

Anglican Fellowship OF **PRAAYER** Canada



AFP-C NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2008



THIN PLACES **HERBERT O'DRISCOLL**

One of the many things I am grateful for from early years is how the church communicated to me that the life I lived, and the whole world around me, were part of something far greater. Many years would go by

before I would learn that George MacLeod of Iona had referred to that lovely island as a "thin place," and that it would become fashionable in contemporary spirituality to speak of places that had become sacred in our lives as "thin places."

This realization, probably more than any other, makes prayer a natural and almost effortless activity. To realize that the walls are thin between time and eternity, physical and spiritual, secular and sacred, earth and heaven, is to know that one's life is lived in the very near presence of God. It is to know the truth of the statement Carl Jung hung above the door of his Zurich home for many years: "Bidden or not bidden, God is present."

Thinking of such things brings to mind a place and a moment. The place is the well, set in a deep, shaded, leafy gully about a quarter of a mile from my grandfather's farm in Ireland. In the summertime it was often my task to go to the well and bring back water to the farm kitchen. Because it was a secluded place and I was alone, I could linger and daydream.

I would go down the winding track into the gully...and there was the round, black mouth of the well. Sometimes at certain times of day a sunbeam would strike into the water and show its unknown depths. I began to think of the well as an entry point through which people from another world could come into my world. Many years later I would read of the long traditions about such wells, traditions that predate Christianity by millennia, and that speak of wells as sacred places where the waters of the hidden goddess flow from her womb and fertilize the earth. I realize now that those timeless traditions

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MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR **RT. REV. GARY WOOLSEY**

What a privilege it was to be part of the team to lead the AFP Conference for Diocesan Representatives in Ancaster,

Ontario. This was my first Conference as the National Director and I came away encouraged by the enthusiasm of those in leadership positions with AFP-Canada.

Our daughter-in-law, Terri, gave me a book entitled, Leading With A Limp – Take Full Advantage of Your Most Powerful Weakness, by Dan B. Allender, president and a founder of Mars Hill Graduate School near Seattle. I used two ideas from this book for our Conference Bible Studies and I want to share these thoughts with you through this Newsletter.

All of us take on some kind of leadership role in our lives – in our families, work place, community organizations, and church. But what kind of leader are you and what kind of leader will bring about transformation – in one's own life and in the lives of others? Dan believes that leadership is about growing character which happens to the degree that we love God and others. This transformation occurs when two qualities are alive and well in one's life: awe and gratitude.

"Awe" or "wonder" are words which remind us that when we experience God, we live in amazed admiration, astonished with the awesome mystery of the Creator. This speaks to me of being 'born again' – having a change of heart and mind, seeing life from God's point of view, with God's eyes. I need to take time in my day to express my gratitude to God for the beauty of creation and the people that are part of my life.

"Gratitude" or living a life of thankfulness, is also a transforming quality for our own lives and can be used by God to transform others. Parents go to great length in order to

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Continued from page 1 – **THIN PLACES**

were alive and speaking to me as a child, assuring me that there have been and will forever be avenues between the worlds.

For me that secluded well was-and will always remain-a thin place. But there is another moment....It is the afternoon's children service. The curate is giving a homily. He points up at the domed ceiling of the chancel, prompting us to look at the planets and stars painted there in gold. Speaking very solemnly, he says, "When you boys and girls sing loudly, those planets and stars shine more brightly." And so it was. I know, because, when I sang and looked up eagerly, they did indeed shine more brightly, and I knew at some level of my childhood being that another world was near.

Another moment and place...I am in confirmation class in the rector's study. This warm, book-lined room is a weekly oasis from the stark, even spartan, rooms of our boarding school nearby. I treasure every moment. The rector points us to a page in our open prayer books. He asks one of us to read what we see. A voice responds:

With Angels and Archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we laud and magnify thy glorious Name;
evermore praising thee, and saying:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

The reader's voice falls silent. The rector says very quietly, "Do you know that when those words are said in church something wonderful happens? The wall and the window behind the altar fade away, and we look out at a vast host of creatures and people. Some are angels, but there are also all those who have worshipped God before us, and still worship him in heaven. And for a moment, when we say this or sing it, we see them, and we all worship God together, and then the wall and the window return and the moment is over. But it happens every time we say"-and then he named it-"Sanctus."

