

WHERE'S GOD?

By Sherry Carrico

(I borrowed this from my friend Sherry at Olathe Assembly of God in Olathe, CO. Good word!)

If we look at the news, the chaos, murders, lies, evil, destruction, division, death, sickness, brokenness, and on and on you might hear; "Where is God"?

"Finding God in Unexpected Places", a book by Philip Yancey talks about a woman named Joanna who worked in a prison. She brought a simple message of forgiveness and reconciliation. Organized small groups and taught trust. Prisoners were encouraged to open up about their horrific childhoods they had experienced. The prison was changed completely. Asked how the prison was transformed, Joanna said; "Well, of course God was already present in the prison. I just had to make Him visible." Maybe that is our task as Christians; to help others see the reality of God's presence in their lives and situations; and His love, grace and power. God's Spirit helps us.

In Philadelphia, some years ago; I was there with my family. I was amazed as a country girl at the noise and business of the city. I wondered to myself how a person could even concentrate to pray; let alone feel God's presence. There were panhandlers around every corner. One woman was sitting on the pavement next to a building screaming out against the people walking by – not to come near her. I certainly wasn't going near her. The screaming continued and as we walked by we realized she was in front of a door we thought we needed to go into. "What shall we do Lord?" I thought. Could God hear me?

As I stood with my family I was amazed as I felt God's presence, and suddenly I was filled with a great compassion and love for this woman and I walked toward the woman; though she kept screaming for me to get away. I got to her and told her that God loved her and about Jesus. She became quiet and listened. I don't remember our whole conversation, I do know God somehow made Himself known to her and she said, "I have not seen Jesus like this". We talked about her needs and I gave her a little money in Jesus name. She realized the presence of God and again said, "I have not seen Jesus like this before". God was there and saw her need.

When we are in the mountains looking at God's glorious creation; when we are in church feeling God's presence it is easy to realize that God is everywhere. Sometimes in a trial, sickness or loss we feel alone and wonder where He is. He is only a prayer away; though we don't always feel Him He is there saying "Come to Me, I love you".

Psalm 139:7-12 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.