

MONMOUTHSHIRE 40p Wednesday, May 6, 2015

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DEAR Friends,

I am sure no heart can have been untouched by the news of the earthquake in Nepal, nor by the immediate support and generosity of the British people through DEC with £19,000,000 raised in just the first 24 hours.

So often when natural disasters like this take place, people will say: "Where is God in all this?" or "How can God let this happen?"

While this is an understandable and very human reaction, the Old Testament Book of Kings has this magnificent passage in chapter 19: "A very strong wind blew until it caused the mountains to fall apart and large rocks to break in front of the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire, there was a quiet, gentle sound..."

I don't know about you, but that quiet gentle sound, and voice, of God springs to my mind, as, writing

this, I hear about a teenage boy salvaged from the ruins in Nepal after five days buried in the rubble, and having surviving on practically nothing. A miracle indeed, if only one in all the death, pain and desolation of everything else surrounding him. And you may say with justification, if God can quietly help do this for one soul, why not for all the others?

This is a question, and I do not pretend to have the answer. But what I do know is that even in the concentration camps during the Second World War, there were many who scribbled in the walls, with their finger nails broken and bleeding, words of belief and trust in a risen Saviour.

When you think about it, the description in Kings is one that scientists too can embrace, explaining as it does in such real terms the beginnings, avalanche and aftermath of an earthquake, and yet the still, quiet and awesome presence of God when in all the devastation there is that glimmer of hope in one young lad beating all the odds.

Thought for
the weak



with the Rev Preben
Andersen

Rev Preben Andersen