



THINK ON THESE THINGS.....

Reading: Ephesians 3: 14 - 19

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Reflection:

In a little over a week's time I will be a delegate to General Assembly 2020. Assembly was due to be held at Aston University, Birmingham over a 4 day period. The restrictions and safety concerns of the Covid emergency have prevented the denomination from meeting physically. Eating together, greeting each other face to face, listening at length to friends' concerns, gaining the insight that comes with meeting for a few days – none of this can be part of the Assembly, in the way we had intended.

Instead there will be a virtual meeting of Mission Council for a few hours on Friday 10 July. This will allow a selection of Assembly business to be taken forward by a reasonably wide and representative forum of the Church.

By now most of us will be familiar video conferencing tools, and are very much aware of its limitations. However, the work of the church must go on, however challenging the circumstances. I cannot but help thinking back to the early church and the tremendous challenges they faced as the saints of old did everything they could to make known the good news of Jesus. Thy stuck to the task before them, prayed for strength and empowerment, and even though vulnerable, they pressed on. Thank goodness they did!

Our denomination, together with all its local churches will have to face up to many challenges over the coming weeks and months. Now more than ever will we have to lean on the leading and guiding of God's Holy Spirit to help us discern the way forward as we navigate our way through these unprecedented times.

Please pray for the Assembly staff as they prepare for this meeting, and that the outcome may be positive and transformational for the life of the church.

Breath-Prayer: Loving God, we pray for our wider URC Church family as they prepare to meet virtually next week at General Assembly.

