

Growing Towards the Light



In her late teens, while still at school, Sister Marie wrote a letter to the People's Friend magazine and she was awarded "Letter of the Week". For this she received a lovely 21-piece teaset, a plate of which we still use in the Community. The letter has a message so we thought we would share it with you

"For about ten days a vase of tulips graced our living-room. Each beautiful petal was delicately coloured a pale pink, merging into an almost transparent white. Their proud heads were raised towards the window, through which glimmered the pale spring sunshine.

The radiance and warm beauty of these flowers overflowed into our room until they gradually faded, their parchment-coloured petals falling past the withering leaves.

I think a lesson for us all can be found in those tulips. Daily they grew towards the light. Never were they drawn towards the darkness. Their beauty was pure and unsullied.

If only we, too, could always grow towards the light. Then we, like the tulips, would be able to fill a room with our radiance and draw others to us by the warmth of our personality. What a blessed gift God offers us, but we so often grow towards the darkness".



The past few weeks have seemed very dark as we have heard of the death of so many of our friends and perhaps relatives too. Even as I write this, one member of our Community has lost a close friend. Sometimes the darkness seems to overwhelm us and we become bowed down with grief but we turn, howbeit only slowly, towards the light. It is Jesus drawing us ever closer to Himself and he cups his hands under our chin and lifts our head up that we might bask in His presence.

When I was a child I had a recurring dream that I was in a dark tunnel but I could see in the distance a hole with light shining through and I was travelling towards the light. I came to see that this is a picture of our life from our conception in the womb to our death and beyond. We are travelling towards the light which is the Light of eternity present in the world now. This is a paradox. It is the Light of Christ who has come into our dark world and becomes our joy and hope for the future.

Sometimes it seems that Jesus has turned his back on us but he turns away so that we will not see the deep sadness on His face, that the world is blundering on in sin and disobedience in spite of His life poured out for us at Calvary. How we grieve him by our sinning and how we spoil his beautiful world by our greed and selfishness. But that is not the end of the story. Every single person who says "I'm sorry" causes Him to turn to us again and we see a smile on his face as our sorrow (repentance) opens up the way for Him to renew the earth, and our lives, through the gift of His Spirit.