I realize now that this is what the unknown writer of the Letter to the Hebrews was trying to get his readers to grasp when he pointed out that, as we live our lives (he used the image of running a race) "we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12: 1).

If we are indeed surrounded every moment of every hour of every day; if that same vast community joins with us in singing "Sanctus;" if Iona is truly a thin place; and if the well of my childhood still lies in the long grasses as a point of entry between the worlds; then this truth-that the walls between the physical and spiritual, between earth and heaven are thin gives substance and meaning to all our human prayers.

Thanks be to God.

(Continued)

This article is taken from Herbert O'Driscoll's book PRAYER AMONG FRIENDS, a Path Book published in memory of Pat Curtis. A copy can be obtained from the Anglican Book Centre (www.afcanada.com) and from local church bookshops.

***The fruit of PRAYER is FAITH
The fruit of FAITH is LOVE and,
The fruit of LOVE is SERVICE.
The fruit of SERVICE is PEACE.***

Mother Teresa

Continued from page 1

**MESSAGE FROM OUR
NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

instill 'gratitude' in their families. 'What do you say? Thank you.' Yet often when we come to community worship we fill our intercessions with requests but spend very little time expressing our thanks to God. I am reminded of these words:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

I pray that each of us will be transformed by the Spirit so that 'awe' and 'gratitude' are key ingredients of our daily lives. What a difference we will make in our world!

Peace
+Gary

Bishop Gary Woolsey
AFP-Canada National Director

Thoughts to Ponder

The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

James 5:16 NKJV

Thank you God for showing me the power of prayer. Remind me to pray for others and myself as a first response, not the last resort, when facing challenging circumstances.

Renee Coates Scheidt

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, JUNE 16, 17, 2008.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We are happy to report that Win (short for Winnifred) Mizon of London, ON has volunteered to edit and produce our Newsletter. Our current approach is to produce a Newsletter three times a year. We are planning to produce the next Newsletter in August; however we are giving thought to both the frequency and timing for future Newsletters.

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

We agreed that just because we might not have AFP Representatives in all Diocese and parishes doesn't mean that prayer is not happening. However, we continue to be concerned about the absence of AFP Diocesan representatives in many of our Dioceses i.e. Athabasca, British Columbia, Caledonia, Edmonton, Keewatin, Montreal, New Westminster, Niagara, Ontario, Qu'Appelle, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Yukon.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership numbers are slowly decreasing as time passes. We need to continue to attract new numbers and remind lapsed members to continue to support us. We are looking for a Membership Coordinator to fill the shoes of recently retired Dave Dunkerley. The Coordinator's main function is to keep track of contact information and mailing addresses for our members and all who receive our Newsletters and Prayer Promoters.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our Treasurer, Harry Langston reported that while we are not in a crisis, our donations are down about \$1,000 from a year ago. We will include an appeal and donation envelope with an upcoming Newsletter.

AUDIO TAPES

Our Resource Centre has a number of audio tapes, mainly of which are

presentations given at past AFP Conferences and we would like to review the tapes and convert the useful ones to digital format. We have converted two tapes and will try a pilot project of putting them on the website, available for downloading, and see how things work out.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

We discussed possible ways in which we might support, in prayer, the work of our National Church in the Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation process and we will continue to work on this. Ideas and suggestions are welcome.



Consultation participants from across Canada praying at the Mount Mary Retreat Centre outdoor chapel during a Prayer walk around the grounds



Bernadette Njegovan from Brandon, MB & Diane Guilford from Winnipeg, MB praying with bodily movement at the Consultation.

