

And everyone was searching for Jesus. And Jesus said: lets us go and proclaim the message, for that is what I came to do.

I do deeply believe that every human being deep down in their heart is searching for something! Often we don't quite know what it is we are searching for, but when we find it, get a glimpse of it, we know it by heart; we know exactly that we have found something, even when we often can not explain it, when often we just don't have the words to describe it.

And that desire seems to be in all of us, yearning for a connection which allows us to make sense of all that is around us; a connection from where we live and in which we live.

And the Gospel talks about this; Jesus demonstrates this connection for us; and in all what he does he heals our broken hearts, bodies and souls.

We are asked to give the good news further on, to share what we found and are finding, to point the way so that others might find the place where their hearts, bodies and souls can heal.

So how do we talk about what we have found, what we hope to find and what we have not found despite our best efforts. How do we talk about our joy, doubt, fear despair, faith and pain; our belief and disbelief???????

“ I became a jew to win the jews, I became weak to win the weak; and so on.

You all might heard by now that I spent part of my past as a chaplain in the hospital. I also spent some days as a patient myself and let me tell you, that was an eye opener!!! After I was a patient for a few days, I realized that I had had no idea what it felt to be a patient.

Same I can say that I had no idea what it felt to feel abandoned by God until I indeed felt abandoned by God. I had no idea what it felt to walk with a walker until I broke my leg.

I have no Idea what it feels like to die, or to have cancer, or to lose a limb; So I don't pretend that I know.

I am an American for a few years and I don't pretend to be a born and raised one, - it also would never work; the accent is a give away - but I try my best in speaking English and following the local customs.

There was an interesting piece on NPR the other day about what it was like to come to Maine as a refugee, perhaps from a hot climate where one had

never experienced snow and cold...There were more, less obvious differences as well. In many cultures, children are taught not to look adults in the eyes when spoken to, as this is a sign of disrespect. Imagine what it is like to come here and have people thinking you rude for doing what your parents have taught you! The high school student speaking on that program said with a chuckle, he found it quite baffling indeed, at first, this American custom of listening with one's eyes

Paul's lesson here speaks about meeting people where they are and not so much where they are not.

This is easier said than done.

How often do we have conversations which leave us frustrated, because we don't get the feeling of being understood or understanding ourselves.

You probably all have made the experience with someone who speaks down to you and all you remember after the conversation is the unpleasant feeling that someone talked down to you and made you feel small. And all the good that the person might have said is wasted under the overwhelming feeling of being talked down to, of being made small.

In order to be with someone we need to go there and feel with that person and not calling from away: Why don't you come over here? We need to go to the other person and walk with the person.

This is what Jesus did; he meet the person right there where they were and this is what Paul is trying to explain to the Corinthians.

And this is what we are called to do:

To go to where the people are, to go to where they need to go and not so much where we want them to go.

This being with someone can happen in a lot of different ways:

We can do this physically in literally walking or driving to where the other person is, it happens in visiting someone in the hospital or picking someone up for church.

It can happen in walking with someone spiritually, praying together, worshipping together, praying for someone.

It can happen in feeling someone's pain or doubt; when we allow ourselves to go and meet someone in those places we don't like to venture, because we might be too afraid of those places in us, or maybe because we think we should have an answer, but we have none for ourselves.

So what do we do when we don't have an answer?, silly us, we bring it to God and let God deal with it. And that will make another story which will enrich and heal our life. Does God expect us to have all the answers????

Than he sure would be out of work!

God expects from us to let him walk with us, to talk to him, to be exactly who and what we are; not to pretend more and not to pretend less

Someone's experience of this is reflected in the words of Isaiah:

The Lord does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint and strength to the powerless.

We need not to be more than we are, we need not to be less than we are and when we are ourselves we allow others to be their selves too, and we allow God to help us where we are. And we do his work when we go out into the world and practice the same.

Let Christ walk with you and fear not!