Your divine truth. Direct all our energies that no good gift from You is wasted. Strengthen our will to do Your will. Amen.

## Run the River – from Alive 2

At the beginning, the water is calm, the paddling easy. You watch the terns fly above the canoe and take a few pictures of the towering gorge through which the river cuts. Suddenly you hear a distant roar – not unlike the rumbling of a sixty-car freight train. You swallow hard and grip your paddle until your knuckles turn white. The gorge narrows and the canoe sweeps faster. So does your adrenaline-charged blood.

Then, before you're ready for it, you're bouncing amidst haystack waves. Spray whips your face and four inches of water sloshes in the canoe at your knees. "Pry on the left," your partner screams as a giant boulder looms directly in your path. But you only have time to shove off with your paddle.

Now the canoe is rocketing through a narrow chute. Aluminum canoes, bent like accordions, litter the banks and indicate what can happen if you get off course. You shudder but paddle furiously as the rapids kick and heave like a Brahma bull. Rocks scrape the bottom and bang the sides until Whoosh! the current spits you headlong through the rapids and into a quiet pool.

In many ways, life is like running a wild river in a canoe. It has its slow spells, its threatening spurts, its seat-of-the-pants thrills, its waterfalls, its tragedies. It keeps rushing by; sometimes at roar, sometimes at a whisper – and if you're not careful you can get tossed around like a cork and go straight to the bottom. Or you can follow the guides and navigational charts, and keep straight on course. You'll still go through the waterfalls and rapids, but you'll be on top of the water.

The only true guide, of course, is God. He made the river, and knows it like the back of His hand. And He's left behind a guide and navigation map for you. If you pay attention and study faithfully, you'll come out on top.

## Serious Trouble

*Meditation:* Enjoy the blessings of this day, if God sends them; and the evils of it bear patiently and sweetly; for this day only is ours, we are dead to yesterday, and we are not yet born to the morrow. – Jeremy Taylor

*Opening:* For the beauty of the earth; for the beauty of the skies;  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, over and around us lies.  
Lord of all to Thee, we raise this our prayer of grateful praise.

*Song:* Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.  
Through many dangers toils and snares, I have already come.  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

*Reading:* **CA** James 1:12

*To think about:* **(Chaplain)** *Serious Trouble* from *Alive 2 Campus Life*

*Prayer:* A prayer from JLT '94 **(CA)**

*Song:* God be with you 'til we meet again  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you 'til we meet again.

*Chaplain's Thought to Leave/Live By:*

Reread the opening meditation, then consider this:

Success is to be measure not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.

CA= Chaplain's Aide

**James 1:12**

Blessed is the man who preserves under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

**A Prayer from JLT '94**

Dear God, thank you for the wonderful opportunity to be here. Give us the strength to endure, the wisdom to enjoy each moment, and the courage to push ourselves further than we ever have before. Bless our troop and its leaders as we begin our journey home. Amen.

## **Serious Trouble**

Some days you feel like you should have stayed in bed. Things start out bad and progressively get worse. If you've got it bad today, consider the plight of this construction worker as he detailed an accident on his company's accident form:

When I got to the building, I found that the hurricane had knocked off some bricks around the top. So I rigged up a beam with a pulley at the top of the building and hoisted up a couple barrels full of bricks. When I had fixed the damaged area, there were a lot of bricks left over. Then I went to the bottom and began releasing the line. Unfortunately, the barrel of brick was much heavier than I was – and before I knew what was happening, the barrel started coming down, jerking me up.

I decided to hang on since I was too far off the ground by then to jump, and halfway up I met the barrel of bricks coming down fast. I received a hard blow on my shoulder. I then continued to the top banging my head against the beam, and getting my fingers pinched and jammed in the pulley. When the barrel hit the ground hard, it burst its bottom, allowing the bricks to spill out.

I was now heavier than the barrel. So I started down again at high speed. Halfway down I met the barrel coming up fast, and received sever injuries to my shins. When I hit the ground, I landed on the pile of bricks, getting several painful cuts and deep bruises. At this point, I must have lost my presence of mind because I let go of my grip on the line. The barrel came down fast – giving me another blow on my head and putting me in the hospital.

