

CRIBB<S>NOTE - November 30, 2008

We hear people talking about “change” almost every day nearly everywhere we go. During the protracted national presidential campaigns and election, “change” became the word of choice by all candidates. It connoted something different from what has become the standard fare of politics. But, what do people really mean when they talk of change?

Even within the setting of the church, there is an expression of change. Do we have an expectation of something specific? Is there memory of the recent past that fuels our desire for something new? Is change really what we want, or is it a romantic notion of uncertainty?

All my life change has been a constant companion. My track record for moving to new places and establishing new careers is saturated with change. It comes to me as naturally as drinking water or breathing air. My mother used to ask me, “Son, when are you going to settle down?” Her question did not have the effect she expected. My life was settled even as it shifted into unfamiliar territories and places. Change was not a source of fear and timidity. It drove me to seek and explore the vastness of God’s Creation and the diversity of humanity.

Yet, I realize not everyone slips into new places, conditions, situations, or states with the ease of putting on an old pair shoes. Change means breaking from the past and allowing the unexpected to take its course. For many people there is an element of irresponsibility and callousness associated with change. We may even rebel against it.

In reality, change takes place without our encouragement. The dynamics of life make change necessary. Thus, the cries go forth, “O God, where are you?” In the midst of traumatic moments we wonder if God knows what we are experiencing. Is God present with us?

There is more to living than being conscious of our own reality. We are connected to others nearby and far away. Our challenge is to remain aware of the others as we negotiate our way through whatever is happening to us. It is then that we begin to melt away our fears about change. As we turn our attention to the plight others face, we recognize our place in the world is far beyond a singular location. We are part of God’s human family which situates us wherever our spiritual siblings exist.

We are extended an open invitation to go and be present with others and to share their lives as they strive every day to be present with God.

God, where are you? Wherever there is life, God is there.