

Wonder Women! – Then and Now
President’s Letter April 2021

Dear Sisters

By the time you read this Easter will have passed. I know that PEC have agreed that some services can be held over the Easter period so I hope you were able to attend a service, especially on Easter Sunday when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I would like to remind you all that if you wish to join the MWA Day service on 17th April at 2pm I do need you to email me on janet.cooper@moravian.org.uk. Once again, if you haven’t used Zoom before I am more than happy to have a practice run with any of you before the service. Central Committee will be meeting on 16th April also via Zoom so please keep this meeting in your prayers. In my May letter I will bring news of a new theme, new projects and new members of Executive Committee.

I have had the privilege this month of also writing the Devotional paper – I chose the novelist and poet Anne Bronte as my “Wonder Woman” and I hope you enjoy her story as much as I do. I am going to finish this letter with two of her poems, so you may wish to break off reading this letter to read the Devotional paper and then return to the letter later.

“The Three Guides” (1846) was made into a hymn which is included in the black Moravian Hymn Book (311). The hymn is an abridged version of “The Three Guides” – the complete version is freely available online and it is quite long so I can see why selected verses only made it into the hymn! It can be sung to any tune which is Common Metre (CM).

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| <p>1. <i>Spirit of faith, be thou my guide!</i>
<i>O clasp my hand in thine!</i>
<i>And never let me quit thy side;</i>
<i>Thy comforts are divine.</i></p> | <p>4. <i>And still to all who seek thy way</i>
<i>This mystic power is given,</i>
<i>E’en while their footsteps press the clay,</i>
<i>Their souls ascend to heaven.</i></p> |
| <p>2. <i>Pride scorns thee for thy lowly mien:</i>
<i>But who like thee can rise</i>
<i>Above this toilsome, sordid scene,</i>
<i>Beyond the holy skies?</i></p> | <p>5. <i>Through pain and death I can rejoice,</i>
<i>If but thy strength be mine;</i>
<i>Earth hath no music like thy voice,</i>
<i>Life owns no joy like thine.</i></p> |
| <p>3. <i>Meek is thine eye, and softly thy voice,</i>
<i>But wondrous is thy might,</i>
<i>To make the wretched soul rejoice,</i>
<i>To give the simple light.</i></p> | <p>6. <i>Spirit of faith, I’ll go with thee,</i>
<i>Thou, if I hold thee fast,</i>
<i>Wilt guide, defend and strengthen me,</i>
<i>And bear me home at last.</i></p> |

The second poem is entitled “Lines Composed in a Wood on a Windy Day” (1842). I think that the last twelve months have probably made most of us notice and appreciate nature much more than perhaps some of us previously did. Anne was surrounded by wild and beautiful countryside in Yorkshire and she also enjoyed the sea. The final lines of his poem express a yearning to see

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something which she is currently unable to see – a feeling which I am sure most of us can identify with.

*My soul is awakened, my spirit is soaring
And carried aloft on the wings of the breeze;
For above and around me the wild wind is roaring,
Arousing to rapture the earth and the seas.
The long withered grass in the sunshine is glancing,
The bare trees are tossing their branches on high;
The dead leaves beneath them are merrily dancing,
The white clouds are scudding across the blue sky
I wish I could see how the ocean is lashing
The foam of its billows to whirlwinds of spray;
I wish I could see how its proud waves are dashing,
And hear the wild roar of their thunder to-day!*

MIZPAH

Yours in Christ,
Sr Janet Cooper.