

Seeing god while Cycling Canada

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September 11, 2005

VIDEO... Hey... how's it going?... PAUSE... Anybody do anything interesting this summer?... LONG PAUSE

Me?... Like said to Newfie in Halifax..."I'z biked across the whole friggen country d'are buy!" ...across one of the widest parts, of one of the biggest countriesworld; "from here to here" PAUSE... GLOBE/ARC...

I *think* I can say... *know* I can say this has been *the most amazing adventure* ever been on!!... physically [Manning Park... Superior]... emotionally [Thunder Bay... relentless headwind into the Peg] and spiritually [The glory of Roger's Pass/Atlantic ocean]

I remember started this tour... back before 'Vancouver rear tire dip'... "When you get to Halifax, you won't want to stop..." first thought nuts... (while not all of my body parts agree."Thank you") I now understand...

This ride has had profound personal effect on me... PAUSE... an effect don't even fully comprehend yet! PAUSE... Small impacts? I grew younger this summer... stronger... more focused/clear... dug deeper ever before... smiled wider... experienced euphoria over and over again... ("amazing"/blog)

While all of this self discovery happening; an even bigger thing played out "Met God on tour... heard his voice on a mountain, felt his touch in the kiss of the wind... dove headlong into his presence and went for a swim... saw his Holy face all over the place...

PAUSE...

"I walk out; I see something, some event that would have otherwise been utterly missed and lost; or something sees me, some enormous power brushes me with its clean wing, and I resound like a beaten bell." Dillard 14

Let me tell you; that changes you... it was so beautiful and such a gift "From God... and from you guys... Thanks New Hope... for the Sabbatical." My ears are still ringing... PAUSE... Seeing God anew does that!

PAUSE... And what exactly did I hear/see learn about God this summer?... PAUSE... Whole bunch of stuff (if you've been reading blog all the details)... biggest thing for me God was there... God is here... faithfully here!... God has not left the room... God is alive and well and with us!...

PAUSE... Over the summer read through last half book of psalms... poet/artist/mental photographer continually talked up God's presence and his faithfulness to his people... faithfulness proclaimed via his actions... through all of creation! Psalm 89

"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever. With my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations..." Psalm 89:1 MY HEART SAID "YES! I'm alive... breathing, seeing, sensing and seeing you God! Life is your love gift to me... to us!"

"Oh Lord God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty oh Lord and your faithfulness surrounds you..." vs 8 So many nightstars cry out, "It's true, just look at us!"

First person!!! "I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness... I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered... it will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky." Psalm 89

All I could do was thank God for the gifts of life and of legs... PAUSE... must have said it a hundred times "I'm alive.. I'm alive!" I couldn't help but see the richness of this gift ... of life!

Like God shifted my life into another gear... PAUSE... (SLOWLY)... "a slower one!"... first he put me on a bike... slowed that bike down...

[JVS RUSH/lolly gaggle conundrum... "Type A get there first hugely driven guy!]"... rode with this couple... Sherry in particular (like exploring kid!)

[Recall Port Hope coffee shop... Race vs tour... dialoged huge loss of never living the present?... ridiculousness of it all... (just seen Toronto mansions!)]... Sherry teared]... LONG PAUSE... wondered if 'heart of God' felt the same... watching us race... miss so much in life... miss seeing God's face all over the place.... LONG PAUSE

[CAMERA symbol of that change – become a lens for SEEING... never done photos before & now couldn't stop!!... (colour/shape/beauty)... everywhere!

"I was blind, but now I see..." PAUSE... It's what the Spirit of God does for lost cyclists... for lost people God opens our eyes again... LONG PAUSE... Jesus did it over and over again... for the physically blind... spiritually or religiously blind... His Spirit is still at it... for those of us blinded by our busyness... other pursuits... by this crazy human race!

"Drop it down a gear... stop for just a second... there's something here on the side of the road..."... Over last weeks asking, "Where have you seen God's face on this tour?" ANGELA She said she felt God's

presence sunrise at Manitiwaning, on Manitoulin Island.... It was a 33k day... rest/peace/joy that morning was a gift from God.

The peace of Christ in times of rest; a 'Honey Brown evening... a warm morning sun coffee!... God's quieting words to us, through gifts of his creation... it passed all understanding!!

And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.
Shakespeare's Duke in —As You Like It, 1600

"And when he was done creating it all "It is good!" & even God rested... & there was peace!

JEFF said he saw God's face in the fog that was floating out over the St. Lawrence a few days back... Mysterious beauty of a mist... God in a Fog... his Spirit hovering over the chaos... a St. Lawrence Pentecost (God's eye opening spirit getting our attention)... LONG PAUSE... [and in TREVOR] ... gospel analogy from Vancouver!!

ME? See God?... Biggest thing? thought maybe community [love, support, bike locked up, tent up, talked up hill]... [Human body]... [CANADA - FAZ] all true but biggest thing Yellow flowers (weeds really!... coast to coast... toil nor spin kings couldn't dress better!... [VGogh]... saw God in the ditch)...

LONG PAUSE... "If God cares there... PAUSE..."

"Then he cares here... about life 'post tour'... PAUSE One of my biggest fears I don't want to lose sight perspective/wisdom gained... clear sense of direction

and purpose... I don't want to have it all fade away... don't want to forget... lose this amazing sense of adventure... start racing again... PAUSE...

Big Q What can I do to prevent?

I could keep on biking rest of my life... (Fran already said no!) ... hit me maybe need to understand my life differently... as a tour... need to take what I've experience to another level... open eyes and realize the journey that life already is... Let the Spirit of Christ open my eyes... [REALITY DEBATE]

Right now we are

1. part of this huge tour that God is leading
2. very strong focus (save the bloomin world)...
3. huge, challenging/risk taking adventure... amazing climbs...high speed descents... a sometimes costly endeavour... so worth engaging... so worth giving a *summer* for... a *life* for!
4. This is reality--- amazing colour, shape, light and beauty...
5. place where community totally amazing!... in part via the people he gives in life (NHC!)... above that knowing of HIM & what he's given us in Christ [We KNOW GOD!] "Eyes opened!"

LONG LONG PAUSE...

(*Whisper*)... This is reality... this is what God has made us for... this is what Psalmists wrote about... We can know God... in all his glory... PAUSE... way more glory Atlantic can offer [JVS felt short there!...

anticlimactic ok with that!],... "not yet" one day dip our tires into a mighty sea... surrounds the throne of God... then ride on forever!

""When you get to Halifax you won't want to stop!..." PAUSE... Don't stop... and praise God gift of life

PAUSE... for your eyes and ears...for your life, for legs... Praise God, for this communityso alive and well... a cycling community... a church comm... A Jesus Christ community! PAUSE

Praise the Lord... PAUSE...

Praise him in his Sanctuary

Praise him in his mighty heavens

Praise him for his acts of power

Praise him for his surpassing greatness

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet

Praise him with the harp and the lyre

Praise him with tambourine and dancing

Praise him with the strings and flute

Praise him with the clash of cymbals

Praise him with your bike

Praise him with a cross country bicycle tour

Praise him with your church, job, relationships, education, your adventures...

Praise him with your all of your life

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord.