

29. 8. 77
25. 8. 80Our Father (Russ) FONT
0-200
Lord Our God
(Hame 1⁶)

Today's holiday I'm sure is being enjoyed by many more people than could tell you the original occasion for it: a holiday, after all, is a welcome break from routine, and especially welcome just at this time of the year. The reason for it isn't too important, I'd suspect, to most people who have today off from their normal work. And you? If you are on holiday today, then why not take a few minutes to think about the reason behind this public holiday — and in your leisure, raise your heart to God in prayer of praise, gratitude and joy. For, in a real sense, every holiday is a holy day — it just depends what we choose to make of it. "Let's sit down for a while beside God and look at the wonderful things he has made" — a melody from the Bakongo tribe of Zaïre. MUSIC (Nissa Kwango 1⁵)

It's a day of Liberation, this holiday: in remembrance and celebration of s'th that happened ³⁵ 32 year ago in HK — it was a much smaller place then and there must be very few of HK's present population who were here then. For those who were, Liberation Day meant s'th. very definite and concrete, for which no doubt in their memories and prayers they can speak with God with deep feeling. For those who suffered cruelty in those days, Liberation was surely a time of joy. But even on a more ordinary, humdrum, plane, there is a joy too today for people released from the drudgery or harshness or simply routine-ness of daily work. May their joy lead us to the freedom of God's children, able to sing and play in His presence in praise. MUSIC (Nissa Kwango 1²)

Another song from the Bakongo (tribe). "Liberation" is possibly one of those most over-used words in modern times which have ended up with their meaning largely depending on the speaker's point of view: one man's liberation being another's (or even the same man's) enslavement. It's a constant ideal of the human spirit, this 'liberation' idea — only it's seldom that the liberation of the human spirit to be truly human that's achieved or even aimed at. None of the partial liberations prove to be enough in themselves — there's always something more that's desired. Make us free, Lord, with the freedom of Christ your Son: free of sin, pride, selfishness: free from prejudice and the blindness that makes us harm and hurt each other and keeps our fellowmen in oppression, suffering in cruelty because of one man's, one party's, one government's, one power-group's, one country's domination, ambition or vision of Liberation that's not of the whole of man and for all mankind: Lord have Mercy

MUSIC (Nissa Kwango
Plan from Salitee 1²)

PRAYERS

The Judaico-Christian religion & tradition look back to historical events which were liberations: a few of them, very eminently so, often seen & understood in the light of those — events which were and are taken as signs (and more than that) of the coming full Liberation of God which He has begun already & is going on in us & the world when we join in remembrance, celebration, hope and living today the timeless events that make us free. Think & pray about those days too, today & keep on holiday for HK's history.

MUSIC (Salitee 2²)