THOUGHTS ON THE CONSULTATION IN ANCASTER IN JUNE

Jane Jensen

"Meeting the National Board and the representatives of the Ecclesiastical Provinces and Dioceses was a tremendous blessing and the presentations informative. . . . I was especially blessed by Gary's practical spirituality, Esther's knowledge of resources, and Debra's concern for spreading the Good News.

From my point of view, the training was definitely worthwhile. I benefited from the experience, resources and prayer support the AFP offers. I also enjoyed hearing about resources for those in children's ministry (not my area). Attending the training not only deepened my personal faith, it also broadened my perspective so I can more effectively guide my fellow AFP partners to serve the people of the diocese, whatever their ages."



New Diocesan Representatives: (l. to r.) Jane Jensen, Debbie Ramage, Gregory Mercer, Ken Watts, Deborah Lonergan Freake, missing Jane Fletcher

The Diocese of Huron is searching for a new Bishop

The Diocese of Huron gives thanks for the past leadership and dedication of the Right Rev'd Bruce Howe, and now we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek a new bishop for our diocese.

Almighty God, you know our particular needs and the task that lies at our hand. In our search direct us, and give insight to perceive the leader you would have us choose. And we further pray, O Lord, that in this time of waiting we may all devote ourselves afresh to your service, so that nothing be lost of the faithful work of the past, but rather that it may be brought to a rich harvest in the years to come. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GUIDED HANDS

This is a Christian Women's group, who share the love of Christ with others through sign language, black light, praise and worship.



"The Guided Hands" group from Simcoe, ON praising the Lord musically in Sign Language at the Consultaion



Guided Hands member with Diane Guilford (on right) Marjorie Reid in background.



Bev Timpson (on left) an AFP Parish Representative from Huron Diocese with 2 members of the Guided Hands Group.



Marian Haggerty on AFP Personal Prayer Resources

REFLECTIONS ON THE CONSULT IN ANCASTER, JUNE 2008

Bev Timpson

The following is an account of my experience at the Consult for AFP Diocesan and Parish reps in Ancaster in June 2008. Throughout the time we were together there were many moments that would re-shape me.



To be in an atmosphere of welcomed acceptance opened the door to a new depth of spirituality. Being with people who value prayer, want to talk about it, want to share their experiences - I could let my guard down. In doing so, it set my spirit free.

The information sharing enhanced my creativity, and gave me new ideas to take home. The Prayer Walk inspired me to plan one for our youth group. Deborah's photos of her time at Canterbury helped me understand the coming Lambeth Conference in a new way. The meditations, singing, praying together, fed my spirit, especially when Bishop Gary Woolsey asked us to pray for him and we encircled him with our petitions on his behalf, giving thanks for his gift of leadership.

The life-changing moment for me was the ceremony of "anointing" to do the work for A.F.P. This ceremony was available to anyone who wanted it. My thought at the time was "Lord, if you want me to carry out some of the ideas I have heard here, then I am going to need all the help I can get!" So for the first time in my life I was anointed with accompanying prayers by Marian and Gary. The laying on of hands was special and I was moved to tears.

Then, two days after I got home from Ancaster, I was driving to my grandson's soccer tournament in Harrow, Ont. thirty minutes from Windsor where we live. It was 8 o'clock on a sunny morning. Contentedly reflecting on my days at the

Consult, I recalled the anointing. And it hit me. "I am anointed to a work of prayer." No longer is it a task that I do because we are told by Jesus to pray. Now it is a "holy" work. Holy resonates within me. The fields of wheat that pass my car window are dancing with light, alive with presence of God. The clouds, the trees seem to be singing God's praises. I am surrounded by the holiness of God and now my prayer life is holy too.

A holy moment- and now my work is holy. It is God-driven. It is sacred. It has new meaning. Prayer is an important part of my daily life but now it is HOLY! God and I together - not me praying to God, but God dancing in my veins - an inseparable relationship.

A working task forms in the head: plan the work and work the plan. Conceptualize; organize; execute. I can do this well. Now, though, my work is to be a "holy" work- a work from the heart as well as the head. I thought "This is bound to be messy!"

