

Why God, Why?

It has been quite a summer where I have found myself asking God, “Why?”, and some times, “Why NOT?”.

On August 6, our first grandchild, Tyce Daniel Musgrave, was stillborn to loving parents Dave and Larissa Musgrave. Our lives have been changed forever. The Miracle of Life that we prayed so hard for, was swept from our midst in a moment that lasted an eternity. I cried out to God “WHY?”.

This past week, an innocent, young college woman was brutally slain in her own apartment here in Valley City, a town where most of us leave our houses unlocked, until now. The man arrested for the hideous crime is known to us as is his new family. A life lived of deception and violence, other lives torn apart in despair and grief. I asked God “Why?”.

Just yesterday, a jury decided that the answer to murder is murder. North Dakota’s first death penalty in a hundred years has been handed down. Some people celebrate, some do not. I asked God “Why?”.

A good friend of mine, same age as me, is on his way to Afghanistan, to serve his country during this time of widespread war and terror. He will be gone for 8 months, leaving behind his family and job, heading into the unknown. I asked God “Why?”.

I have prayed for several important things over the summer, all, in my opinion, good things. I have not seen the answer to these prayers in the way I had hoped, if an answer surfaced at all. I asked God “Why Not?”.

I know that many of you have had situations in your lives that have given you cause to say “Why God, Why?”.

It is a human condition. We live in the world. Things happen. We experience life from a human perspective, with human limitations, human failings, human understanding and misunderstanding. We do not know why things happen the way they do or do not. Our human logic tells us that we should not have to suffer and experience pain, but as C. S. Lewis says in ‘The Problem with Pain’ --- “Try to exclude the possibility of suffering which the order of nature and the existence of free wills involve, and you find that you have excluded life itself.”

We can only rely on our Faith for understanding and/or Peace. That is a choice that we make, and we are free to make it or to turn away from it. Colleen and I have chosen to allow our Faith in a Loving God to comfort us and to give us the joy we need to continue to live this MIRACLE, this GIFT of life, no matter how imperfect our world is.

The pain is still there, the confusion still swirls around our heads, we still react in horror and tears, but we know that through all of this,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, God WILL bring joy and goodness. His LOVE, present IN and THROUGH many of His children will bring lasting Peace. We just need to trust and be patient.

The call for each of us, I believe, is to experience the joy AND the pains of this world as Christ did, in self giving service to each other. We all share each others burdens and each others joy. We are Christ for one another. It doesn’t take fancy words or earth shaking actions, it merely takes Love, Christs love for one another. And as hard as it seems, that even means love of those who cause the pain.