

Moravian Women's Association – Devotional Paper – July/August 2025

On The Journey Together

For our final paper, I thought I would focus on the 'together' part of the theme rather than the 'journey.' Over the past year, we have looked at many journeys made by people in the Bible. As MWA members, we share the papers at our meetings, aware that Sisters all over the country and overseas are looking at the same passages and questions as we are. So, in a real sense the journey of the MWA year is always done together. But I am sure that during your Christian journey there are many people, places, books etc which have accompanied you as you have travelled.

Barnabas is not a person we seem to hear too much about in church, yet he is a vital character in the life and development of the early church. We first come across him in Acts 4:36-37, where we learn that his real name is Joseph but he is known by his nickname, Barnabas – because this means 'One who encourages' – what a lovely nickname! It is Barnabas who takes Saul/Paul to the disciples when they have rejected him. Barnabas accompanied Paul on many missionary journeys, he was clearly a dedicated follower of Christ.

Read Acts 11:22-26

The good work that Barnabas did is hidden in the Scriptures and he probably doesn't get the recognition he deserves.

I'm sure there are many people who have been with you on your journey, whose influence is known only to you. So, I thought I would share with you some of the people, places, books etc which have accompanied me on my journey.

Firstly people – I didn't come from a church-going home so it was my early Sunday School teachers who were instrumental in developing my budding Christian faith. Later, I joined Brownies, Guides and Rangers and was fortunate that the leaders were committed Christians and role-modelled their faith-in-action to me as a young girl and teenager. I grew up in the C of E and the vicar and his wife – Andrew and Pippa - were very interested in youth work and again showed me what it meant to live as a Christian. Fellow Sisters and Brothers who I have been fortunate to meet and to get to know as a result of my involvement in various congregations and MWA have inspired me by their faithful lives. Over the past two years, I have been blessed by being part of a loving, stimulating and challenging Christian community at the Luther King Centre in Manchester. I could go on and on and on....

It wouldn't be me if books had not played an important role in my life. As a small child I had a book of my Mum's called 'Before I go to Sleep' by Enid Blyton which contained Bible Stories and Prayers. 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S.Lewis (and his other writings) helped

develop my faith. In my adult years, I have particularly enjoyed the writings of an American Episcopalian Priest called Barbara Brown Taylor.

And finally, music! There are many hymns I love but the one I most often turn to is 'Be Thou my vision.' The tune and words are so beautiful and inspirational. The music of U2, the rock band has and continues to accompany me throughout my life. Often the songs are not overtly Christian but the message is there for those who have 'ears to hear.'

I could continue – the point I hope I have made is that our journey is never one that we take alone and I thank God for everything and everyone that has brought me to where I now am.

For Discussion

What and who have accompanied you on your Christian journey?

If you would like to meet again during the Summer, perhaps you could complete this year's MWA Journey by bringing books, music, photos etc to share with others the things and people that have inspired your Christian journey.