

SOMETHING FOR A FAMILY REUNION

I'm what you might call a new person on the block having only been here for three years. But in that short time I have observed the influence the Marfells have had and still have on the district. The minute books of community organisations such as the Red Cross, the school and the church are filled with the surname Marfell.

This of course is not the first reunion the Marfells have had. Reunions are a time in which we look back with pride and remember the achievements and contributions of our fore bears. They are times when we look around at our wider family and appreciate what bonds us together. And they are times when we are challenged to look ahead and ask ourselves what legacy we will leave behind for future generations.

I want to briefly touch on these aspects.

FAMILY REUNIONS ARE A GOOD TIME TO LOOK BACK.

Proverbs 29:18 in the bible says "where there is no vision the people perish. At this time when Seddon is reminded of it's roots we realize that if it was not for the people of vision this strong and stable community would not have developed. So today we look back and thank God for placing the Marfell family in our community , for their faithfulness to him and for the vision they had for building a better future for the generations to follow.

FAMILY REUNIONS ARE A GREAT TIME TO LOOK AROUND.

As we are surrounded by family members and remind ourselves of what bonds us together. - the sad and the glad times. It is good to look back and laugh and even shed some tears. Sometimes these are a good time to question a long standing why and to maybe heal a long standing hurt. It is a good time to thank each other for what they mean to us and the gifts of love and acceptance we receive.

FAMILY REUNIONS ARE A GOOD TIME TO LOOK FORWARD

where are we going in life? What are our priorities? What is the very best gift or message we could leave behind us that would help those coming after?

Lastly FAMILY REUNIONS ARE A GOOD TIME TO LOOK UP

The palmist said " I cast my eyes to the hills . Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth". God who created everything around us is able to be relied on at all times. Generations come and go but the Living God remains constant and true.

PRAYER

Eternal God we gather today as we remember and celebrate our roots we think of those that have come before us those who are with us now and we dream of those that will come after us. We share many experiences that have ties with this land. Of fun and laughter and the hard work that brought sweat to our brows. For these we thank-you. As the family has got larger the links have been maintained by telephone and pen. And yet we are still family. Forgive us when we think families and close relationships are a burden stifling our personal freedoms. Strengthen our finest intentions and our richest dreams of commitment to those that we love. May our families be surrounded by love and understanding that only you can bring. This we ask in the name of our saviour who died and rose for us on Easter your son Jesus Christ Amen.

FINISH WITH A BIBLE READING