I respectfully request sick leave.

When you've got it that bad, you need help. You want somebody who understands, who can be with you. You want somebody who won't run when the going gets tough, somebody who will never leave you or forsake you. That "somebody" sounds a lot like Jesus.

## On Courage

*Meditation:* The heart is the happiest when it beats for others.

*Opening:* **CA** Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord  
**All** Bless the Lord, O my Soul, and all that is within me, Bless his Holy Name.  
**CA** The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no evil touch them. They are at peace.  
**All** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

*Song:* The lone wild bird in lofty flight is still with Thee, nor leaves Thy sight;  
And I am thine! I rest in Thee. Great Spirit come and rest in me.  
The ends of earth are in Thy hand. The sea's dark deep and far-off land.  
And I am Thine! I rest in Thee. Great spirit come, and rest in me.

*Reading:* **CA** The Gospel according to John 15:12-15

*To think about:* **(Chaplain)** *On Courage* by Dan Millman

*Prayer:* **CA** by Rev. Edward Elson, Chaplain of the U.S. Senate

*Song:* God be with you 'til we meet again  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you 'til we meet again.

*Chaplain's Thought to Leave/Live By:*

Reread the opening meditation, then consider this:

Forget yourself for others and others will not forget you!

CA= Chaplain's Aide

## **John 15:12-15**

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

### **On Courage – by Dan Millman**

“So you think I'm courageous?” she asked.

“Yes, I do.”

“Perhaps I am. But that's because I've had some inspiring teachers. I'll tell you about one of them. Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at Stanford Hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liza who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her five-year-old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, ‘Yes, I'll do it if it will save Liza.’

‘As the transfusion progressed, he lay in a bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color return to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, ‘Will I start to die right away?’

Being young, the boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give her *all* his blood.

‘Yes, I've learned courage,’ she added, ‘because I've had inspiring teachers.’”

### **A Prayer by the Rev. Edward Elson, Chaplain of the U.S. Senate**

Eternal Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, set our minds this day upon all that is beautiful and good and true that we fail Thee not. Preserve us from spiritual decay, from blurred idealism, from moral cowardice, from neglect of spiritual discipline, and from that dimness of soul which separates us from Thee or obscures our perception of Thy will. Keep us alive to all true values, to all that is highest and holiest in life that we may “be workmen who needeth not to be ashamed.” Amen.

## Up is Different from Down

*Meditation:* The happiness of every country depends upon the character of its people, rather than the form of its government.

*Opening:* **CA** This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Song:* *God Bless America*  
God bless America, land that I love,  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Thru the night with the light from above  
From the mountains, to the prairies  
To the ocean, white with foam.  
God bless America,  
My home sweet home.

*Reading:* **CA** 1 Timothy 4:7-12 (selected)

*To think about:* **(Chaplain)** *Up is Different from Down* by Vick Vickery and *Within my Power* by Forest Witcraft

*Prayer:* **CA** *For This Creation* by Lowell Baker

*Song:* Thanks and praise, for our days  
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars,  
'Neath the sky.  
As we go, This we know, God is nigh.

*Chaplain's Thought to Leave / Live By:*

Reread the opening meditation, then consider this:

The most valuable gift you can give another is a good example. - GLIB  
Better keep yourself clean and bright; you are the window through which  
you must see the world. – George Bernard Shaw

CA= Chaplain's Aide

## **Prayer by Lowell Baker**

Almighty God, You show your might and majesty in all of creation.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee  
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays  
Field and forest, vale and mountain  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea.

For this creation and our country we humbly thank you. Keep us mindful of our responsibility to hold it in faithful trust for those who will follow us.

## **Reading: 1 Timothy 4:7-8, 11-12**

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

Command and teach these things. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

## **Up is Different From Down** by Vick Vickery

When our country's various space craft were being built the scientists and engineers decided, that in order to save vital space, they should put the various control panels around the interior of the ship with no regard for floor/ceiling or top/bottom orientation. Their reasoning was...that in weightlessness the up and down positions were not important. The experience of the astronauts who lived and worked in the weightless environment, however, proved the opposite. They reported that even as they floated in weightlessness, they found it necessary to establish a mental orientation of up and down, top and bottom.

