

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost 10 Thanks for the Memories. See You in heaven

I send greetings from Orange in NSW Australia. I arrived here on Wednesday at 1.00pm. I went shortly afterwards to Ascott Gardens Nursing Home to see Mary Williamson. She was still fighting to stay alive at age 101, but it was obvious that her time was short. I had made up my mind to come only on Tuesday morning because of the deterioration of her condition after a fall. I sat with her for about an hour. She could not respond, so I spoke to her from my heart. I said, "I have come as promised and you can let go now. You can relax within yourself and stop fighting. You are safe, and you can reach out for the hands of the Lord because he is reaching out to you. Please relax and let everything go, trusting in the Lord's care." I said all of these things over and over, until I felt quite exhausted. Finally I said, "Goodbye beautiful lady. I will see you in heaven."

Then I went out to see her son and daughter who were waiting outside. The son's name is David and the daughter is Moina. I told them all that I had said to their mother, particularly about the last words. They went in to see her after I had spoken to them. Mary died 20 minutes later. The family rang to express huge appreciation. They felt that she had been waiting until I arrived, and that she had then given up the fight. This meant that she could slip peacefully away without further struggle to hang on. The timing of my arrival was perfect.

This ended a relationship of over forty years that has been in huge encouragement and support to me. She had written her own eulogy for the family, picked the hymns for the service and the readings, arranged that I should give the address, and given me instruction about the content of the sermon! That is, it should contain the proclamation of Christ's saving death and resurrection as the basis for our salvation in the blessed assurance of being with God for ever through resurrection. It is not often that the preparation is so comprehensive!

What does friendship mean in a Christian context? Mary has chosen What a Friend we Have in Jesus as one of the hymns. What does having Jesus as a “friend” mean? He says, “You are my friends if you do what I command you...but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father” (John 15:14-15). This is a tough friendship! I guess that our personal friendships within the Body of Christ have a lot to do with what insights our friends reveal about Christ to us and the conduct they draw from us by their example. Thanks Mary, for what you showed me about Jesus and the self-discipline that you encouraged in me because you trusted me. Goodbye beautiful lady. See you in heaven. My thanks to the Wardens and others who encouraged me to come and see Mary and to visit Valerie. She sends her love.

Bishop Arthur Jones

TO PLAN:

August 22, Monday.

- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm

August 23, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Jeremiah 15:15-21;

Psalms 26;

Romans 12:1-8;

Matthew 16:21-27



**REMINDER TO
PARENTS/
GUARDIANS:**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
STARTS**

**SEPT 4TH. REGISTRATION
FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE
CHURCH ENTRANCE.**