



MU Australia
Part of the World Wide Mothers' Union

EDUCATION NEWSLETTER MARCH 2011

Dear Friends,

I'm gradually learning the right way to run the MU Australia Education Department, although I seem to be making a number of mistakes along the way. Fortunately for me, you have been very gracious, gently pointing out to me the various oversights I have made so far. I think a line from a Beatles song sums up how I'm feeling 'I get by with a little help from my friends'.

As we're currently in the season of Lent, I've recently been studying those wonderful passages in John's Gospel, chapters 14-17, where Jesus prepares his disciples for his imminent departure.

In John 15 v 14-5 he says

'You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.'

What an incredible privilege and joy, Jesus was elevating his disciples to the level of being his friend. Not his servants, who aren't entitled to any explanations about what they are asked to do, but his friends to whom he explains what he is doing and why. *'Everything that I learned from my father I have made known to you'*.

What is even more incredible is that he has extended this same privilege to us, who believe in him today.

I'm finding it both exciting and humbling to be making so many new friends through my new MU role, but to be Jesus' friend is a much greater honour. So why are there times when I don't treat him as my friend? I like to spend time with my friends, and if we aren't going to cross paths, I make an appointment to 'catch up', and yet if I'm tired or very busy I'm likely to cancel my time with Jesus – 'I wouldn't be concentrating anyway, and he understands'. Yes, he does understand, and he's used to being deserted, after all that's what happened in Gethsemane, just a little while after he called his disciples his friends. *They all deserted him and fled.* (Mark 14:50)

So this Easter, let us treat Jesus as our best friend, because that's what he is, and let's remember the great privilege he has granted us by calling us to be his friends.

I have attached a copy of the one page Easter Devotion 'Towards the Goal' which I posted on the MU Australia website. You may find it useful as a devotion in a service, or as a handout to take home from an Easter meeting.

Please email me details of any Lenten or Easter meetings you have held so we can share them as resources for future years.

Grace and peace to all,

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