In today's "earth lab" young people and older people often find themselves in weightlessness...just floating, with no moral orientation for right and wrong, good and bad. Those who wish to manipulate the lives of people seek to place these controls out of their reach.

Scouting has recognized from its beginning that young people must have moral values built into their lives by adults and older experienced scouts who believe in them and who are willing to help them discover values.

Scouting's function is that of human engineers who help decide the placement of those moral control panels...Duty to God, Service to Others. We must help assure that in every Scouting activity the "control panels" are there and within reach.

Adults and Scouters look at the Scouts around you. You older Scouts, Star, Life and Eagles look at those younger than you still coming up the scouting trail. You younger Scouts think about those boys that will be coming into Scouting behind you .....and consider this...

### **Within My Power** by Forest Witcraft

I am not a very important person, as importance is commonly rated. I do not have great wealth, control a big business, or occupy a position of great honor or authority.

Yet, I may someday mold destiny. For it is within my power to become the most important person in the world in the life of a boy. And every boy is a potential atom bomb in human history.

All about me are boys. They are the makers of history, the builders of tomorrow. If I can have some part in guiding them up the trail of Scouting, on the high road of noble character and constructive citizenship, I may prove to be the most important person in their lives, the most important person in my community.

A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, how I did in the cooking corral or pioneering event at the Spring Camporee. But the world may be different, because of the example I set, because of the values I held and because I was important in the life of a boy.

## God's Love

*Meditation:* The mountains can be reached in all seasons. They offer a fighting challenge to heart, soul and mind, both in summer and winter. If throughout time the youth of the nation accept the challenge the mountains offer, they will help keep alive in our people the spirit of adventure. That spirit is a measure of the vitality of both nations and men. A people who climb the ridges and sleep under the stars in high mountain meadows, who enter the forest and scale peaks, who explore glaciers and walk ridges buried deep in snow – these people will give their country some of the indomitable spirit of the mountains.  
- William O. Douglas -

*Opening:* **CA** For flowers that bloom about our feet; for tender grass, so fresh and sweet; for song of bird and hum of bee; for all things fair we hear or see,  
**All** Father in heaven we thank Thee!  
**CA** For blue of stream, for blue of sky; for pleasant shade of branches high, for fragrant air and cooling breeze; for beauty of the blowing trees,  
**All** Father in heaven we thank Thee!  
**CA** For Thy dear, everlasting arms, that bear us o'er all ills and harms;  
For blessed words of long ago that help us now Thy will to know  
**All** Father in heaven we thank Thee!

*Song:* God bless America, Land that I love,  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Through the night with the light from above.  
From the mountains, To the prairies  
To the ocean, white with foam.  
God bless America, my home sweet home.

*Reading:* **CA** Deuteronomy 8: 7-14, 20, adapted

*To think about:* **(Chaplain)** *Slow Me Down, Lord* by Richard Cardinal Cushing and  
*God's Love for Man*

*Prayer:* **CA** A Prayer for the Land

*Song:* God be with you 'til we meet again  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you 'til we meet again.

*Chaplain's Thought to Leave/Live By:*

Reread the opening meditation, then consider this:

Some people succeed because they are destined to, but most people succeed because they are determined to. – GLIB

A man is rich according to what he is, not according to what he has.  
– GLIB

CA= Chaplain's Aide

### **Deuteronomy 8:7-14, 20** – adapted

The Lord, our God, provides for us a good country: a land with streams of water, with springs and fountains welling up in the hills and valleys, a land of wheat and barley, of vines, fruit trees and vegetables, of shade trees and of honey, a land where we lack nothing, a land whose stones contain iron and in whose hills we can mine copper. But when we have eaten our fill, we must bless the Lord, our God, for the good country he has given us. Be careful not to forget the Lord, our God, by neglecting his decrees, statutes and natural laws: lest, when we have eaten our fill, and have built fine houses and lived in them, and have increased our herds and flocks, our silver and gold, and all our property and wealth, we then become haughty of heart and unmindful of the Lord, our God. Not heeding the voice of the Lord, we shall perish.

