

Minister's Message – April 2008

Star Gazing

Dr Karl, a popular science writer in Sydney recently wrote of a trip he made with his family into the Australian outback ('Open Road' March 2008). He was impressed by the stars and other bodies he saw in the night sky. 'The night sky just fills me with awe and wonder and fascination that the universe is so big and we are so small.' He admitted that we'll never get to the end of our understanding of the universe.

These words reminded me of what another great stargazer once wrote – 'the heavens declare the glory of God and stars proclaim the work of his hands'. It was King David who wrote these words which we find in Psalm 19 in the Bible. Another writer put these words in a song – 'in the stars his handiwork I see, on the wind he speaks with majesty'.

Dr Karl was filled with awe and wonder as he gazed at the stars but was he able to sing the words of this song? We can join him in gazing in awe and wonder at the stars especially as he saw them so clearly out in the Simpson Desert. But what about the creator of these stars? Unlike King David and the songwriter, Dr Karl does not mention anything about the maker of these stars. In the Bible we read 'all things were made through him (Jesus) and without him nothing was made that was made' (John 1:3). 'He (Jesus) is before all things and in him all things consist' (Colossians 1:17).

Scientists today know a great deal about the stars. With the Hubble telescope circling the earth, the new Magellan telescope to be built and space craft being sent to the planets, our knowledge is expanding. Still the scientist, like the child, stands in awe and wonder at the immensity and beauty of the universe in which we live. Did it all just happen as some believe? Are you, like Dr Karl, waiting for aliens to come and reveal the secrets of the universe?

The truth is you can know today the secret of the universe. King Solomon, arguably the wisest man who ever lived, like his father David, knew the secret of the universe. He knew that God created all things visible and invisible. Of course we know much more about the universe than they did but the question of how it all came about appears to be hazier to the modern scientist than the ancients.

Let not great knowledge blind you to the simple and profound truths of the universe. If children can understand that God created the stars why can't we all? Is it that we feel a sense of pride in asking questions only 'aliens' will be able to answer?

Rev. Dr. Dennis K. Muldoon DD