

Can you hear the music?

It has been an amazing year. I don't have the words to describe the joy and beauty I've experienced this year – it is simply overwhelming. I've been introduced to new ideas and heard questions that stick in my mind, like:

Do you ever have the sense that you're part of a movement that's putting the world back together?

Like most years, there have been times of sadness and disappointment; but through it all, the music has never been louder or more beautiful. As I shared at the Emmaus closing a couple weeks ago – I've experienced something so big, that I can't get my mind around it; yet something so real that I can't get it out of my mind. Like a song you can't get out of your head – it's the music.

Mark Nelson (Crossing, Knoxville) recently used this metaphor. He said, "What if God is like a song? What if God is like this huge beautiful song? A song that's been playing forever. A song with no end. A song with no beginning."

Throughout the ages, people have heard the music, and instantly they knew. Instantly, they knew that there has to be something more than this life that I'm living. And they want to be a part of it. And that's what Jesus is inviting us into. He says, "You can be a part of the song!"

We live in an incredibly noisy world. I believe it is so loud that most people cannot hear the music. I'm writing this article, days before an election – a major election, in a very confused country. Our country has lost its way, lost its meaning and purpose. And I know sometimes instead of helping, I am simply contributing to the noise. I get so busy that I cannot focus. I find myself so wrapped up in the noise that nothing makes sense.

Then I attend a candlelight service, or a perhaps closing. And something goes on inside me, and I recognize it – that's beauty. This is how it should be. This is in "rhythm" with the music – you can almost see God tapping his foot and snapping his fingers. You can feel the beat. You can hear the music.

This is an invitation. If life feels "out of rhythm", you might try separating yourself from the noise long enough to hear the song. If it's been a while since you've attended an Emmaus gathering, or a candlelight, or a closing; watch your newsletter, mark the date, and make it a priority...and listen.

Sandy and I recently heard another quote that really "pierced the heart" – he said that *the two most important days of your life, is the day that you're born and the day that you discover why*. Leo Tolstoy said, "Is there any meaning in my life that the inevitable death awaiting me does not destroy?"

I believe the answer is "Yes". I believe that there is meaning to life that death does not destroy, and I believe it is only found in Jesus. And I thank God that I get to be a part of the song. And I thank you (Emmaus community), for giving me this opportunity to lead, an opportunity to hear the music, and an opportunity to be a part of a movement that's putting the world back together.

DeColores!

Matt