### **A Prayer for the Land**

Creator of the universe, we are your people.  
You bless our earth with natural beauty and wealth.  
Show us the way to use these blessings without destroying them.  
Increase our appreciation of clean air, pure water  
and the breathtaking beauty of the natural landscape.  
May our lifetime here enable others to have  
the blessings of these United States in future generations.  
We ask this in your holy name.  
Amen.

## **Slow Me Down, Lord**

Give me, amid the confusion of the day,  
the calmness of the everlasting hills.  
Break the tensions  
of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music  
of the singing streams that live in my memory.  
Help me to know the magical,  
restoring power of sleep.  
Teach me the art of taking minute vacations--  
of slowing down to look at a flower,  
to chat with a friend, to pat a dog,  
to read a few good lines from a book.

Remind me each day  
of the fable of the hare and the tortoise,  
that I may know  
that the race is not always to the swift--  
there is more to life than increasing its speed.  
Let me look upward  
into the branches of the towering oak and know  
that it grew great and strong  
because it grew slowly and well.

Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me to send  
my roots deep in to the soil of life's enduring values  
that I may grow toward the stars  
of my greater destiny.

## **God's Love for Man** – paraphrased prayer from *Eagles Soaring High*

How beautiful are the Palomar nights! The stars are so plentiful; they seem so close that you feel you can almost touch them. The silence and beauty of the night help us to realize the quiet power and majesty of God. Yet, this God loves each of us personally and intimately, and the greatest and most beautiful part of His creation lies not in the heavens, but right here on earth. You are the crowning glory of His creative hands—you are the reason for all creation.

## What the World Needs Now

*Meditation:* Four things in any land must dwell, if it endures and prosper well: one is manhood true and good; One is noble womanhood; One is child life, clean and bright; And one an **alter** kept alight.

*Opening:* **CA** Praise the Lord, O my soul; all that is in me praise His holy name.  
**ALL** Praise the Lord, O my Soul; and forget not all His benefits  
**CA** Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases  
**CA** Who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

*Song:* God bless America, land that I love.  
Stand beside and guide her through the night with the light from above.  
From the mountains, to the prairies, to the ocean white with foam,  
God bless America, my home sweet home. God bless America, my home sweet home.

*Reading:* **CA** Psalm 1:1-3

*To think about:* **(Chaplain)** *What the World Needs Now* from *Alive 2*

*Prayer:* **CA** *A Prayer for Our Land*

*Song:* My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.  
Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride,  
From every mountainside, let freedom ring!  
Our fathers' God, to Thee author of liberty, to Thee we sing.  
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light.  
Protect us by Thy might, great God, our King!

*Chaplain's Thought to Leave/Live By:*

Reread the opening meditation, then consider this:

I never behold the stars that I do not feel that I am looking in the face of God. I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God. – Abraham Lincoln, at age 19

CA= Chaplain's Aide

## **Psalm 1:1-3**

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers .

## **A Prayer for Our Land**

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage, we humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry , sound learning and pure manners. In time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble suffer not our trust in Thee to fail. Amen.

## **What the World Needs Now** by Josiah Gilbert Holland

The following words, written more than a century ago by Josiah Gilbert Holland, still seem appropriate today. No doubt they'll continue to be quoted one hundred years for now.

The world needs young men and women who cannot be bought; whose word is their bond; who put character above wealth; who possess opinions and a will; who are larger than their vocations; who do not hesitate to take chances.

The world needs young men and women who will not lose their individuality in a crowd; who will be as honest in small things as in great things; who will make no compromise with wrong; whose ambitions are not confined to their own selfish desires.

The world need young men and women who will not say they do it because everybody else does it; who are true to their friends through good report and evil report, in adversity as well as in prosperity; who do not believe that shrewdness, cunning and hardheadedness are the best qualities for winning; who are not ashamed or afraid to stand for the truth when it is unpopular.

The world needs young men and women who say no with emphasis, though all the rest of the world says yes.

## Rescue at Sea

*Meditation:* Duty is the sublimest word in the language; you can never do more than your duty; you should never wish to do less. – Robert E. Lee

*Opening:* **CA** Let us give thanks to God  
**All** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

*Song:* **God Bless America**  
God bless America, Land that I love,  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Through the night with the light from above.  
From the mountains, To the prairies  
To the ocean, white with foam.  
God bless America, my home sweet home.

