

Moravians Women's Association

Devotional Paper

May 2016

Messages from the Mountains

Acts Ch 1 v 6-12

Again the Mount of Olives features in a significant event in the life of Jesus – His Ascension. This was the time when Jesus eventually left his disciples and his earthly presence and was “taken up to heaven” to be with his Father. Far from it being a sad occasion the disciples celebrated his going as it was in effect the beginning, not the end of their relationship with Jesus. Jesus had appeared several times after the resurrection the first being to Mary in the garden. Almost his first words to her were “Do not hold on to me because I am not yet ascended to my Father”. Following further appearances in the upper room, by the lake and on the road to Emmaus the disciples were beginning to understand that the resurrection was a physical reality but it was part of an ongoing spiritual experience as well. When he was on earth Jesus was limited. He could only be in one place at one time but after his ascension and subsequent out pouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost he could be everywhere. His ministry was limitless. In Luke’s account of the ascension it says “As he was blessing them, he departed from them and was taken up into heaven. They worshipped him and went back to Jerusalem, filled with great joy, and spent their time in the Temple giving thanks to God”.

Somehow they knew that whatever happened in the future “all would be well”. Those words are familiar to us as we sing them in the hymn

Through the love of God our Saviour all will be well

Free and changeless is his favour all will be well

Though we pass through tribulation all will be well

Ours is such a full Salvation all will be well

The disciples were ready now to face the world, to become messengers of God’s word and to work tirelessly in his name. Later at Pentecost their conviction was confirmed and the Christian church was born. We are part of that ongoing church family. That transforming journey that the disciples undertook after the Resurrection has become a world wide phenomenon, a global institution and it continues to be so as more and more people hear about Jesus. The message today is that through our faith we believe that despite all the trials and pains of this life we need not fear because through Christ, who rose, ascended and was glorified “all will be well”.

We expect a bright tomorrow all will be well

Faith can sing through days of sorrow all, all is well

On our Father’s love relying, Jesus every need supplying

Or in living or in dying all must be well

For Discussion

1. Do you feel that your church congregation part of this great ongoing story? How do you spread the message in your community?
2. Has your faith helped you in times of trouble?
3. Do you find comfort in the hymn words “all will be well”?