

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Friday 21st April 2023

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Ordering your private world by Gordon MacDonald, has been a go-to book for me for several years.

In the book, he tells the story of a friend of his, who was once an officer aboard a US Navy nuclear submarine. One day, there were many ships passing overhead on the surface, and the submarine was having to make a large number of violent manoeuvres to avoid possible collisions. In the absence of the captain, his friend was duty officer, in charge of giving the commands by which the submarine was positioned at each moment. Because there was such a sudden and unusual amount of movement, the captain, who was in his own quarters, suddenly appeared on the bridge and asked "Is everything all right?"

"Yes sir!" was his friend's reply.

The captain took a quick look around and saw the calmness of a highly trained crew carrying out a series of actions. Although there was danger outside, there was calm and order inside. As he started to go back through the hatch to leave the bridge, he said, "It looks all right to me too"

The premise of the book, is that we live in two worlds, the outer world, where life happens, and the inner world, which holds the outer world in place. If our inner world or private world, is in order and at peace, then we will be able to navigate the dangers and challenges we face in the outer world. But if we neglect the inner world, then the weight of pressure we encounter in life will be such that our outer world will give way and collapse inward.

Proverbs 4:23 says "Watch over your heart (inner world) with diligence, for from it flow the springs of life"

Is everything all right with our inner/private world? Are we paying enough attention to it?