*Reading:* **CA** Psalm 15:1-4

*To think about. (Chaplain)* “Rescue at Sea” by Dan Clark from *Chicken Soup for the Soul*

*Prayer:* **CA** Prayer for the Day

*Song:* Thanks and praise  
For our days ‘neath the sun,  
Neath the stars, ‘neath the sky.  
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.

*Chaplain’s Thought to Leave/Live By:*  
Reread the opening meditation, then consider this:

The Boy Scout Movement speaks to every heart its message of duty and honor. “Be Prepared” to stand up faithfully for Right and Truth, however the winds may blow. – Sir Winston Churchill

CA= Chaplain’s Aide

## **Reading**

Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your Holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman, who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the Lord, who keeps his oath even when it hurts.

## **Prayer for the Day**

Father in Heaven, we thank You for this opportunity to gather together in the great out of doors with no walls except your wonderful creation and no ceiling except the canopy of sky. We acknowledge Your great love for us in providing so bounteously for all of our needs. Keep us ever mindful of our trust as keepers of your beautiful creation. Grant to each of us keenness of mind, clarity of vision and unflagging determination to vigorously pursue that which is good and right in Your sight . Amen.

## Rescue at Sea by Dan Clark

Years ago, in a small fishing village in Holland, a young boy taught the world about the rewards of unselfish service. Because the entire village revolved around the fishing industry, a volunteer rescue team was needed in cases of emergency. One night the winds raged, the clouds burst and a gale force storm capsized a fishing boat at sea. Stranded and in trouble, the crew sent out the S.O.S. The captain of the rescue rowboat team sounded the alarm and villagers assembled in the town square overlooking the bay. While the team launched their rowboat and fought their way through the wild waves, the villagers waited restlessly on the beach, holding lanterns to light the way back.

An hour later, the rescue boat reappeared through the fog and the cheering villagers ran to greet them. Falling exhausted on the sand, the volunteers reported that the rescue boat could not hold any more passengers and they had to leave one man behind. Even one more passenger would have surely capsized the rescue boat and all would have been lost.

Frantically, the captain called for another volunteer team to go after the lone survivor. Sixteen-year old Hans stepped forward. His mother grabbed his arm pleading, "Please don't go. Your father died in a shipwreck 10 years ago and your older brother, Paul had been lost at sea for three weeks. Hans, you are all I have left."

Hans replied, "Mother, I have to go. What if everyone said, 'I can't let someone else do it'? Mother, this time I have to do my duty. When the call for service comes, we all need to take our turn and do our part." Hans kissed his mother, joined the team and disappeared into the night.

Another hour passed, which seemed to Hans' mother like an eternity. Finally, the rescue boat darted through the fog with Hans standing up in the bow. Cupping his hands, the captain called, "Did you find the lost man?" Barely able to contain himself, Hans excitedly yelled back, "Yes, we found him. Tell my mother it's my older brother, Paul!"

## Discouraged?

*Meditation:* Nothing is good or bad, but thinking makes it so. – William Shakespeare

*Opening:* **CA** Praise the Lord!  
**All** Praise the Lord from the Heavens! Praise Him from the skies!  
**CA** Praise the Lord!  
**All** Praise the Lord, O heavens! Praise Him from the skies!  
**CA** All of His angels; All of the armies of heaven.  
**All** Praise Him! Praise Him!

*Song:* My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside let freedom ring!  
Our fathers' God, to Thee, author of liberty, to Thee we sing: Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!

*Reading:* **CA** Joshua 1:8-9

*To think about:* **(Chaplain)** *Discouraged?* by Jack Canfield and "The Optimist" from *More Sower's Seeds* by Brian Cavanaugh

*Prayer:* **CA** A Prayer by Rev. Edward L.R. Elson, Chaplain to the Senate

*Song:* Thanks and praise, for our days  
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky.  
As we go, This we know, God is nigh.

