

EARTH-BOUND ANGELS, aka "VOLUNTEERS"

You greet us with your hearts and arms opened wide, wearing happy smiles from deep within, offering a bed for the night, delicious, abundant dinners, breakfasts and bag lunches . . . clothing, showers and laundry---*so much more is given*, and sadly, not always able to be received, yet given repeatedly nonetheless.

When you get to know us, you call us by our names, and spoil us with loving forms of healing touch, prayer, and special tidbits, saved "just for you because you liked it." We become a family, community, brought together by common need: One to give and the other to receive, 'tho' in truth, both the same for we cannot truly give without receiving simultaneously.

When it's time for us to move on and give our bed to another, we do so grace-fully, knowing that "but-for" the many kindnesses, love and generosity of spirit of the earth-bound angels we would likely not be ready or able to leave . . . "Will we see them again?" the angels wonder, wanting yet not wanting, hoping for our best, whatever that might be.

For the continuing traveler on life's journey, these earth-bound angels remain in our hearts, *all and ever with us*, a replenishing fountain of loving support and encouragement. *Blessings abound—it is all good!* Spirits of our earth-bound angels go with us, conscious of a joyous re-union that awaits in another time and place.

L.Virginia McCorkle, 5 Feb 10