

Moravians Women's Association

Devotional Paper

July 2016

Messages from the Mountains

Psalm 121

So here we are at the end of another year of Devotional Papers. Each month I have tried to explain where each mountain lies, given a short account of the event or events that took place there and also given my interpretation and significance of the message for us today. It never ceases to amaze me that the Bible, although compiled and written so long ago, still is so relevant today. It addresses all our everyday problems in some way. It may not tell us how to repair our computer or printer when it goes wrong just when you need it or how to deal with a flat tyre on the car, but it does tell us to be patient, there is help available and in the end all will be well. I am writing this having just returned from my first Irish Retreat where we focused especially on two Bible texts involving mountains that had not been used in the year's papers. We began with the comforting words of Psalm 121. (Read it now) They give me a great deal of comfort, an overall feeling of relief, of security and of safety. To paraphrase in modern language - in looking to the mountains I find help from the Lord, from your Lord and mine. He never sleeps; He will always look after me and keep me safe wherever I go not only now but for ever. What a wonderful feeling. It is there with me at home as I look out over the mountain range of the Pennines and there also as I sit in my caravan in Wales surrounded by the beautiful hills of Snowdonia.

It is fifty years, I think, since the wonderful film *The Sound of Music* was first released and so at the Retreat we celebrated by watching the film throughout the weekend. Did anyone pick up on that idea and watch the film within your circles?

During the Retreat we took a step back from the world in that secure knowledge that God was with us. For 48 hours we forgot our regular daily life, focussing on various Bible messages through craft activities and song, through morning and evening prayers and through discussion, finishing with a short dramatisation of an event that took place on Mount Carmel. God worked through the prophet Elijah for many years passing on numerous messages. Time and time again the people of his time turned away from God and began worshipping false Gods. Elijah, in this story, in 1 Kings Chapter 18 v 20 onwards 9 (read this story) once more proves to the Israelites that Yahweh, his God, is the one true God. He said turn away from worshipping the prophets of Baal and return to the Lord. In verse 38 we read that the Lord sent fire which consumed not only the sacrifice made but also the wood, stones, earth, and water around the sacrifice. I take from this passage the message that "with God everything is possible". He did, what for the prophets of Baal and for mere mortals was impossible. If we carry these two texts throughout our lives then I am sure we will draw nearer to God and His strength and peace will help us through every situation.

"I look to the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help will come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will protect me now and for ever".

“With God everything is possible”

Diane Thornton