

Thought for the day – Wednesday 6th March 2024

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Millie

I have written previously about Pat and Tom, who gave such sterling help in the Coffee Shop I worked in before I was ordained. A third person, I must mention is Millie.

Millie, was younger than Tom and Pat, and went around at a slower pace than Tom, but slightly unsteadily on her feet. She seemed frail but had a very strong personality. What really stood out was her consistency. She helped, if not every day, then at least 4 or 5 days a week. She was softly spoken, but could raise a loud call when delivering food to customers. We could often hear her from the kitchen as she went out, bellowing " Two brown Salmon Sandwiches?" She had a good sense of humor. A colleague and would sometimes break into silly songs, and she would suggest, with a twinkle in her eye that he "tuned the instrument first!". Her main task was to clear the tables and operate the dishwasher. That was a role that often attracted a lot of help, but Millie was very adaptable, showing the new person how things were done, and working around them.

I remember Saturday the 17th August 2002. It was my 30th birthday. And I was gearing myself for a very busy day in the coffee shop. Saturday was our busiest day any way, but recently two other nearby coffee type shops had closed down, and so business was really booming. Usually on a Saturday we used to be assisted by home groups, (people who met in homes during the week to study the bible and pray) who would take it in turns to come and help. However on this particular Saturday, I knew in advance that no one from the designated group was able to come. It was going to be just me, Millie and another volunteer who would be with us in the morning, who would have to serve around 300 customers. I braced myself for chaos, prepared more than usually beforehand and prayed! Thankfully all went well. It wasn't as busy as it could have been, and another volunteer turned up unexpectedly to help. However, reflecting back, what I do remember is, the only reason I felt I could face the day then, was because I knew Millie would be there to help.

Thank God for faithful friends, who are consistently there for us. They give so much to us and over a long time. They often act as load bearing walls in our lives. I also thank God for all who faithfully serve St James. There are too many to name! I will probably write about them in about 20 years time!

May we serve God and others equally faithfully.

BIBLE VERSE:

Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.

So you will find favor and good success
in the sight of God and man.

- Proverbs 3:3-4