

FINDING STRENGTH IN EACH OTHER

by Helen Hazlett

But it is you, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend, with whom I kept pleasant company; (Psalms 55:13)

I never lived alone! I lived with my parents during my childhood, & commuted to college. Then I married, raised my children and lived with my dear husband George for 61 Years. And then he died. I felt so alone!

During the summers, my new family spent the summer in a dwelling we built at Camp Hi to accommodate our office and living space. That is where George passed on, on Sept 1 2018. I was now alone, and it was time to move back to our home in Mantua. George and I had loved our home. Formally a Methodist church, built in 1885, it was the perfect place for us. We hosted most of the Holidays for family and friends. I opened it for community events. But now it seemed so large and overwhelming and I was afraid! I was afraid to go home! I worried and prayed!, And then came Jerome!

Jerome worked at the Canoe Livery. He arrived just a few weeks before George passed. He was single and had a beautiful dog (Rosie). He was looking for a place to live and I was afraid to move back home. I know that God gave me the solution! Part of my basement is a garage, but it is a large space with its own entrance and windows on the south side. With help from my family we made a comfortable living space. Jerome and Rosie moved in. It has worked out well for over 5 years, We live separately, each living our own life, but we get along well.

Jerome helps me in so many ways! He can fix anything! But mostly he provides comfort and security for me and enables me to stay in my own home. And he and Rosie are my friends. Thanks be to God!

DEAR LORD, THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER ME DURING THAT VERY DIFFICULT TIME IN MY LIFE. THE FUTURE SEEMED SO GRIM AND I WAS SO AFRAID AND LONELY. THANK YOU FOR GUIDING ME TO THE SOLUTION OF OPENING MY HOME TO A GOOD PERSON, WHO WAS ALSO IN NEED. I FEEL YOUR PRESENCE AND GUIDANCE EACH DAY. I DEEPLY MISS MY DEAR HUSBAND BUT AM THANKFUL FOR ALL THE YEARS WE HAD TOGETHER AND THE FOR THE GIFT OF CONTINUING TO BE ABLE TO LIVE IN THIS VERY SPECIAL PLACE THAT WE SHARED FOR MANY YEARS.