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## Thought for the weak



with the Rev Preben Andersen

IT WAS a blistering hot day, the house was full of guests and things weren't going too well. Finally, the hostess got everyone seated for dinner and asked her seven-year-old daughter to say grace.

"But mother", said the little girl, "I do not know what to say." "Yes, you do," said her mother, "just say the last prayer you heard me use."

And obediently, the little girl bowed her head and recited somewhat hesitantly, but honestly, "Oh, Lord, why, oh why did I invite all these people on such a hot day!"

When we pray, may we always expect the unexpected! And if we are in a group of people, may we try to join in our heart and soul with the prayer being uttered by someone else.

We do not know how those people round the dinner table reacted to the little girl's honest prayer, but I dare say that she in her honesty and simplicity helped break what was proba-

bly a very tense and uncomfortable moment up until then. Simply by being so honest. And I believe the initial embarrassment was soon replaced by happy relief and a more relaxed atmosphere altogether.

When we pray for those in need, let us expect the unexpected and let us be honest in our petitions. I am sure God does not mind if we stumble over the words a bit or if the prayer comes hard. He knows how difficult it can be, but he knows also what wonderful things prayer in all its nervous energy and perseverance can achieve. So, when next time you say to someone (as we do), "I have been thinking so much about you," why not replace 'thinking about' by 'praying for', and just see what difference that makes, to you and the person you are upholding.

Take care, and speak again soon!

Preben Andersen