"I am anointed". It kept repeating in my head all the way to Harrow and throughout the rest of the day. With my anointing, my AFP work also became holy work. I feel equipped in a new way with a new energy to do the AFP work in my parish. There is a depth of reverence and humbleness to this work that I will carry with me. I will continue to bloom where I'm planted but I think the flower has a heightened fragrance and colour. Thanks be to God and to all who attended the Consult - you were companions on the journey.

Bev Timpson, parish rep for St. Stephen's Church, Oldcastle, Ontario.

P.S. My grandson's team won the soccer tournament in their age group.

**Prayer makes miracles alive
Even in modern days.**



**To pray is to touch God and
let God touch us.**

New Diocesan Representatives

Jane Fletcher



Jane has been rector of St. Stephen's and Church of the Redeemer in Essex County since June of 2005. She has been involved with the work of AFP since her ordination in 2005 and she became Chaplain and Diocesan Representative in October

2007. Jane graduated from the University of Waterloo, Renison College in 1990 with a degree in Social Development Studies. She graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary in 2003 with a degree in Masters of Theological Studies in Pastoral Counselling. Jane continued on to Huron University College for a Master of Divinity degree in May 2005. Previous to ordained ministry Jane had been involved in Long Term Care and Developmental Services for many years. Jane and her husband Michael have been married for 13 years and reside in Oldcastle.



Jane Richardson Jensen

Jane Jensen (aka Jane Richardson Jensen) has been appointed the new Diocesan Representative for Calgary. Jane attends St. Martin's Church in southwest Calgary. She

lives in northwest Calgary. On Low Sunday she is a parishioner. She has begun offering Healing Prayers during the Sunday Eucharist. Besides being the new DR for AFP, Calgary, she is also the co-chair of an ecumenical women's gathering called Images of Spirituality. In September Jane will begin a Clinical Pastoral Education course at Foothills Hospital.

Jane is married to Jerry, a petroleum engineer, with two adult daughters whom they adopted in Scotland, when they were 5 and 7. One stayed in Texas, while the other is at the University of Calgary where Jerry, is a professor.

Jane is the co-author of [She Who Prays: A Woman's Interfaith Prayer Book](#) (Morehouse, 2005). She has her PhD in Old Testament & Hebrew from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland), and an MA in Hebrew Studies from the University of Texas in Austin.

Jane's biggest Faith challenges since moving from hot, flat Texas to snowy hilly Calgary in March 2007 were

finding a church family, and once found, driving over the bridges & heights of Calgary to get there and back home! She's glad to report, God does answer prayers.

Jane's favourite Bible verse: Numbers 6:24-26

Gregory Mercer



Gregory was appointed Diocesan Representative of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador by his Bishop, The Right Reverend Cyrus Pittman, in March of this year. Gregory is presently in his fifteenth year of ordained ministry after working as a computer operator for nearly fourteen years.

Greg was born in Upper Island Cove, Conception Bay, Newfoundland. He is married to Marilyn and has three daughters (one deceased) and three grandchildren. Apart from his devotion to his family he enjoys playing golf during the summer months and wood working during the winter months. He is an amateur musician and plays a little guitar and button accordion, but enjoys all kinds of music.

Gregory has always been involved in ministry for as long as he could remember: Sunday School, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Lay Reader, Youth Group Leader, just to name a few. He can vividly remember his call to ministry at the age of eleven.

Currently Greg is serving in the parish of St. Peter's, Conception Bay South, but has recently been appointed to St. Mary the Virgin, St. John's, beginning October first. He has a passion for ministry and particularly enjoys working with kids, teaching the faith, stewardship and congregational development. He admits that his prayer life is something that he has struggled with in recent months but is certainly up to the challenge of being the new Diocesan Representative.

