



Blog by Billie Jo Waugh

Jesus says, "I have called you my friends, because everything that my Father had made known to me, I have made known to you." – John 15:15

I belong to several internet discussion groups (as well as a closed Facebook group or two) of people interested in the same things that interest me. For example, I exchange information and photographs with other photographers, several whom I've never actually met. And there is another group of us who really enjoy really, really, bad puns. I've never met some of them either.

My online internet friends list goes on to touch on many other interests and passions as well, and I've made many good friends this way. We hail from all over the United States, Canada, England and Australia. Some of us live near enough to each other to have managed to meet. Others I may never meet face to face. Yet, I find myself carrying on conversations as though they had never been interrupted with folks I've never been within 10,000 miles of. Because we already know each other! Why? Because we've been reading and sharing with each other what we've written on online.

Through the wonders of the internet we have come to know and care about each other. It has become less and less strange to realize that I now have friends that I've never hugged, never shaken their hand, never looked into their eyes. But, I have been touched by their souls, seen the good in their hearts, and felt the warmth of their concern. Yet, these friends are not friends untouched. I have been touched because they have been there when I needed them. I have confided in them. And they have confided in me. They are some of the kindest souls I have ever known.

Now, it occurs to me that this may be similar to what Heaven will be like. When I get there one day, by the grace of God and the sacrifice of Christ, there will be many there whom I've never met but I will instantly recognize. Among them will be Moses, Samuel, David and Solomon, Nehemiah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and all the other prophets. I'll see Anna, Deborah, Abigail, Dorcas, and Esther. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John...and James, Peter and Paul will be there too. They won't be strangers to me, because I've read their stories and what they wrote to me. We might sit in the shade of the Tree of Life for as long as we want, sipping on a cool glass of living water, discussing what we did on earth and praising God who made all things possible.

Most of all, I will get to see Jesus in person and thank him for what he's done for me! And again, I'll already know him because I've been reading his word! The significant difference is that, in this life, we must sign off from our computers and live our daily lives. In Heaven, there will be no parting.

By the way, isn't it fun to read a letter from a dear friend? If we're Jesus' friends, shouldn't we continue reading his word and getting to know him better?"