

©Linda Wegner

## FRIENDSHIP

This evening, after returning from a difficult journey, Sara called to see if I was back. "I just felt like having tea with a friend," she said. I couldn't think of a better welcome-home.

I was weary and struggling to choose a topic for this week's article; Sara's visit helped clear my head and guide my thoughts. "Check out a website with clean quotes about friendship," I told myself, knowing that in the past a word of wisdom from someone else sometimes triggered a bit of insight from me. I typed my request into the Google search line: friendship, clean quotes. Among other things, a website describing Friendship, Tennessee appeared.

Here's what I now know about that community: In July 2007 the town boasted a population of five hundred ninety-six souls, three hundred eleven of them females. Like rural communities across North America, that number has declined in population. Although the median annual income was pretty modest, the median age of thirty seven and a half years means their citizens are, on average, much younger than those living where I do. A little more digging revealed that the town is located in Crockett County and was named for the Quakers who lived there. That's really all I know and I certainly am not personally acquainted with any of its citizens but I do hope the town lives up to its name. There's nothing much more valuable than friendship.

Without resorting to further research I thought of classic definitions: "a friend is someone who knows all about you and loves you just the same" comes to mind." "A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words."

"...a true friend is closer than your own family. " Proverbs 18:24

Carry on, Friendship!