

Column

Life is filled with crises, some monumental, most small. One in the latter category reared its head the morning of a fundraising gala for our local concert series. Fifty stemmed water glasses were needed before 6 p.m., and the clock was ticking.

The day before I had exhausted attempts to borrow this number of glasses from local restaurants and other establishments. They were either needed that night or, in one case, were not the right size.

So, I woke up thinking: Where am I going to get 50 water glasses? All I could think of was that I or another concert committee member would have to drive two towns south and pick them up at a rental supply store. That, of course, meant someone would have to take them back the following day.

Then I had an epiphany. The answer was not so much blowin' in the wind – apologies to Bob Dylan – but tinkling in the attic. Stored up there were all sorts of 'treasures' put away over a decade ago, including boxes of old Fostoria crystal glasses. All I had to do was locate them and bring them down. There was no need for a 50-mile road trip.

Isn't that the way it is with the many little, crises of life? The answer is near at hand. The God of things big and small already has a solution. All we have to do is slow down and listen.

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths,” says Proverbs 3:6. These words spoken 700 years before Christ still hold. The sad thing is that we don't always listen to the tinkling in the attic. Instead, we charge ahead under our own steam, with often less than satisfactory results.

One can think of a host of dilemmas people face in our world. Perhaps you are facing some of these this very moment in your own life. Whom should I marry, Miss X or Miss Z? Should I stay at my present place of employment or take another job? Stay where I am or move house? Retire or keep working? The list goes on.

In 1971, Charlie Pride, the first commercially successful African American country singer, recorded a hymn by the title of “Did You Think to Pray.” Radio stations across the country, especially country ones, could not play it often enough to satisfy their listeners. During the same year, an album also called “Did You Think to Pray” peaked at No. 1 on the Billboard magazine chart and remained there for a whopping 33 weeks.

Perhaps the reason this song resonated so loudly with people in 1971 was because they were faced with daily crises small and great in their lives. The lyrics of this song reminded them that there was Someone to help, Someone to guide and lead when life got dark and dreary. This Someone could change night into day.

He still can. The answer is blowin' in the wind and may be so close at hand that you haven't noticed it. The Wind of which I am speaking is the Wind of the Holy Spirit of the living God, the Wind that blew over the primeval elements and brought order out of chaos in the beginning.

The same can be true in your life. Ere you leave your room each morning, don't forget to pray.

O GOD, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth; We humbly beseech thee to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Collect for the Eight Sunday after Trinity, The Book of Common Prayer)

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