

***CRIBB<S>NOTE – March 15, 2009***

Can you count the ways in which you are blessed? Do you know how many times God touches you everyday? Have you ever considered how many people make a significant difference affecting your life?

One of the joys of living within eye sight of the mountain range that lines the San Gabriel Valley is experiencing the power and magnificence of its presence. When the psalmist wrote, “I look to the hills whence cometh my strength,” it was a reminder of awesome wonder. Biblical scholar Eugene Petersen puts it more powerfully and poetically:

*"I look up to the mountains; does my strength come from mountains?  
No, my strength comes from [the LORD], who made heaven, and earth  
and mountains."*

There is a sense of warm joy that fills my soul every morning as the view of grandeur fills our window pane. While walking with my son, Arthur, to school in the morning, I look toward the mountains and say, “The Mountains are calling to me.” They symbolize a strength that exceeds earthly and political powers.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. used Psalm 121 as a reminder of the Source of true strength: “Where does my help come from? It comes from God.” The mountains represent Divine power...the Source of true help. They provide an immediate glimpse into that which cannot be explained, but gives our lives real meaning. And there is more.

People who walk passed us in the streets are part of the Great Imagination that binds the human family together. Every one of us possesses a power of presence that strengthens our community, nation, and the world. The intrinsic value of sacred human life creates a bond that gives us pause when something tears at our union. We need each other in ways that exceed differences or shallow, momentary conflicts. That is why it is so important to turn beyond ourselves, even to the Creator and Creation to witness the natural harmony that prevents chaos.

In these days when so much of what we read, hear, and see cause us to ponder our fate or become afraid of strangers or even question our neighbors; when we are made to feel insecure and inconsequential; when life takes an unexpected turn, that is when we are pulled toward God, the Source of life and strength.

We may be lulled into thinking our destiny is in our hands; that we are the masters of our fate, but in reality we are connected to the universe with its dynamic flow of constant changes. We were born into a reality that pre-dates the sphere of our knowledge. It is necessary to point to the elements and observe the mountains in order to gain a sense of perspective.

While there may not be an easy way to predict an exact or precise instant when things will turn corrected, we can share in the journey of finding new ways of improving relationships, offering compassion, and forging a path toward living an honorable life that is prioritized to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.” These days require nothing less.