

WHERE HEAVEN MEETS EARTH

THOUGHTS FROM MAJOR KEVIN METCALF

EXODUS 13:21-22 (NIV)

By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

In their national infancy the people of God were living in tents in a desert. They had no home and little hope of finding one. They faced hardship. They felt the loss of the life they had known. They were uncomfortable, anxious, worried and desperate. They felt helpless.

And then God came. They still had no recognizable form of government like the other nations. They were still homeless. They were still lost. But God was there. He moved into their camp – and that made all the difference. His Presence was sufficient to keep the faithful remnant moving forward. When the Creator God of heaven and earth moves into the centre of the camp the perspective is altered entirely. So are the priorities. So are the concerns. So is the mission.

We are the people of God. We have concerns. We have anxious moments. We worry about our families. We worry about our jobs. We worry about the state of our broken world. But in a living relationship with the King of Kings, our Redeemer the Lord Jesus, the perspective changes. God is in the camp. Our lives have purpose. Our congregations have purpose. God is in the camp, and that makes all the difference. Life will still be hard. But we know that all will be well. And God's Presence is the guarantee.

We can find this assurance "in the thin place where Heaven meets earth". The "thin place" is an ancient Celtic concept about the bridging of two worlds. For us this becomes an imaginative way to describe intimacy with God. And intimacy with God can only be found through prayer, aided by times of worship and fellowship with the people of God. We are "surrounded" by the grace of God when we meet with Him in our private prayer life. But there is a corporate "surrounding" too, when we gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ, to bring Him our worship and to seek for His Presence and His Power. Our private time with the Lord can certainly be a time for healing. But healing is also found on Sunday mornings as people who care about each other congregate with a common purpose, to spend time with Jesus and to hear the Voice of His Spirit as He meets us at the point of our deepest need.

**"HOLY SPIRIT, COME... LET US HEAR YOUR VOICE.
OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE YOUR GLORY HERE."**