



Hello all,

I began this message about a week before Christmas, and then "stuff happened" as is so often the case. As some of you likely are aware, I can usually manage about 3 or 4 hours of light activity per day, with the rest of the day largely taken up by rest and managing the pain caused by my spinal injury from three years ago. Until now, those few hours have been taken up by regular household duties, and more recently, the tasks with the Helping Hands Project that I have supported here for many years. That Project is wrapped up in the main, and I can direct my thoughts to good friends that have been neglected by me for too long.

I have treasured the visits we may have had, the messages exchanged, and the hugs and affection shared when we were able to be together. The long-distance phone calls with no concern about how long

we talked were especially good. Thank you for wanting to share those times with me.

Christmas day dinner at Friendly Forest this year saw a smaller group than some years. That is good news in that more of my neighbours and friends have had family come to them or are travelling to be with family. Those who are coming here shared in a pot-luck dinner that always proves to bring together great friends and great food. The trees were covered in hoar frost and the temperatures were mild; the picture perfect setting for this celebration

Last autumn Ryan, a nephew of mine, opted to move in with me and has personalized the guest bedroom and added a few personal items to other parts of the house. I am glad that he is not like the male dogs I have introduced here in the past as their territorial markings were quite different than a few objects or images on a wall.

He is working with a partner in a new business just North of Prince Albert. With long work hours and a special girlfriend who comes back to Saskatoon Ryan is not here all that much. Ryan shares my love and respect for this forest land and he undertook to clear all of the walking trails last fall. The beaver and some strong winds and several years of neglect made for a big job, but one that was very well done. Thank you Ryan!

When the local beavers decided to take trees from right beside the house, and to do so brazenly (or desperately) in mid day, I admitted defeat of my efforts to keep them under control. I asked for the assistance of the Municipal Pest Control officer, and over several evening visits, Duane was able to dispose of 26 beavers. There are still two remaining

under winter ice. While most of them were here for most of the summer, others moved in as the local population was reduced. There is a general drought and drying up of other suitable habitats in this area. Unfortunately, the RM is billing me for all of them.

In the Spring of 2019 I started to add to the time I could do things in my shop. From an initial 20 minutes per day, I was able to move that to several hours a day. Of course, that meant other things were seriously neglected, but I was having a great time trying out new ideas in the shop. If you are interested in recent work, you can check out my restructured web site at www.friendlyforest.ca

My niece Morgan got married this summer and a wonderful event was also the happy opportunity for our family to re-connect and for us to meet new friends.

If you are one of my friends with whom I try to keep regular email contact, I need to apologize for break-downs on that "regularity" feature.

In November I was able to meet people interested in the healing nature of Inipi ceremonies. I was able to host a group of people who genuinely valued the gifts of Creator shared by that way of connecting. I trust that these new friends will soon become well known friends and that we are able to be good spiritual supports for each other's journeys here on this side.

To each one who receives this note, know that I know you to be a great blessing to me and others, and that in turn, I pray that you may be blessed.



He did not come to change God's mind about us. It did not need changing. Jesus came to change our minds about God-and about ourselves-and about where goodness and evil really lie.