

Worship Sharing 8-16-2022

A Living, Breathing Blessing

Emily Provance, March 20, 2022

I intend to share the entire text at the link below

Excerpt:

“When I do witness joyful, beautiful, life-giving moments, they’re often small, between just a few people. Someone opens a door for someone else. Strangers watch a toddler discover gravity. Relative to international warfare, starvation, and human rights violations, such moments seem completely inconsequential. But they are not. We are social creatures made by God to live in community, and we require enormous amounts of ordinary kindness—both giving and taking—in order to thrive, not just cope, in this world.

It makes me think about the famous Fox quotation. We often say “there is that of God in everyone,” but what he really said was considerably more complex.

“Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come...” Not in just the right places, or the comfortable places, but wherever we happen to be.

“...that your carriage and life may preach...” Not our words, but our carriage and life, including all the boring bits, like greeting the bus driver and retweeting a meme and answering phone calls from Aunt Sophia.

“...among all sorts of people, and to them...” Not people with whom we agree, not people we respect, not people we like, but all sorts of people.

“...then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world...” Remember what it’s like to walk cheerfully? There have been times in the last two years when I’ve found it nearly impossible to access that feeling. But Fox said that this can and will happen again, if we can practice being patterns and examples.

“...answering that of God in everyone...” Which presupposes, if we are answering, that *that of God* is speaking in others first. What an amazing presumption.

“...whereby in them you may be a blessing...” To answer that of God in everyone is to be a living, breathing blessing.

“...and make the witness of God in them to bless you.” And to be a living, breathing blessing causes *us* to be blessed, too.”

[May | 2022 | Turning, Turning \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.turningturning.com/2022/05/20/a-living-breathing-blessing/)

Queries

How does this message speak to your experience?

Where are we finding the “enormous amounts of ordinary kindness” we need to thrive in this time?

How does this expanded look at the classic George Fox quote speak to you?