A Prayer of Faith

***One little prayer of faith can be
A light that gleams through eternity!
One little prayer of hope can light
The darkest road on the darkest night.***

--Jon Gilbert

OLD DOG – NEW TRICKS



Paul Dumbrille
Executive Committee Chair

The wonderful thing about the gift of prayer is that there are seemingly an infinite number of ways and circumstances in which we can connect with our God. Over the years I have learned that each of us has to learn which ways of prayer are best for us. If we are praying as we've been told we "should", and not the way we "can", then we are probably praying as we "can't" and restricting our opportunities for intimacy in our relationship with our God who wants to be as close to us as we will allow. I've also learned that being content to only use the practices and opportunities for prayer that we are used to is also restricting our relationship with the Divine Presence. I believe we are called to try new things and experiment with different ways of prayer.

At our recent national AFP Consultation Conference with folks from across Canada, I learned, once again, that learning new "tricks" is something that enhances this "old dog's" prayer life. Over the years I have avoided, for no particular reason, some opportunities for participating in "Prayer Walks".

During the Consultation Bishop Gary and Rev. Grace Coleman Anthony led us on a "Prayer Walk" about the grounds of the beautiful Mount Mary Retreat Centre. Using a section from the book *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook – Practices That Transform Us* by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, Intervarsity Press, 2005, as a guide, we walked around the grounds and stopped at several places and buildings for prayer. At each place two of us shared some simple prayers out loud that were focused on the place, people and activities related to that place. For example at the vegetable garden that is on the grounds we thanked God for His Creation and the bounty of the earth as well as for the people who worked in the garden and those who would consume its produce. We then walked to the next place, contemplating God's greatness and our connection with Him.

This experience made me realize that I had been missing a way of prayer. Two things have come out of this for me. I am now more conscious of God's presence in my surroundings and I plan to introduce this type of prayer to my parish, firstly by leading a Prayer walk around our church buildings and property and then perhaps expanding this into our immediate neighbourhood.

May we all learn new ways and opportunities to pray.



Your New AFP-C Newsletter Editor



Win Mizon

God's Holy Spirit has been at work at St. Alban the Martyr, London, Ontario. One Sunday I was approached by Marjorie Reid who told me that this editor's job was something I could do. She showed me a past copy of the Prayer Promper and I said "Yes". I did not know then the extent of what God had called me to do. However, after the AFP-C Executive meeting in Ancaster in June, I felt a bit overwhelmed, but confident that this was indeed something I could do.

I have been involved in the Anglican church since birth: choir, Sunday school, sidesperson organizer, church bulletin and newsletter and lately helping with the committee in preparation for St. Alban's fiftieth anniversary in 2010. Now, I look forward to learning more about the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Canada.

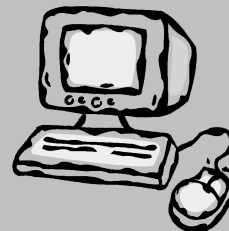
I am a retired elementary teacher, having taught in Picton, Ontario and London, Ontario. I am a widow of four years with two grown children: a married daughter in Waterloo, Ontario and a son, who calls himself a Canadian citizen, with Australian residency living in Zimbabwe, Africa. His partner is with the Australian Embassy in Zimbabwe. My daughter has my first grandchild, a 15 month old baby girl, who is my pride and joy.

Although I am retired I seem to be very active. My hobbies include my family, especially my granddaughter, the church, friends, traveling, quilting, and the computer.

I pray that God will guide me as I continue to edit the AFP-C newsletters, and that he will guide you to pray for my work and to consider forwarding content for future newsletters.

Check out the AFP-C website.

www.anglicanprayer.org



Any articles or events relating to prayer that you wish to include on our website should be forwarded to Roger Harris

rognet@sympatico.ca

Prayer Ministry for the Sick and Needy

Ida Tonks



Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matt.13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19)

In January 2001, Rosemarie Richardson and I unknowingly planted a seed at St. Giles when we began to meet there on a weekly basis for prayer and meditation. Today, after 7 years, we are witnessing the amazing growth and development of the Prayer Ministry.

