

# **Moravian Women's Association**

**Devotional Paper**

**March 2022**

## **Dreams and visions**

Rivers in the sky, resurrection plants, trees that work together as a group, are we talking science fiction here, or reality? I recently watched an amazing programme called "H<sub>2</sub>O - the molecule that made us" - a programme filled with the dreams and visions of various scientists, all working for the common good of us humans. Watch it if you have the chance.

As I understand it, water was here on our planet 4.3 billion years ago, making it possible - in the then far distant future - for the human race to evolve. Water is essential for life, and every single drop is precious, we really can't take water for granted any more, we do so at our peril. It was during our time in Jamaica that our family learnt to respect and copy the water saving techniques of our Jamaican brothers and sisters, something that has never left me.

But to get back to rivers in the sky - evidently trees in the Amazon region are able to breathe out more water in the dry season, than they do in the wet, so working as a group, yes, honestly they do, the trees pump water each day into the sky, this water makes clouds which move like a river which flows far beyond the forest and dumps water as it flows, transforming deserts into fertile plains across thousands of miles. So scientists had a vision that they could use that phenomenon to bring water to areas that needed it. Obviously it can only work where the climate is right, but scientists have created a water supply for New York State which uses trees in this way. Water in the desert? Wow!

And another scientist discovered that there were such things as resurrection plants! These are plants that can survive for hundreds of years, as seeds, without water, and as soon as water becomes available, they are resurrected. These plants are rare, evidently, but a scientist discovered that "the genetic potential for regeneration is common, it's in every plant that makes a seed, it just doesn't switch this gene on." So this amazing scientist has a dream that she can modify plants to switch on this gene so that we can grow crops without water, and supply farmers all around the world. Feed the world in other words. What a vision for the future.

All around the planet there are people, some living very ordinary lives, but all with extraordinary dreams and visions, working to make our planet a better and safer place in which to live, and to ensure that the earth survives as the paradise it is. But sadly it's also us humans who are doing the damage, some with dreams and visions that enslave and harm human beings, and bring catastrophe to our wonderful world.

These two specific dreams are ones that we, as caring humans, can all share. All of us have dreams and visions for our families and loved ones. The test is, are we able, as

caring humans, to translate them into hopes for the rest of the world. Jesus gave us the Sermon on the Mount, and for me that is surely one of his dreams for the world, and a vision of hope for the future. I dream with all my heart that we help to make it come true.

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For Discussion

1. If you were a scientist and, thinking about your own specific interests, what would you want to change to help the world?
2. Thinking of Jesus saying 'blessed are the peacemakers' how do we change the thinking of terrorists and fundamentalists who see violence and the use of terror as the way to make people conform to their ideologies?