

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

When Did I See You, Lord?

When we create something, we put a bit of ourselves into that creation; and, like a painter creating a work of art, the artist is known by his work.

Consequently, when we want to see God, we need to look around us at His Creation. After all, if we can't see Our Father in the world that we can touch and feel, taste and smell, how can we expect to see Him as He is in the Spirit?

I recently found Him at an unexpected time and in an unexpected place.

A couple of weeks ago, my boss retired...a decision that, as far as I could tell, was made very suddenly. He is already sorely missed.

We have already begun to talk about him in the "past tense." He was honest, hard working, intelligent, and more than once saved this government agency from doing something really stupid. Often, those in power didn't want to hear what he had to say, because—in the words of his co-workers—he was usually right. He was forced out by misguided vision and by those who were momentarily blinded by power.

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He protected those of us who worked with him. He inspired loyalty. He made you think about what you were doing...and why. He could stand just about anything except lies and liars.

I know that “retiring” is not “dying,” but it surely felt as though I would never see this man again. Once he left, we were frightened that the “wolves” would swoop down and try to scatter this small “flock” of his.

Luckily, we had his assurance that he’d be back...and that even though he had gone out into industry to do some design work, in a couple of years those same people who hired him would need people like us to evaluate those new designs.

In other words, in his own way, he has gone ahead to prepare a place for us.

“When did I see you, Lord?” Perhaps the question should have been, “How often have I seen you, Lord?”

And my answer would have to be: “Every time I open my eyes, Lord...every time I open my eyes.”

(December 5, 1996)