

Minister's Message – June 2006

Everest – Here I Come!

'I climbed Mount Everest' – would you like to be able to say that? Imagine how popular you would be at a party if you had such a story to tell. Maybe you could get your name into the *Guinness Book of Records* though it is a bit late now I think – unless you have only four toes or something like that!

Why are people queuing up to climb Everest? What do they gain? Or is it what they risk that is important? Is it just because it is there? One young man on the radio tried to explain how it taught him so much about himself and who he was. And in the face of danger he appreciated his wife and children much more. The radio host screamed at him 'can't you do that without climbing Everest!'

I must confess I have done a little climbing in the Himalayas. It was a great adventure going with my son and his friends up into the magnificent mountains. I did not find myself, nor did I find God there, but I did enjoy the beauty of God's creation. When we got lost and when I got sick I called upon God there in the mountains, just as I do here much closer to sea level. I found God, or rather God found me, years ago when I was reading the Bible. It is in the Bible that we find out about God. And knowing God we know what life is about.

Do you wonder at times where you came from, why you are here, and where you are going? Jesus knew where he came from and where he was going (John 8:14). He knew why he was in this world. This was the secret of his amazing (and unique) life. Jesus knew he was sent by God the Father into this world. He knew he would suffer at the hands of men and die upon the Cross. He knew he would rise again and return to his Father in heaven. Knowing all this he did not have to seek the praise of men. He did not have to look to himself to find out who he was – he looked to his Father. Jesus lived to please God and he did this by obeying him.

The apostle Paul, a person just like you and me, learnt from Jesus how to live. He wrote *I know who I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep what I have entrusted unto him until that day* (II Timothy 1:12). Paul had more adventures and faced more dangers than he liked to recall – he was shipwrecked, he was imprisoned, he was stoned, he suffered exposure and more (II Corinthians 11). He did not endure all these things to 'find himself' or to 'find God'. He endured them because he already knew God, he knew where he had come and where he was going and he knew what God wanted him to do. *For me to live he said is Christ.*

If you are lost in this life, not knowing where you came from or where you are going, please stop now and ask the way. Jesus said he came to seek and to save the lost. He said *I am the way the truth and the life. All that the Father gives to me will come to me and the one who comes to me I will by no means cast out* (John 14:6, 6:37). What a wonderful promise!

Rev. Dr. Dennis K. Muldoon