

Connecting New

September, 2023

I hope you have had the experience of broadening your perspective by traveling (either in person or virtually) to distant lands and meeting with the local people there. I find that God's presence is frequently conspicuous during these encounters, challenging my assumptions and reinforcing connections of common humanity across cultures. I was privileged to make such a trip recently, to British Columbia, and share the following poem.

Indigenous

I traveled to the remnant Garden and was welcomed as a guest.
There I met a wolf whose spirit is courageous, convicted and true.
Some would say that he risks his life, he would say he lives it.
Respect is his path.

I met a warrior woman observant, intelligent, persistent and strong.
She wastes no time on fools and invests in future
generations with a sense of urgency.
She knows her ancestors.

I met a guardian who shone generosity, purpose and joy.
He honors his connection with the land,
the water, the creatures and his people.

I met a bear fearless, free and authentic.
She taught me what it is to be at home
in my place, in myself and in my community.

I met an indigenous people and was reminded
that my culture is sick with fear, greed and disconnection.
And now I know that we must learn from them or perish.
We must reverence them or perish.
We must collaborate with them or perish.

If you wish, you can learn more about the place and people I visited, and their important work at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4j7cQ9i45Yc>. And if you have an experience when God was conspicuous during your travels that you would like to share, I would be honored to receive it.

May we remain ever attentive and responsive to God's Spirit.

Peace and Blessings,
Clarence

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