WHERE WAS GOD?

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Categories: Mission, Observations

Yesterday morning, I found myself facing something of a dilemma. I was due to preach at Christ Church Flackwell Heath (the church we attend, when we aren't speaking elsewhere), on Mission Through The Bible - part of a monthly series that will span the whole year.

However, about an hour before heading out to church, I began to have second thoughts. If mission is about engaging with the world in all its hurt and pain, I could not preach a sermon which ignored the earthquake and tsunami which hit Japan over the weekend. It wasn't really my brief to change the sermon title, but I couldn't contact the vicar as he would already have started the early morning communion service, so I decided to go with what I felt God was saying to me and set about writing a whole new sermon in a bit of a hurry.

The whole thing was compounded by the fact that I didn't feel very well, having been up half the night with an upset stomach. Then again, had I been on peak form, I might never have stopped to reflect and just got on with doing what I planned to do.

Writing a sermon in a few minutes before the service is not ideal and looking back at it, I can see lots of rough edges that more detailed preparation would have smoothed off. However, there is something real about this sort of intense, *ad hoc* engagement with the world. This is what mission is all about. The Church didn't get my polished sermon, with well prepared Powerpoint, but on balance, I think they did get a sermon on Mission Through the Bible, after all. If you want to listen to it, here it is, warts and all.

https://www.kouya.net/upload/where-is-god.mp3