

- 1 In a speech in Glasgow in September 1963, the Labour leader, Harold Wilson, proposed the setting up of what we now know as *'The Open University'*.
- 2 It is highly successful in offering teaching and research through TV and radio lectures, course materials, correspondence courses, and computer software. *'The Open University'* emphasises independent learning, and students study at their own time and pace, making progress by gaining credits. *'The OU'* (as it is often called) is for older students who may have missed earlier opportunities, and they normally study part-time. Those who gain degrees include some retired people.
- 3 No initial educational qualifications are needed to join, but the quality of learning is as high as demanded by other universities, regularly checked by coursework and exams. Summer schools are set up in some subjects. Personal tuition is planned on a regional basis.
- 4 The idea of such a "*university of the air*" has been copied by many countries, such as China, India, Holland, Portugal, Thailand, and South Korea. Some countries use the same name - *'The Open University'*.

5 *Let us pray:*

**God our Father,  
whatever our age,  
may we always have a thirst  
for knowledge and understanding,  
and be ready to learn  
from all of life's experiences.  
Inspire us always with a sense of wonder  
and a great reverence for life.  
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)