

**SCHOOL PRAYER 3. PROSPERITY***Assembly 34 – Tuesday March 4th 2003*

This week we are going through the school prayer and yesterday, I had a jug of water here. What was I doing with that? (Recap)

Now what is the next sentence – “Prosper our labours.” Do you know what ‘prosper’ means – a prosperous person is someone whose work is going very well. Prosperity is what a nation enjoys when its economy is booming and people are becoming richer. Every person and every nation wants to be prosperous. ‘Prosper our LABOURS.’ What is our labour? Our WORK. So we are saying to God, “We are going to work hard today – please see that our work goes well. Please make our work successful.”

Lots of people want God to give them prosperity – riches and success – and even ask other people to pray for it – but they do not do very much about it themselves. It is not very surprising when such people do not do become prosperous. In your language and mine, there are similar sayings – In English it goes ‘God helps those who help themselves.’ It is rather silly to say, “Please God, help me to pass my exams!” if you are doing no work, if you watch television every evening and look out of the window most of the school-time! Similarly, if someone is a shopkeeper and he is praying for his business to do well but, if his shop does not have the things in it that people want to buy and if the shop assistants are rude to the customers and if he is drinking tea all day with his friends, then his shop will not do well, however hard he prays.

We can only pray for God to give our work success, when we are doing our very best. If you are working very hard in your office, or your shop, or your bank or your classroom then you can pray this prayer – “Dear God – prosper my labours.” God is very

pleased with the prayer of such a person – and there is a chance that he will give you success.

I am sure that you know this in your relationship with your father and mother. If you want them to do a special favour, then you know that you have much more chance of getting it, if you are doing your best to be a good child, working hard, behaving well at home, and being kind and friendly and helpful. If you are rude and difficult and lazy and then go and ask your parents to get you some nice new clothes, or something, then there is not much chance of them agreeing!

If we do the LITTLE that we can do, then maybe God will do the LOT that he can do – but then, that is his business and we cannot ORDER him to do it – we can only ask – and so every day we ask him to prosper our labours.

God bless you.

**SCHOOL PRAYER 4. PROTECTION***Assembly 35 - Wednesday March 5th 2003*

This is the last day that Mrs Rita Bennett is going to have with us. She flies back to the UK tomorrow morning early. We have already had a little presentation by the staff and a very nice dinner from the Management and Coordinators but this is the last chance for the rest of you to say goodbye and thank her very much for being with us for 2 weeks when she has worked very hard on giving the teachers good advice to make our school even better.....

This week we are going through the school prayer and looking at the meaning. It is very easy, in every religion, to repeat prayers without thinking about their meaning and these prayers never get above the ceiling. God is deaf to such prayers.