



Prayer for DWF, January 2016:

Dag Hammarskjöld was a Swedish diplomat who served as the second Secretary-General of the United Nations. In that capacity, in 1961 he died in a plane crash on a peacekeeping mission to the Congo.

After his death, his diary was found and published, and the English edition was titled Markings. When I was quite young, I learned of Hammarskjöld and was drawn to his book.

Hammarskjöld, a man of great intellect and deep faith, had a strong commitment to service to others. At one point, he wrote of himself words that those in diaconal work may relate to:

I don't know Who—or what—put the question. I don't know when it was put. I don't even remember answering. But at some moment I did answer Yes to Someone—or Something—and from that hour I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life, in self surrender, had a goal.

If you are not familiar with Hammarskjöld, I urge you to learn more about him and to consider picking up a copy of his book Markings.

For now, as we leave behind the past year and look to a new one, let us together pray Hammarskjöld's simple prayer:

*For all that has been, Thank you.
For all that is to come, Yes.*

Laura Lazar