

Moravian Women's Association

With a little help from my friends

Devotional Paper

July 2014

This will be the last paper on the theme "With a little help from my friends". Over the last twelve months we have considered many aspects of friendship - those obvious in biblical times and still relevant today. We have considered friendship across the generations with Ruth and Naomi and loyalty in friendship in the face of jealousy with David and Jonathan. We have discussed our friendship with Jesus through prayer, faith and hymn words. The disciples gave more than a little help to Jesus and my friends have given "a little help" by writing papers – thank you.

If you started your own friend's prayer list as suggested, I hope you feel the prayers have been answered in some way. God does not always answer our prayers in the way we would want but I hope you and your friends are in a better place than in September 2013. I think I am. Through the love and care of friends and family I am becoming more comfortable with my new life on my own. It is four and a half years since my husband died and although sometimes it does seem like yesterday I do feel that I am going in the right direction.

There are many, many poems and thoughts written about friends. Some of these are found at the back of churches throughout the country and you may pick them up if you are visiting the area for the first time. Perhaps you have brought some of these to your monthly meetings.

I found this when sorting through my grandmother's possessions:

Find time to be friendly, to be kindly always
Though others may grieve you, show Christ's better way
Forgiving and patient, yes, right to the end
For in all its struggles the world needs a friend

Find time to be friendly as well as to pray
For this is what Jesus was doing all day
The lonely found friendship the weary found rest
Thus Jesus was showing how life could be blessed

Find time to be friendly for life passes on, and chances
How many, some day will be gone
So now, while 'tis daylight be friendly to all
Night soon will be coming the darkness will fall

On a lighter note – A good friend is like a good bra – close to the heart and always there when you need support!!

This is another favourite of mine

A friend is someone with whom you can really be yourself
One who appreciates the good in you, the bad in you and brings out the best in you
With a friend you can share a laugh, a secret a point of view, joys or sorrows and problems large and small
A friend is someone who understands silence as well as words, who is with you and for you and stands by you
A friend is someone who lifts you up and never lets you down and who makes you feel that life is all worthwhile

Through your discussions I hope you have strengthened friendships between each other and more especially your friendship with Jesus.

You may like to finish by singing "What a friend we have in Jesus".

Diane Thornton