

## Minister's Message – April 2011

### Think Globally, Act Locally

'Think globally, act locally' is a popular phrase. It is supposed to have originated with a town planner in Scotland around 1915. It has become popular in business and environmental circles. It is said that we live in a global village. Even fresh fruit is shipped around the world these days. Have you been enjoying oranges from the USA?

Thinking globally was something Christians did long before this phrase became popular. Jesus told his disciples to go into the all world and preach the gospel. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries Christians travelled all over the globe with the good news of Jesus Christ. Do we still think like this today, or is the church becoming more focused on local issues. Are Christians thinking about the environment and about business on the global scale, but thinking about the church on the local scale? Is global mission still on the agenda of the church?

It is important for Christians to see the 'big picture' in terms of the sovereignty of God. We must remember that God is the God of the universe. To him the nations are as a drop in the bucket (Isaiah 40:15). Many are concerned for the planet on which we live, but remember that God made this planet, and all the planets, and all the stars. This may be mind boggling but this is what we read in the Bible. *He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power. His understanding is infinite* (Psalm 146:4-5).

The great unknown is known to God. God knows all about the tiny atom and its components. He knows about the biggest star in the universe. All matter and all space is known to God because he made it. We humbly say *what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him* (Psalm 8:4).

Your life is part of the big picture of this globe. You are part of God's creation. You may think you are at the centre of the picture and that the world revolves around you! Well you are important to God, but remember you are in the picture; you are not the artist. You are the clay and God is the potter (Jeremiah 18). A correct view of who you are, and who God is, will be a great blessing to you and those around you.

We all occupy space on this globe. We also occupy time. God created time. He is infinite and eternal; he made time. We all find time a burden. We cannot go back in time nor can we go forward – all we can do is watch movies about doing so. We can put our clocks back an hour but we cannot stop the clock. The great Creator set this universe in motion and we cannot stop it. He has a timetable for the universe and we must follow it. That timetable includes a sudden end. It also includes the wonderful day some 2000 years ago when God sent Jesus into this world.

Think globally and act locally is a good principle for the church. It is also a good principal for your own life. As you think about the universe, from the tiny atom to the largest star, and as you think about the passage of time you should act locally. As you think about your life, about where you came from and where you are going you should act.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life* (John 3:16). Jesus birth, death and resurrection has great implications for this globe and for all of space and time. Jesus is alive, alive for ever. If you repent of your sin and believe in Jesus you will have everlasting life. This world, this globe, will come to an end. You may well come to your end before that day. Either way your only hope is in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

*Rev. Dr. Dennis K. Muldoon*