

## **The Owner, the Blind Horse & His Good Friend**

by Lynette Ecord

*“A man’s friends should be kind to him when he is in trouble. This should be done even if he stops fearing God.” Job 6:14*

I heard a story recently about two horses who live in a field. From a distance, each looks like any other horse. But if you stop your car or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing. If you look into the eyes of one of the horses you will see that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to get rid of him, but has made a good home for him. If you stay and watch and listen you will hear the sound of a bell. You will see that it comes from the smaller horse out in the field. Attached to her halter is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her. As you stand and watch these two friends, you’ll see how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray. When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn’t too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owner of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we aren’t perfect or because we have problems or challenges. Like the owner of the horses God watches over us, and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need. Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those whom God places in our lives. Other times, we are the guide horse, helping others see the way. Good friends are like this. You don’t always see them, but you know they are always there.

The Bible has a lot to say about the importance of being a good friend. In the book of Job, chapter 6, and verse 14, it says “A man’s friends should be kind to him when he is in trouble. This should be done even if he stops fearing God.” When the Bible talks about fearing God it doesn’t mean being afraid of him. It means that you are in awe of His majesty, power, wisdom, justice and mercy – that you adore

and worship Him. So what this Bible verse means is that we should always be a kind friend – even if one of our friends doesn't love and worship God anymore. God never stops being our friend, and He wants us to be that same kind of friend to others.

Many years ago when I was a little girl, in Sabbath School we sang a song that helps us remember how we should treat others. Maybe you know it too. It went like this, "Be happy, be kind, be loving, be true. I'll meet you in heaven and live next door to you!". Let's always remember to be a helping and kind friend who shows others what it means to live like Jesus!