

God Is Mindful of Us (Psalm 8)

Watching the evening news and hearing about the terrorist attacks in London can make you wonder where is God?

Sometimes events happen in our lives which cause us to doubt God's ongoing involvement in the world God created. God remains very active in the world, especially in the everydayness of our lives. There are moments when God breaks in! Moments such as recently when God resurrected one of our congregations and renewed its vitality. A year ago, the congregation reversed the vote to close its doors.

In Psalm 8, the psalmist posed an intriguing question to God:

"...what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? (v.4)

The Hebrew word rendered "mortals" means "weaklings." When measured against the age and stability of the hills, we become aware of our brevity. When we consider the expansive universe, we can feel as tiny as a grain of sand, yet God is mindful of us.

Notice that the psalmist's question is not do you care, instead the psalmist asks why do you care for us.

It can be difficult to understand how God can care so much for us. People have tried to explain it by writing books and songs.

In the following verses, the psalmist suggests that we were made to reflect God in the world:

"Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands..." (v. 5-6)

We were created, blessed, commissioned and given dominion by God— a dominion which is about caring (Genesis 1). Caring by acting on behalf of the poor, needy and weak among us. Caring and acting responsibly on behalf of all creation.

God's caring may require some sacrifice and discomfort as God works out God's purpose in and through us. Purpose ties us to God and our human weakness ties God to us. They both keep God mindful of us.

As we live in these days and times of **crisis**, may we find comfort in knowing that God is mindful of us. It is in God that we *"live and move and have our being"* (Acts 17:28). Amen!

In Christ,

Monica

Rev. Dr. Monica Dawkins-Smith
Conference Minister and President