

A Story for All – July 12, 2020

Written, illustrated and told by Jeff Cook

One day a clown released a whole bunch of balloons into the air.

Some of the balloons got caught by a wind and blew towards the ground, where sharp blades of grass caused the balloons to 'POP'.

Some of the balloons rose into the sky and into some clouds, and no one could see them anymore.

And some balloons floated high in the sky, bobbing up and down and side to side – red and blue and yellow and orange and green and pink balloons – and lots of people looked up, pointed towards them and smiled, saying, "Look at the balloons dancing in the sky!"

The clown had no idea what would happen to those balloons, but the clown hoped that the balloons would cause some people to look up and smile.

We can never know how we might help others to smile:

- by displaying in our front window a picture we drew and coloured, we might bring a smile to the face of someone walking by...

- by doing something helpful for someone else (like holding open a door for them), we might inspire that person to do something helpful for the next person they meet...

- by phoning someone or sending them a message to say we are thinking of them and that they are a special person, we might help them feel like dancing

- by waving at someone we see strolling down the street, we might make the world seem a little friendlier to them...

Jesus told people to love one another, and to look at flowers growing in the field, and to help others. If they had balloons 2,000 years ago, I suspect he would have told people to look at the balloons dancing in the sky...and to smile.

We never know what might happen when we are kind to others, but every time we are kind, I'm sure God smiles.

Prayer:

God, thank you for dancing balloons, and waving neighbours, and the shade of trees and the warmth of sunlight – and thank you for all of the opportunities to be kind to others and to share Your love. AMEN