

## Moravians Women's Association

Devotional Paper

June 2018

### The Power of Living Water Matthew Ch 14 v 28-33

The paper this month follows on closely from last month. Matthew is the only one of the gospels that records Peter walking on the water to Jesus. We learn in Matthew Ch 14 v 22-28 that, as in our discussions last month, Jesus is always there in our time of need but Matthew also talks to us, through Peter, about our own faith - another great truth is spelt out against the backdrop of Lake Galilee.

The passage tells us much about the character of Peter. He often acted on impulse. He acted before fully facing up to the situation. He did just the same thing when he affirmed loyalty to Jesus and then denied all knowledge of him three times in the Garden of Gethsemane. Because Peter acted on impulse, he often failed but his heart was in the right place. He always acted out of love.

Round the walls of the main hall at the secondary school that my eldest granddaughter attends are written several great sayings connected with education. One of them says 'I can deal with failure but I cannot deal with failing to trying.'

Peter can not be accused of failing to try. But can we? Often we are too frightened to try a new thing or we are put off by surrounding circumstances. We don't want to step out of our comfort zone and feel others could do a better job than us.

Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus but when he realised what he was doing he became afraid. "Oh man of little faith. Why did you begin to have doubts?" Jesus said to him.

Time and time again history has shown us that it was the faith of our forefathers that carried them forward, kept them on track and gave them success in their pursuits in the end. In the case of our early missionaries it was their strong faith in God that gave them the determination to try and try again. In so many places in the world today we can see the fruits of their work. The *Word of God* that flowed through the Bible has flowed through our own Moravian history through people like Zinzendorf, Dober, Nitschman, Cennick and Montgomery. The list is long! More recently the *living water* has flowed through people like Kate Hettasch (Eskimo Kate). She was born in 1905 to missionary parents, and spent most of her life teaching in Labrador. The *living water* still flows on today as new work is started in places like Peru. I think faith can be described as hope or trust. If so, it was hope that got Peter out of the boat and trust that kept him walking, but as soon as his focus moved away from Jesus he sank.

Jesus did not want Peter to fail so he immediately stretched out and grasped him. Jesus does not want us to fail. He does not want our congregations to fail or our church in this Province to fail. We will not fail if we put our trust in God's word; if we remain focused on him and continue to let that *living water* flow through us. Little by little we will be successful. We will be able to reach out to others and be part of that river flowing on to eternity.

For Discussion

1. Sometimes it is necessary to act on impulse. Are you one of those people like Peter?
2. Do you feel that you and your congregation are part of that *living water* and, if so, how?

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