



Rev. Dr. Daris S. Bultena, Pastor
Minister of Word and Sacrament

March 13, 2009

What is God Doing?

Dear Readers,

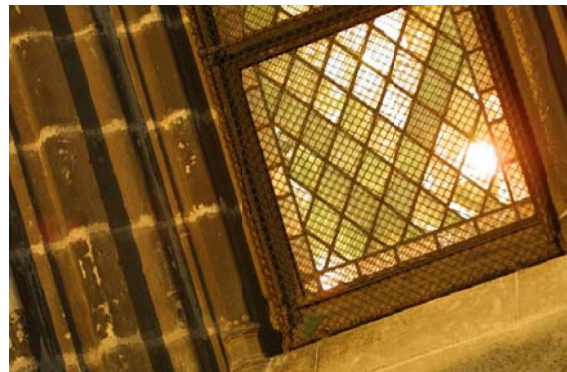
I asked the question yesterday. Actually, I asked it last evening to a group of leaders in the church. I asked them, "What is God doing?" I asked. I asked again. I asked again after that.

The question seemed to come as a bit of a surprise, but it was not rhetorical or even accidental. I literally meant to ask it and wanted to see what their answers would be. I wanted both literal and specific answers to the question of what is God doing?

Answers to the question did come eventually. There was some silence at first, and then the answers started to flow. Some mentioned programs here at church and a few other issues like worship and changes in the church came up. And then it hit me...they were answering the question like we church people tend to answer it. It was almost as if an invisible boundary was drawn around the church such that the very place to look in answering the question was the church itself.

It was a group of church leaders answering the question, so we should somewhat expect that most of the answers will have something to do with church. Sure. Okay. I can sort of buy that. But, there is another part of me that cannot. Here's how I see it. Let's try something. Are you ready?

Look away from your computer screen. (I'm not sure how you are going to do this and keep on reading, but try anyway.) Do it now. Look away from your computer screen. Look out a window. Look as far away as you can possibly see out that window. Now, close your eyes (but don't stop reading this). With your eyes closed, imagine who is out there. Imagine who is way out there across the street or across town. Who are they? What do they know about God? Life? Love? Family? Dreams? What else can you think about them? What do they need? Are they hungry? Alone? Hurting?





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Frightened? In need of something you have or even know? What would it be like if you cared about that one or those persons? Can you imagine them inviting you into their lives, and can you imagine you inviting them into your life?

Now open your eyes and realize that God is out there with those very ones you have just imagined. Yes, God is with you. BUT, God is out there with them moving, stirring, loving, creating, re-creating, making new, redeeming, saving, transforming.

So what do we do now? Now we get up and go out there as far as our imagination extends. We get up and go out there because that is where God is at work. What is God doing? God is moving, stirring, loving, creating, re-creating, making new, redeeming, saving, transforming. And God is ready for you and me to join God in that too.

The church—not the institution, but the Body of Christ, is out there past that window. I know God is at work out there. The wonderful thing is this: God calls us to join in and come alongside God in redeeming and loving this world. In that process, when we meet those out there past our window and they meet us we discover that cousin in Christ we never knew. That is what we are doing at Good Shepherd Church—*changing lives and growing in God's love*—we are opening up the window so that we can join God in what God is doing.

Blessings,
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