

Carey's Conversations

"Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."
Jeremiah 33.3

I was reminded this week of a time back when I was a child when I had gotten lost and separated from my parents in a shopping mall. The anxiety began to rise as I feared what would happen if I couldn't find them. Then a thought occurred to me, to go to a cashier and have them call my parent's names and have them come to the front. Lo and behold, it worked - I was so relieved when I realized that, I had not been forsaken by my parents, just momentarily separated.

The events of this hot summer have brought elation and celebration to some, and deflation, and disillusionment to others. Between murders in Charleston, the decision by the Supreme Court to legalize same sex marriage in all fifty states, and astounding visions of Pluto it has presented us with new dilemmas, but also with new opportunities. As one wise soul once said, "Disillusionment is the doorway to clarity."

Charleston proved to be a moment of clarity for me as to the question of 'How should we live in such days?' The people of Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, in the midst of tragedy, and lost in a sea of painful emotions, remembered God's phone number: Jeremiah 33.3: "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known." They made a decision – to take the words and deeds of Jesus seriously, and acted on them. Rather than setting buildings and cars ablaze after the horrible murders of their brothers and sisters, they set their hearts to prayer for the killer, and took up the hard work of forgiveness. I believe this Christ-led response is what our country is in such desperate need of. When we follow Christ and his way of life the kingdom of God breaks in to the kingdoms of this world, and that makes all the difference!

Let us not get lost and separated in the political fog. Let us remember that God is only a call away. Let us trust God to lead us through these interesting times in which we are privileged to live and to build bridges of reconciling love rather than walls of suspicion.

Yours in Christ,
Carey+