

Wendy's March Prayer Thoughts

It was my privilege, on the 1st of September 2015, to be invited by the Ainscough family to pronounce a Blessing at the opening of Surf Snowdonia. It is situated in the village of Dalgarrrog, in the Conwy valley, on a former site of aluminium rolling and casting works. The lagoon is 300 metres/ 950 feet long, 110 metre / 360 feet long, and the equivalent size of 6 football pitches. Water had to be piped down from reservoirs on Snowdonia. It holds 6 million gallons of water which is cleaned and recycled every 24 hours by passing through ultra violet cleaners. It started up at the push of a button, and the first surfers mounted their boards attempting to stay upright and ride as far as possible on the consistent rolling waves, variously 2 metres, 11'2 metres and 7 centimetres in height. The 2 metre wave came every 90 seconds. Less adventurous stayed in more unruffled waters receiving tuition on balance, how to recognise a suitable wave, and how to discern whether to move fast or slow. Surfing requires a combined effort of mind and body, patience and perseverance.

It was one thing to stare at the longest man made surf wave on the planet, indeed a product of incredible technology, and another to experience a deeper awe from observing the surroundings - the sky the earth, the mountain - and to breathe in the fresh clean air, all the handiwork of God, the Almighty. The book of Genesis describes how in forming the universe He created order from a watery chaos, 1:2 Work continued in a division of 6 days. On the 3rd day came the dry land, seas, plants and trees vs.9---13. God was never remote from His works, or the people whom He created to be in a Covenant relationship with Him. History revealed how they often rebelled.. However, writers of the books of Psalms and Prophets often testified to God's power, proclaiming Him as King of the universe from eternity. Psalm 93 is a perfect example. From all the wonders of creation the writer chose the sea as evidence of God's might. The 3 fold repetition of the rising floods in verse 3 describes the waves crashing on the land. The waters have awesome power, but God's power is 'more majestic' than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord." v.3-4. Peterson's translation makes it more graphic. "Stronger than the wild sea storms, mightier than sea - storm breakers, mighty God rules from heaven."

To know about the formation of waves increases our appreciation of the wonders of nature. Waves would not exist if wind did not blow on surface water, the seas and oceans. The movement of waves occurs when water stores up the energy of the wind, and then ejects it into the surrounding air. The stronger the wind, the higher the waves. It's the south westerly wind which produces our large powerful waves, the south easterly the smaller ones.....

....The former are destructive waves. They are steep and close together, and move quickly. The latter have much lower waves which are further apart. The biggest ever recorded wave occurred on the 9th July 1958 July in Lituya Bay, in S.E. Alaska. An earthquake triggered a mega tsunami, producing a giant 1,720 foot wave (524'256 metres).

Scriptures remind us that we must face the storms of life by being ready to ride the waves, assured that God is in control, and His steadfast love does not abandon us. Psalm 107 is a psalm of thanksgiving for God's goodness and deliverance of His people. In verses 22-32 the writer dwells on the experience of sailors who endure hard times as they battle against stormy winds and high waves. They have difficulty staying on their feet. Despair mounts as their navigational skills are no match for the elements. Desperate and at their wit's end, all wisdom swallowed up, they cried out to God, who answered their prayer as only He could. He saved them by calming the storm and stilling the waves.

The Psalmist knew that all God's people could identify themselves with the experience of the sailors. No one escapes having to face and battle through stormy seas, which often come when least expected. The Message translation gives this interpretation. "You were spun like a top, you reeled like a drunk, you didn't know which end was up. Then you called out to God in your desperate condition; he got you out in the nick of time. He quieted the winds down to a whisper, put a muzzle on all the big waves, and you were so glad when the storm died down, and he led you safely to harbour. So thank God for his marvellous love, for His miracle mercy to the children he loves."

Lord, when life doesn't go as expected, and we find ourselves tossed by stormy winds, buffeted by turbulent waves, help us to look to You, knowing You see our struggles. Thank You that You are a refuge, that we can trust You to bring us through. Speak words of peace into our hearts and minds to keep us calm.

"He rescued me from the mighty waters, and brought me to Himself", Psalm 18:16 TPT