



FAITH matters

October 16, 2023

I am thinking about this edition of Faith Matters as Sarah, our daughter, and I are traveling in Namibia. I recall Jack Harnish's recent "Creationtide" piece as we are continuously presented with varying and amazing vistas in this vast, low population, huge natural mineral wealth nation. Vistas that make one think of what Creation looks like as one views, hears, learns about the flora and fauna, geology, weather (coming from 6 degrees Celsius into 40 degrees Celsius! 50-104 F), interacting with very friendly people, seeing almost non-existent trash; limited and dropping rain and thus water tables with increasing demands for its use; and striking natural beauty with hundreds of animals (120 Desert Elephants in one day and over 147 different species sighted!).

"He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all. "

Does being here raise questions? Yes! Are they different than those we ask about in our own country? No! Our inhumanity to our own fellow human beings; corruption; haves and have nots/city dwellers vs "township" dwellers; changes in family life and church life (Namibia is 90% Christian - Lutheran, Catholic and more recently Evangelical). Add conservation; recycling; water; diminishing species and how to 'save' them;

Creation, we are called to care for/steward God's world. Are we and how much longer will we be able to see it in some small part as it was created?

Namibians greet each other “How are you my brother/sister? Did you sleep well?” Responding - ‘Fine! Fine!’ ‘ And you?’ They are cheerfully interested in each other! Happy Birthday is sung with drums and words new to us, “May the Lord bless the year ahead for you !”

Peace & Kindness & Caring & Good Humor & Working Together in and for
His Created Kingdom!

Faith Matters!

~Written by Pat Sheafor

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