*Chaplain's Thought to Leave/Live By:*

Reread the opening meditation, then consider this: Two stonecutters were asked what they were doing. The first said, "I'm cutting this stone into blocks." The second replied, "I'm on a team that's building a cathedral."  
– Old Story

CA= Chaplain's Aide

## **Joshua 1: 8-9**

“Do not let My law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

### **A Prayer** by Rev. Edward L.R. Elson, Chaplain to the Senate

Eternal Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, turn our minds inward that we may be aware of the mysterious resources with which You have endowed us. Turn our minds outward that we may behold Your majesty, glory, and power which is sufficient for all mankind. In Your name we pray. Amen.

### **Discouraged?** by Jack Canfield

As I was driving home from work one day, I stopped to watch a local Little League baseball game that was being played in a park near my home. As I sat down behind the bench on the first-baseline, I asked one of the boys what the score was.

“We’re behind 14 to nothing,” he answered with a smile.

“Really,” I said. “ I have to say you don’t look very discouraged.”

“Discouraged?” the boy asked with a puzzled look on his face. “Why should we be discouraged? We haven’t been up to bat yet.”

## **The Optimist** from *More Sower's Seed* by Brian Cavanaugh

There is a story of identical twins. One was a hope-filled optimist. "Everything is coming up roses!" he would say. The other was a sad and hopeless pessimist. He thought that Murphy, as in Murphy's Law, was an optimist. The worried parents of the boys brought them to the local psychologist.

He suggested to the parents a plan to balance the twins' personalities. "On their next birthday, put them in separate rooms to open their gifts. Give the pessimist the best toys you can afford, and give the optimist a box on manure." The parents followed these instructions and carefully observed the results.

When they peeked in to the pessimist, they heard him audibly complaining, "I don't like the color of this computer....I bet this calculator will break... I don't like this game... I know someone who's got a bigger toy car than this..."

Tiptoeing across the hall, the parents peeked in and saw their little optimist gleefully throwing the manure up in the air. He was giggling. "You can't fool me! Where there's this much manure, there's gotta be a pony!"

## The Master's Work

*Meditation:* Four things do not come back: the spoken word, the sped arrow, the past life, and the neglected opportunity.

*Opening:* Great God of all, at this time of worship, open our eyes and minds and hearts for your guidance in our lives. Amen.

*Song:*       **This Land is Your Land**  
This land is your land, this land is my land,  
From California to the New York Island,  
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters,  
This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking that ribbon of highway  
I saw above me that endless skyway,  
I saw below me that golden valley,  
This land was made for you and me.

*Reading:* **CA** Galatians 6:7-9

*To think about:* **Chaplain** "The Master's Work" by Vick Vickery and "Genius" by Elbert Hubbard

*Prayer:* **CA** A Closing Prayer

*Song:* Thanks and praise for our days  
Neath the sun, Neath the stars, Neath the sky.  
As we go, This we know, God is nigh.

*Chaplain's Thought to Leave/Live By:*

Reread the opening meditation then consider this:

I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore choose life, that both you and your posterity may live.  
– Deuteronomy 30:19

Choice—not chance—determines human destiny.

CA= Chaplain's Aide

## **Galatians 6:7-9**

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

## **A Closing Prayer**

God, our Father, we thank you for the beauty of the earth, for the food we eat and for the comforts we enjoy. Help us to love others more, to be concerned with the problems of our day, and to understand Your will in our actions. Grant us the strength to live wisely and well, to be worthy users of Your creation and ready and willing workers for the causes of goodness. Amen.

## **Genius**

Genius is only the power of making continuous efforts. The line between failure and success is so fine that we scarcely know when we pass it: so fine that we are often on the line and do not know it. How many a man has thrown up his hands at a time when a little more effort, a little more patience, would have achieved success. As the tide goes clear out, so it comes clear in. In business, sometimes, prospects may seem darkest when really they are on the turn. A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed hopeless failure may turn to glorious success. There is no failure except in no longer trying. There is no defeat except from within, no really insurmountable barrier save our own inherent weakness of purpose. – Elbert Hubbard

## **The Master's Work**

The most valuable of all violins are some made by Antonio Stradivari between 1670 and 1737. Everyone has heard of a Stradivarius violin. His name is synonymous with quality and value in violins, but why are his violins so valuable? Is it tone? I was surprised to learn that there is a Stradivarius violin in existence which is known as, "The Violin the Master Forgot to Burn." It has been the despair of many experts because of the impossibility of getting a good tone out of this instrument. It is valuable as a rare exception. Are Stradivarius violins valuable because there are so few made? Not so. There are over two hundred and fifty violins known to be works of the master.

