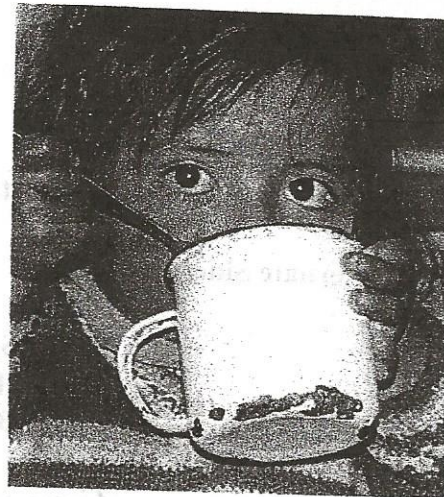


OPENING PRAYER



Leader:

**The world works from the outside in.
The Lord works from the inside out.
The world would take people out of the slums.
Christ takes the slums out of the people,
and then they take themselves out of the slums.
The world would mold people by changing their environment.
Christ changes people, who then change their environment.
The world would shape human behavior,
but Christ can change human nature. (EZRA TAFT BENSON)**

And so we pray: (Alternate sides)

- **It seems to me, Lord,
that we search much to desperately
for answers when a good question
holds as much grace as an answer.**
- **Jesus, you are the Great Questioner.
Keep our questions alive
that we may always be seekers
rather than settlers.**
- **Guard us well from the sin of settling in
with our answers
hugged to our breasts.**
- **Make of us a wondering, far-sighted
questioning, restless people.
And give us the feet of pilgrims on this journey unfinished.**

All:

**Almighty God,
We do not ask that you make life easy for us,
but that problems will not intimidate us.
We do not ask that we will be free from conflicts,
but that we will be respectful in our deliberations
and wise in our decisions.
We do not ask for success in every venture,
but that when we fail, we can still go on with a fresh beginning.
For this we ask in your name. Amen**