

Diocese of Okinawa News letter  
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“God who prays for you” (MITER BOX)

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When a new year comes, people in Japan would visit shrines or temples to wish for prosperity and pray for the safety and good health of their family. It is the same with Christian churches. Many people knock on the door of church to seek salvation and happiness. It is good if their prayers are answered in the way they hoped for, but Christianity is not a religion that seeks secular benefits.

We Christians are those who believe Jesus as a Savior and walk the way he has shown us.

There is a poem written by a Confederate soldier during the Civil War. While the author's name is unknown, it is known as “A Creed for Those Who Have Suffered,” or simply as “Prayers.”

A CREED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve  
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey...

I asked for health, that I might do greater things  
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things...

I asked for riches, that I might be happy  
I was given poverty, that I might be wise...

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men  
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God...

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life  
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things...

I got nothing that I asked for—but everything I had hoped for  
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.  
I am among all men, most richly blessed!

Like the prayers in this poem, things what we seek and things what we are given are often different.

But Christians are to give thanks to God for everything by meekly accepting it.

When we look around us, there are so many unreasonable things happening, making us doubt if God really exists. At times, we encounter an event that almost makes us lose our faith in God.

After the Last Supper, Peter repeatedly denied Jesus.

Yet, Jesus told him at the table;

“I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail.” Luke 21:32

Jesus, who prayed for Peter at such a time when he had no one to understand or support him, is always praying for you today.

May God’s blessing be always with you.