Why should a non-musical person such as I fiddle with such trivia? ... I read these interesting facts in an article entitled, "Paradox of the Violin." In reading about the "Violin the Master Forgot to Burn," I began remembering some Scouts I have known in camp and in various Scouting events over the years. The only clues to their being Scouts were their uniforms and registration cards. They did not speak like Scouts, look like Scouts or act like Scouts. Their whole tone was foreign to that which Scouting sought to instill in them. Thank goodness the Scoutmaster forgot to "burn" them. Unbeknownst to them, their Scoutmaster's workmanship was somehow shaping the framework of character which would one day become a man of great worth to his church, family and community. Today I look upon them in amazement when I consider the toneless days of their youth.

Scouts from past years are valuable today as leaders not because they have been so few. Over 60 million have been members of the Scouting movement in the United States. Their value can often be traced directly to the work of the master -- their Scoutmaster.

## The Focus

*Meditation:* The way each day will look to you all starts with **who** you're looking to.

*Opening:* Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!  
Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!  
Know that the Lord is God! It is He that Made us, and we are His;  
We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

*Song:* O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law.

*Reading:* **CA** Psalm 121

*To think about:* **(Chaplain)** "The Focus" from *God's Little Devotion Book*

*Prayer:* **CA** A prayer of gratitude by Theresa Cotter

*Song:* Thanks and praise for our days  
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky.  
As we go, this we know – God is nigh.

*Chaplain's Thought to Leave/Live By:*

Reread the opening meditation, then consider this:

To know the will of God in the greatest knowledge, to find the will of God  
is the greatest discovery, and to do the will of God is the greatest  
achievement.

CA= Chaplain's Aide

## **Psalm 121**

I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot slip - he who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord watches over you - the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your life;  
the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

## **Prayer** - A prayer of gratitude by Theresa Cotter

With gratitude, we praise you, God, for this day. How wonderful it is to experience your blessings! Thank you, God, for people who inspire us, encourage us, and love us. May this day bring us closer to you who are the source of all good. Amen.

## **The Focus**

A young man was learning to plow with a tractor. He climbed onto the seat of the tractor for his first "solo run", pulled the lever that dropped the plow to the ground, and started across the field. After he had gone a few yards, he turned around to look at the furrow he was making. He became entranced by the rushing flow of topsoil along the plowshare - the rich, black soil turning over in a seemingly endless ribbon. By the time he turned back to see where he was going, he realized that the wheel of the tractor had swerved a number of times. Glancing again behind him, he saw a wavering furrow, a permanent etching into the earth of his wandering eye.

The secret to pulling a straight furrow is not in watching the furrow as it is made, but to set one's sight across the field at a distant point, and to keep the nose of the tractor moving squarely toward that point. The point on which the eyes are fixed must be a fixed point, such as a tree, barn or hilltop. Only the occasional brief backward glance is allowable!

The same hold true for our life of faith. We are to keep our eyes fixed upon God, who never changes, and to line up our behavior with His word, looking back only rarely on our past efforts.

Every day you make choices of how you will spend your time and on what you will focus. Be sure you focus on building a relationship with God.

## **Song and Hymn Suggestions**

A Mighty Fortress is Our God  
Amazing Grace  
America the Beautiful

The Battle Hymn of the Republic

Come Thou Font of Every Blessing

Do Lord  
Dona Nobis

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

For the Beauty of the Earth  
For Your Gracious Blessings

Go Tell It On the Mountain  
God Be with You Till We Meet Again  
God Bless America  
Great is Thy Faithfulness

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Morning Has Broken  
My Country 'Tis of Thee (America)

O God, Our Help in Ages Past  
Open My Eyes That I May See

Peace Like a River

Rise and Shine  
Round of Thanks - For Health and Strength

Shalom Chaverim  
Sweet Hour of Prayer

This is My Father's World  
This Land is Your Land

We Gather Together

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