

Thought for the day: 5-11 October 2020

by Rev. Wendy Sellers

This week's thoughts have been 'written' by Wendy's dog, Albie. He is a mixed-breed dog, rescued from the streets of Romania when aged 3 or 4, and he has lived with Wendy and her family for just over two years. Like all dogs, he enjoys the simple things in life – yet it appears he also has some profound thoughts to share. Please pass on to any children or young people you share your life with – while remembering that to enter Heaven we, too, have to become like children. Enjoy!



Monday - Food

Hi! I'm Albie. My favourite thing in all the world is food.

When I came to live with my family I was about four years old, but I'd never had a home before. So, I was very, very, skinny. And I didn't have much fur. Because I'd had to hunt or scavenge or beg for my food. Now I am the

right size and sleek and beautiful. I look a bit like a dog-seal. This is because I get two meals a day and also some snacks, too.

If I was allowed, I'd eat all day, but apparently that's not allowed. No idea why. But, anyway, I am massively grateful for every mouthful, indeed I get very excited about every meal and every treat.

My mum tells me that humans sometimes thank God for their dinner. I think they should say 'thank you' to God for every single mouthful. Being hungry all the time is horrible and makes you poorly. Being full means you can enjoy fun stuff like walks. So, today, perhaps you should say 'thank you' to God that you are being fed. Get excited about every mouthful. And remember all those who are hungry.

Tuesday - Walk

Hi! I'm Albie. My favourite thing in all the world is my walks. I take a member of my family with me because they need the exercise. They wear special clothes to go for walks and I recognise these and get very excited. We have a few special places we go to a lot – like the park, the rugby field, the woods and Brocket Hall. They are all wonderful and what is the bestest is the smells. We have to stop a lot on our walks so I can sniff. This confuses my humans, who have a very bad sense of smell and so are missing out on so much pleasure. They just want to rush past. Wendy tells me that God created the world. I have to say He did really brilliantly with smells. And squirrels (I love a squirrel smell best of all). The world is full of wonderful things.

Today, try to take things slowly and enjoy the world. Don't rush. Sniff those smells, if you can. Wendy says the human expression is 'stop to smell the roses'. No idea why you'd want to smell a rose - squirrels are much better. But let's thank God for all the things He made and the many ways we can enjoy them.

Wednesday - Escape

Hi! I'm Albie. My favourite thing in all the world is when I escape.

You see, I lived for years on the streets of Romania and I don't really see why my family want to try to keep me in their garden. It's a nice garden, but it's not as exciting as outside the garden. So, whenever I can, I squeeze under or jump over the fence to have a good run around. Usually I just come back, but a couple of times I've got lost and that's really scary.

My humans always come looking for me and they don't give up until they find me. When they do, they are never cross. They are just so happy to have found me again.

Wendy tells me this makes her think of a story Jesus told about a shepherd searching for a lost sheep. And that it makes her realise how distressed and upset God gets when one of His flock wanders off. And how happy He is when He finds one of His lost sheep. I just know that when I'm lost, I'm so happy to be found. Perhaps, today, you should be happy, too, that God found you.

Thursday - Lead

My favourite thing in all the world is my lead. Because my lead means it's time to go out. Often that's for a walk, but sometimes it's so we can get in the car to see other lovely humans who are part of my bigger family.

When I first came to live with my humans I did not like the lead because I'd never had one. So, I bit through my first lead and my second one and my third one, too. That was on the first day. Then Wendy bought an indestructible steel cable lead off something called the internet and I can't bite through that one (I've tried!). But Wendy explained that sometimes to stay safe we have to put up with things we don't like. We even have to put up with some rules, which are invisible leads. She says that God gives humans rules to live by and sometimes that is hard because it feels like that stops your freedom. Yet,

actually, the rules allow you to be happy - just as the lead lets me go to my favourite places. Perhaps, today, we should say thank you to God for caring enough to give us rules to live by.

Friday - Words

My favourite thing in all the world is when my humans are pleased with me. I know when they are pleased because they say nice things. They tell me I am 'a good boy' and that I am 'the best dog in the world'. No idea what either of these mean, but I can hear the love in their voices. This is extra special, because when I didn't have a family no one said kind things. I know my humans love me because of the way they speak to me. I can hear the love in their voice.

Wendy tells me that God speaks to her and tells her He loves her and that makes her feel safe and secure. I have listened very hard and I can't hear God talking to her, so it must happen in her head or perhaps in her heart. It doesn't matter how it happens. What matters is knowing we are loved. Perhaps, today, you need to hear that, too. God loves you.

Saturday - Cats

My favourite thing in all the world is acting like a cat. I can do lots of 'catty' things, like purr when I am content. I used to be able to climb trees, but now that I get dinner every day I find it rather more difficult. I like to chase birds, too, but they are very hard to catch as they cheat by flying away. My best thing to drink is milk, and I love to lie in the sunshine.

Wendy says it is fine to be like a cat. That I just need to be myself. She says God loves everyone exactly as they are - every human, every dog and every cat. And that He doesn't expect us to behave exactly like everyone else. This is good, as I am happy as I am. I do not want to 'be more dog'. Perhaps

we should let all humans be themselves, too, because that's what God wants.

Sunday - Family

My favourite thing in all the world is my family. I've never had one before and it's just great.

At first, the important thing was having a home, because I'd never had one of those, either. So, I spent a lot of time in my crate because it made me feel safe. But then I realised that the whole house was my home and what made it a home was the humans I share it with. Now I get quite sad when they go out and leave me (don't worry, they always come back). As an important family member, I protect them from passers-by by barking and I make sure they are never lonely by snuggling up on the sofa whenever they sit down.

Wendy says that family is very important. That God wants everyone to know they are part of His family and that He would love everyone to make their home with Him. I am just one rescue dog - there are lots waiting for a family and a home. I guess there are lots of 'rescue' humans, waiting for someone to tell them that God wants to give them a home in His family. Perhaps, today, we could tell someone that, because maybe they don't know yet.