I was thinking of how you can pick up a phone and call a friend for help even though you have not seen each other in years. I have a story I would like to share, a few years ago, my parents needed to go to Bombay for a day. I was really concerned as my parents did not know anyone there, had no idea where to stay and how to get around. My dad was not keeping good health so was not very mobile. I remembered that Anuradha lived there although I was not sure which part of the town and how her schedule was. I called to ask for advice on if she had any recommendations on how to plan logistics for the visit. She immediately said she will find a place for them and guide them while they are in town. Her husband, Ravi, who I have never met or spoken to before, took the phone and told me not to worry about my parents visit and that he and Anu will help them while they are there. I felt so much better about it after talking to them.

On the day my parents arrived in Bombay Anuradha and her husband went to receive them and convinced them that they will be more comfortable if they stayed at their place so that they do not have to worry about going out to get food etc. To my surprise my dad who is not comfortable going and staying at even close relatives’ places agreed to stay with them. Anuradha and Ravi took the time in their busy schedules to make sure my parents had everything they needed to be comfortable, hosted them and took them around. In the short visit my parents developed a bond with them that you would think would normally take years to develop.

What could have been a stressful trip turned into a very pleasant trip, full of wonderful experiences for my parents. Even to this day my parents talk so fondly of their visit to Anuradha and Ravi’s place and the warmth they felt with their family. So grateful to have such friends in my life!

A few years later when Anuradha visited US I got to meet her family for the first time ☺