

HOWe THINGS ARE... November 2006

Hi! You know how a thunderstorm in Arizona, particularly when you're out in the desert, takes your breath away a little bit. It's puzzling (to me)

Stuff you could pray about...

- The thing in 1 Corinthians 13 when God says about if you don't have love, whatever great and wonderful thing you do, means nothing..., Pray I'll live that: be motivated by love, always, in all the things, and especially at work.
- Thank God for how well Wycliffe's computer conference this month went. People have strong opinions about different various things. It's very real evidence of God's presence when we get along well with one another.
- Thank God for my fun and safe trip to Turkey --- I stayed to sight see by myself after the conference. I was fine tooling around Istanbul by myself but one of those nights I was by myself, I got fairly ill (guessing it was just a food thing) but it was a teeny bit scary when I was trying to figure out what I should do... and remembering one thing I didn't have with me that one should always have with me: the number for Wycliffe's global health 24x7 phone service where they can tell you where to go in 47 countries or some large number. And we just switched health insurance so I'd just been to the seminar where the woman said, "Never, ever travel without this phone number just in case". Clearly I need to listen to those people better.

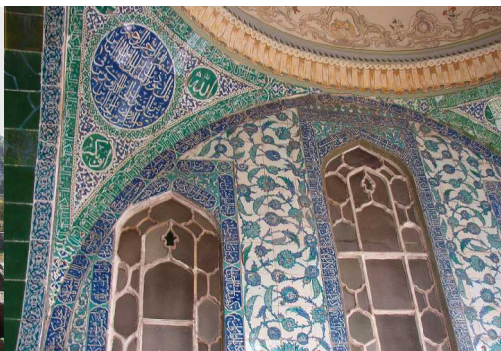
how anyone could experience it and subsequently not believe in God. Kay, this fall with the colors in North Carolina was like that.

I didn't realize until I lived someplace where the leaves change colors that it's not spectacular every year, just only some years (it has to do with rain or something). Whatever it is, this year it was --- I wanted to include a picture of the spectacular fall colors, but pictures don't capture it. No take your breath away feature looking at a picture. I'm generally not a proponent of "if you haven't experienced it, you just don't know" in the "only people who've experienced some particular life circumstances can advise others in the midst of those circumstances" vein.

However, events which reveal the nature of God I think maybe don't work second-hand or maybe anything that attempts to capture some aspect of God in bounded space. God's power in a thunderstorm revealed in a picture of a thunderstorm isn't nearly so compelling as God's power in a thunderstorm revealed when you're watching and experiencing the storm. And then I figure, the thunderstorm is just a picture of the actual power and majesty of God. So imagine if the difference between what we can

experience (the thunderstorm) and God's true nature is as much as the difference between a looking at a picture and the experience...

From my trip to Turkey: Istanbul (Topkapi Palace Gate – the sultan's palace), Istanbul (some mosques), Sea of Marmara from our hotel balcony, 12th century castle in Ephesus with Turkish flags and Atatürk, Hagia Sophia, 6th century church (Istanbul), cool tile in the sultan's palace, me in Ephesus (grand theater)



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