There are now 8 prayer partners – 5 from St. Giles (3 worship elsewhere) and Rev. Jim, who receive requests from the parish and across Canada, the U.K., U.S.A. and the West Indies. Like the birds in the parable, “people” are coming to rest in the shade of this very large tree with its spreading branches – to build “nests” of acceptance, shelter, support, comfort, hope, encouragement and healing in the midst of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs.

These requests include family members and pets. Details of sicknesses are kept confidential, unless otherwise desired and often only the Christian names are listed. We have also made available the IPU (intensive prayer unit) (705-735-1813) for “critical” prayer.

It is most important to understand the nature of this ministry which is rooted and grounded in St. Giles community.

Prayer request forms are also available.

Names are placed on the Prayer Board and listed on the weekly bulletins. We ask that you will take the time to name these precious people, their children and pets, before the throne of God in your prayers. He will do the rest. We invite anyone who can make a commitment to join the partners.

What a privilege it is to serve the Kingdom of God in this way.

**Ps.118:23: This is the Lord’s doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.**

***On prayer: They filed through my mind
and heart into the heart of God.***

Consultation in Ancaster



*Consultation participants in front of graceful arch
decorated with icon style images.*

*Left to right back row: Bishop Gary Woolsey, Grace Coleman Anthony, Kimberly Metelka, Deborah Rivet, Gregory Mercer, Ken Watts, Terry Wedge, Roger Harris, Tony Day, Anne Moore, Harry Langston, Debbie Ramage
Front row: Paul Dumbrille, Deborah Lonergan Freaque, Diane Guilford, Bernadette Njegovan*



Some of the delegates: Gregory Mercer, Kimberly Metelka, Deborah Rivet, Diane Guilford, Gary Woolsey, Grace Coleman Anthony, Ken Watts

Your AFP-C Newsletter Editor

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*Please keep sending me articles for
newsletters.*

The Toronto Diocesan Bishop's Committee on Prayer

PRAYER CONFERENCE October 17 & 18, 2008

St. John's Anglican Church
19 Don Ridge Drive
York Mills
(Toronto), Ontario

Prayer, The Central Dialogue with

The Rev. Dr. Harry Robinson
B.A., B.Th., Dip.Th.



“that I may gain Christ”
- *Philippians 3:8*



Harry Robinson was born and brought up in Hogg's Hollow, North Toronto. After receiving his B.A. from The University of Toronto, he attended Wycliffe

College, Toronto and Oak Hill College, London, England. During his university years he participated in inter-collegiate wrestling and rugby. In 1971 Harry spent a sabbatical year at Cambridge University.

After pastoring several parishes in the Diocese of Ontario, Harry became Rector of Little Trinity Church, Toronto in 1963. He remained there until 1978 at which time he accepted a call to become Rector of St. John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church in Vancouver where he stayed until his retirement. The special focus of his work is parish ministry and Biblical preaching and teaching. He has spoken at parish missions, penitentiary missions and university missions across Canada.

His interests are skiing, horses, long walks and canoeing.

Further details can be obtained from:

Tony Day
905-846-2952
tonyday@sympatico.ca

or

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Register early for workshop of your
choice.
Wheelchair accessible

**O Lord God Almighty,
who didst endue thine
apostles so richly with the
gifts of the Holy Spirit,
grant to all thy servants
who minister and teach in
thy holy name, the spirit
of wisdom and love, that
in all their words and
deeds they may seek thy
glory and the increase of
thy kingdom; through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN.**

Diocesan Representatives from East and West



*Ken Watts from Kootenay, and
Deborah Lonergan Freaque DR for
Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island*



*New growth in an Old “Nurse Tree”,
a tree growing on the convent property,
Ancaster.*

*Another of “the Lord’s doing and it is
marvellous in our eyes”.*

Ann Crossland resigns as Diocesan Representative of the Diocese of Athabasca

We regretfully accept the resignation of Ann Crossland, as the DR of Athabasca. Ann and her husband, the Rev. Paul Crossland, will be leaving the Diocese of Athabasca.

We wish them well in their future endeavours. Blessings to you both!

If you pray, why worry; and if you worry, why pray? Leave your worries with God. He is up all night anyway.