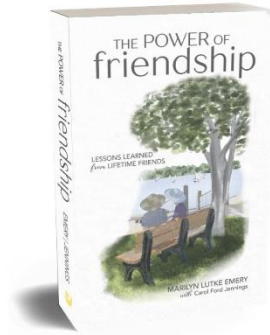


EXCERPT – THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP

Our friendship meant the world to both of us, and it was such a relief that Carol was still alive. In my heart, I felt certain that God would heal her, and she would work hard to survive this debilitating stroke.

I said, “I’ve been working on writing my family memoir. God directed me to put that project on hold for now, and to write a story about our lifetime friendship journey. Together, you and I can write a book about our friendship.” Since Carol appeared to comprehend what I was saying, I continued. “Carol, I will need your help. It’s our prayer that you survive this stroke, which will allow you to assist me by sharing ideas as well as the steps you will take during rehabilitation.”



Not only was Carol attuned to what I was saying, I could tell how relaxed and happy she seemed as she grabbed my hand and shook her head in a positive “yes” motion. We both understood that when Ford (Carol) and Lucky (me), used our Lee School nicknames, and when we agreed about something, it was going to happen. The vow we made to each other was sealed with a hug between two forever friends.

A tear slowly trickled from the corner of Carol’s left eye. She closed her eyes.

Carol

I lay on the bed with my eyes shut tight. I wanted to spend time in the security of the darkness to digest everything Marilyn had said about the two of us writing a book about our lifetime journey.

Marilyn and I are going to write a book about our friendship and the journey we have taken and are now taking. I can hardly speak, but with faith in God and with the love and help from family and friends, we can do this. Yes! Marilyn and I are going to write our friendship story.

Lesson: God’s spirit moves us forward in the face of adversity.