



This is a day for taking a breath, but it is not simply an emotional transition between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. There is a question or two we could be thinking about today.

Paul Clasper (1923-2011) was a good friend. In 1950, Paul and his wife were appointed Baptist missionaries in Burma, where both of his daughters were born. Later, he was Anglican Dean of St. John's Cathedral in Hong Kong. Paul always considered himself a missionary no matter where he was. But his definition of the task of a missionary might trouble any Christians who would attempt to put the Way of Jesus into doctrines and rigid boxes. Paul said, "*My job as a missionary is to discover how God is breaking through in cultures other than my own.*"

Today is a good day to ask ourselves, "How is God breaking through in cultures outside our comfort zone?" And what if that breakthrough is a still and quiet process?

In my lifetime, organized murder of the helpless was a prized skill. Hitler and accomplices slaughtered over 20 million non-combatants. 62 million dissidents died in Stalin's reign and a like number under Mao. Today as I write there are 51 million refugees in the world from conflicts in

the Middle-East. And what of the young who die in gang warfare? On and on, it does not stop. How does God break through in cultures of death?

Perhaps a partial answer was found scrawled on the walls of a cave near Cologne where some French Jews were hiding from the Nazi terror:

*I believe in the sun even though it is late in rising.
I believe in love even though it is absent around me.
God is silent yet I do believe.*

This is perhaps an age when God may be silent in order to help us listen to our own hearts.

From Brother Toby's STEPPING STONES: Daily Reflections by an Unconventional Monk.

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