

Thomas Evans' Faith Journey

My journey of faith has been a continual process of an increasing sense of awe and wonder of our amazing God, a deepening sense of the gifts of love and fellowship with God's children, and a more acute awareness of the chasms that we humans continually carve out to distance ourselves from our creator.

Throughout my childhood I felt the love of my family and the joy of life whether through playing sports, watching movies or spending time with friends. Like many young people my hubris was in full gear and I believed I knew all things--delightfully, albeit it at times painfully God has shown me otherwise.

At each successive stage of life whether it was marrying my amazing wife, Wendy, receiving a call to Ministry of the Word and Sacrament, or the blessing of two wonderful children the gracious gift of life continues to grow in depth. Unlike during my youth, now at each successive stage of learning or experience in life I do not feel that what is left to learn and know is shrinking but rather I believe and see that the horizon grows ever wider, ever richer in its hues and beauty.

Yet, in spite of this ever-richer vision of life, or perhaps because of it, my frustration over my own sin and that of humanity's confuses, angers and sometimes disheartens me.

The appalling reality, not only of hungry children around the world, but ones in the wealthiest nation in the history of the world, is shameful. The fact of slavery in the Sudan, sub par education around the country, inequitable health care, and the despoiling of God's creation is without excuse. The fractioning of Christ's body, the church, is an appalling witness to the world. Yet, my own failure to do as much as I should or could towards the transformation of society and to care for others the way Christ has cared for me condemns me as well.

These sinful, broken realities in many ways continue to confirm in my own mind the need of the gospel, the truths of scripture, and the hope we have in Jesus Christ, trusting that in time he will come and make all things new. At this stage of my continuing journey I hope that I might pray this blessing for myself and for all people, with ever more conviction, hope, faith, and love:

“May the Lord bless us and keep us: May the Lord make His face shine upon us, and be gracious unto us: May the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.”