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God's News

By Elise L. Moore

My husband and I were in Germany but understood no German. Our hotel carried no English-language breaking-news stations. Nothing in real time. The television pictures of September 11 needed no explanation. But what was the commentary? What was happening? The night of the 12th we watched hours of German television, hoping to catch even a glimmer of insight. We grasped the immediate emotional support of the German government and the spontaneous outpouring of sympathy from the German people. But otherwise, nothing. If you can imagine seeing the attacks on New York and Washington, and then being plunged into an information black hole, that's the way we felt. Maybe the people at home knew little more than we did, but it felt like we were set adrift—for days.

Perhaps the feeling is similar to receiving a desperate phone call for help, only to have the caller hang up abruptly. No explanation. No details. But the need is genuine. Not knowing is tough. It's difficult not to worry speculate, react emotionally.

At some point during one German newscast, I realized that watching television was futile. I needed to ask God what was going on.

God is a reliable source of information. God is the all-knowing Mind. And this Mind communicates ideas in ways that we can understand. Language isn't a problem. Distance isn't relevant. Technology isn't necessary. Mind communicates through spiritual sense.

Spiritual sense is the ability to comprehend, to get to the truth, without input from the five physical senses. Everyone has spiritual sense. Some call it intuition. Others a "feeling." It's the unexplainable ability to accurately discern truth and uncover hidden danger before the full disclosure of events.

Spiritual sense warns of peril when there appears to be none. It leads a person to safety when the way is unclear. It helps one choose wisely when human reason falters. Listening to spiritual sense is like tuning in to a

divinely accurate news broadcast available in your own language in real time. Optimally, it is spiritual foresight that can even prevent evil from occurring, instead of merely report events.

To hear news from divine Mind demands mental quiet and an honest desire for truth. That's difficult when we're afraid. We can't, however, be hoping and pleading, and at the same time be listening.

So I turned away from the television—and toward God as my news source. The first report from Mind was . . . "Life." This might sound simplistic, but it was a feeling that Life was a powerful presence. Life was counteracting death where humanly possible.

This report related to the Bible verse "For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself" (John 5:26). God is the power of Life not death. The presence of God is the strength of life and supports life and is the source of life. Jesus, "the Son" of God referred to in that verse, taught that we are all sons and daughters of God. Our life is derived from God. And God is not the messenger of death. Knowing that the loss of human life back home must have been horrendous, I found this "news" that God was the power of life on the scene encouraging. We needed some good news.

The next bit of news that came to me from Mind was that good was energized. There was a feeling of a powerful desire to help being unleashed. And I realized that I knew how people were responding. God, the power of good, was impelling individuals to act immediately and unconditionally to benefit others. Shock might be paralyzing some people into inactivity, but the report from God was that many more had leapt into action.

At that moment, my perspective shifted. Instead of desperately trying to discern what was happening, I realized that thousands of wonderful people were springing into action in their individual fields of endeavor. No amount of reporting could possibly keep up with the outpouring of tangible support that at this point I *intuitively* knew was taking place.

Trusting that courage and unselfishness and wisdom were in operation, I stopped wondering what would happen next. The "news" that God was the power of Life and was unleashing the activity of good was satisfying and comforting. It seemed reasonable that thousands, if not millions, were

praying for wisdom, insight, guidance. These prayers would be answered in tangible ways by uncovering additional malicious intent. And I could be a part of this mental alertness and active defense.

One of my favorite passages from an article written by Mary Baker Eddy, "Ways that are Vain," gives me practical guidance on how to respond to malice and hatred: "The natural fruits of Christian Science Mind-healing are harmony, brotherly love, spiritual growth and activity. The malicious aim of perverted mind-power, or animal magnetism, is to paralyze good and give activity to evil. It starts factions and engenders envy and hatred, but as activity is by no means a right of evil and its emissaries, they ought not to be encouraged in it. Because this age is cursed with one rancorous and lurking foe to human weal [well-being], those who are the truest friends of mankind, and conscientious in their desire to do right and to live pure and Christian lives, should be more zealous to do good, more watchful and vigilant" (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 213).

I want to be a true friend to humankind. And I realized that right where I was, I could be more zealous to do good, more watchful and vigilant. And I had my opportunity.

While my husband and I were waiting to return to America, we proceeded with our normal daily activities—prayerfully. One afternoon, I saw a person surreptitiously photographing an internationally known landmark from a somewhat hidden location. We were the only people on the street at that moment. We did report the incident to the German police—and felt it was one more grain of information added to their increased alertness.

I have to admit that, after having returned to the United States, I'm reading newspapers with a depth and desire I've never felt before. My gratitude for factual information is immense. But I'm stopping with each article to literally take one minute and pray to hear what God is reporting about a given situation. It's God's news that really forms events.