

Fresh Start

By Jerry Bader

Find Him Everywhere

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Note: This is the third post in a series of Fresh Starts inspired by a recent trip to Europe.

"In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it and his hands formed the dry land." Psalm 95:4-5

My wife Ramona and I have been blessed in recent years to view some of the most beautiful places on earth: glaciers on an Alaskan cruise, the emerald Irish countryside and, most recently, the Swiss Alps (see above). Being bombarded with beauty reminded me that one of the easiest ways to connect with God is to find him hiding in plain sight; everywhere!

If you're experiencing a period of spiritual dryness, where you don't feel you're hearing from God or getting direction from Him in the Word, remember that all you see is the work of His hand. Getting the opportunity to take in landscapes I may never see again put me in an almost constant attitude of gratitude to God during our trip. Then a funny thing happened shortly after we got home.

Ramona discovered a Dagger Moth caterpillar in one of her flower gardens. It's bright yellow with long black eyelash-like bristles (which Google cautioned us not to touch). In its own way, it's truly beautiful. I then made a conscious effort to notice God's handiwork everywhere; sunrises when I can, the trees I jog past, birds, dogs, babies. Everywhere. While I will never take for granted the gift it is to see other parts of

the world, we often short-change ourselves by ignoring the beauty all around us. To do so essentially deprives ourselves of closeness with God.

Whether you take a short drive to see the splendor of the Great Lakes shoreline or find His artistry in your own backyard. Appreciate it, meditate on it. If you're feeling distant from God, reach out and touch Him. I recently took my mom for a walk in her wheelchair on a paved quarter-mile trail around the nursing home where she lives. She seldom gets out of her room and the way she reacted you would have thought she was witnessing nature for the first time. If we remember Who we are seeing, we can have that feeling every time. It's out there right now. Why don't you go visit God?