

At home with God: Acts 28.1-10



Today's TFTD is from the Revd Pam Butler.

For many, but not for all, home is a sanctuary, a safe place, a place to relax, a place where we feel we belong and are surrounded by familiar folk and furniture. A bit of a comfort blanket.

'I want to go home' I am sure as children and quite possibly as adults we have all voiced those words. Often this was when we were feeling vulnerable and wanted to get ourselves out of an uncomfortable situation.

People speak of God as their eternal home or of journeying towards God to a place where they feel they can be wholly themselves, a place of sanctuary where they are enveloped by God's loving hands.

I would like you just for a minute to sit quietly and reflect on the situations in which you feel most 'At Home'

Paul could hardly be described as a 'Home Bird' in terms of physical location, he was well and truly itinerate. I wonder if his 'At Home' meant drawing towards God within his inner being.

Paul didn't wander around aimlessly but went where he felt called to go.

Deciding to follow a calling suggests a strong degree of trust in the one who is making the call.

It isn't for the faint hearted or for those who can't cope unless they are in control.

It suggests a person trusts that they are not being sent on a wild goose chase and that their basic needs for food and shelter will be provided. Trust also has to extend to the belief that they will be enabled to do and or say what is needed in the situation into which they have been called. It would also need to include a belief, that come what may, they would not be deserted. There is a freedom in that sort of situation.

Callings may not necessarily be from one particular location to another but to a role that we are being called to fulfil.

I invite you to sit quietly again to nurture that inner relationship we have with God and then to read, one at a time, the three extracts from hymns that are shown below and see if they speak to you in any way.

'Don't get too set in your ways,'
the Lord said.

'Each step is only a phase'
The Lord said.

'I'll go before you and I shall be a sign
to guide my travelling, wandering race;
you're the People of God.

('Moses I know you're the man.' Estelle White)

Here I am, wholly available.
As for me, I will serve the Lord.

(Here I am. Chris Bowater)

Here I am Lord .
It is I Lord.
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart

(I, the Lord of sea and sky. Dan Schutte)

May God bless each of us on our journeys.

With love,

Pam