

1 Charles Blondin was a French tightrope walker. On this day in 1859 he first walked across the great Niagara Falls on a tightrope that was 335 metres long (1,100 feet), and 49 metres (160 feet) above the waterfall. With a balancing pole, Charles Blondin walked across in only five minutes. He then crossed back again, blindfolded.

2 Next he walked across pushing a wheelbarrow. When he got to the other side with the wheelbarrow he was congratulated, and one man said to him: *“That’s superb! Wonderful!”* Blondin said to him: *“Do you believe I can walk back again with the wheelbarrow?”* “Yes,” said the man in great admiration. *“Do you believe I can walk back across the tightrope with someone in that wheelbarrow?”* Again the man said *“Yes, you can do it!”* Then Blondin asked him: *“Will **you** get into the wheelbarrow?”* - but the man refused!

3 The man believed firmly that Blondin **could** take a person back across the tightrope in the wheelbarrow. Believing it, wasn’t enough, because there’s a difference between ‘belief’ (“head knowledge”) and ‘faith’ (trust based on experience). He didn’t have the personal faith to trust and place himself completely in Blondin’s hands.

4 *Let us pray:*

**Lord, may I become more aware  
of your presence in my life.**

**May I discover  
that you do walk with me  
each day of my life,  
accompanying me  
in darkness as well as in light,  
in sadness as well as in joy.**

**May your Spirit lead me  
to trust and come to know**

**that you keep your word  
and are always faithful and loving.  
I place myself and my future  
into your hands. Amen.**

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in  
*'Praying Each Day of the Year'*,  
a 3-volume book  
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine  
to research this topic further.

This material is part of  
the prayer and education website  
of the De La Salle Brothers  
in Great Britain:

[www.prayingeachday.org](http://www.prayingeachday.org)