

Dear friends,

Did you know that Hedgehogs like Barbeque Chicken flavour crisps? No? Well, I can assure that it's true for at least one of these little creatures. Let me explain.

The other evening, Graham and I took the opportunity to pop over to Tonbridge and spend the evening in our garden there with other members of the family and a nice cold drink. Dusk was falling and there was barely a sound to be heard. We noticed a bat flying around catching insects and spent some time watching it and marvelling at its acrobatics. Then we became aware of a small frog sitting motionless on the terrace and a newt scuttling along the path towards our small fishpond. We couldn't help thinking how wonderful God's creation is and how lucky we are to have the opportunity to sit and quietly enjoy it.

But then our moment of peace and quiet was broken, not, as you might think, by a child crying or an engine roaring, but by a very strange rustling sound. We took no notice at first, but the sound got louder and seemed to be more frantic, finally it became clear that we would have to investigate its source. Guess what we found. A hedgehog, making its nightly foray across the gardens had come across an empty crisp packet that had been carelessly discarded and blown across the lawn. In an attempt to finish off the contents it had managed to get its head right inside the packet, but once inside, it had been unable to get back out again. The poor creature was thrashing around and bumping into things in an attempt to free itself, but to no avail and it was obvious that we would have to help, although neither of us was willing to go near it while it was still so frantically active.

Eventually however, it became aware of our presence, and probably as a result of sheer terror, it became perfectly still. At last Graham could step in and it took him virtually no time at all to help the hedgehog out of its predicament. But it got me thinking. How often do we get ourselves into situations that, try as we might we are unable to get ourselves out of? How often do we thrash around trying to overcome the seemingly impossible by ourselves, when what we really should be doing is to calm down and ask for help?

I believe that no matter how difficult or strenuous life may become, how seemingly impossible our situation might be, we can always rely on our Heavenly Father to help us, all we need to do is calm down, stop struggling and ask for His help. And that really is something to be thankful for.

Wishing you all a very peaceful, relaxing and Blessed August.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Irene', with a horizontal line above it.