

WHY?

It does not take very many days of news to realize that much of the world's population is hurting. There are the devastating floods in the Midwest. The Crandall Canyon Mine rescue in Utah has ended (as of this writing) in tragedy. The earthquake in Peru has taken hundreds of lives. Wild fires appear to break out periodically. Just recently, the last missing body was pulled out of the Mississippi River at Minneapolis following the collapse of a bridge last month. And, of course, we cannot leave out the hurricanes and tornadoes. The list could go on and on.

We can ask, "Why?" What is going on with God's world? Human beings have always tried to find answers to their "big" questions. The sad part is that they expect to find them. It is very difficult for us to be left without an answer. Consequently, we always seek to blame someone or something. The disastrous collapse of Minnesota's Interstate 35W bridge in Minneapolis could have been caused by the heavy repair equipment on the bridge. It might have been caused by any number of causes attributed to human beings. However, it might not have been any of those. No one may be at fault, other than a lot of pigeons whose dung corrodes metal. (I am not making this up.)

Ultimately, God's people blame God. After all, He is in charge, and the pigeons are his. But, why would He inflict such pain on his people? A Southern Baptist minister was audacious enough to suggest on his church sign that God might be reminding us to repent. Imagine that! There was an uproar on the national television talk circuit about his admonition. The counter argument was that a loving God would not inflict such hurt on his people.

The problem is that we have forgotten to read signs. God does speak through what is going on around us. He always has. He does it out of love. If God is in charge (as we believe that He is), then, at the very least, He allows these events to occur. Why? To punish those who have been affected? I doubt that very much. Rather, it would appear to me that He has been trying to get our attention; and, we have been ignoring it. We know what could happen if we were to ignore traffic signs. Why do we think that God's signs are any less important? Perhaps, we do not. It is just that we do not know how to read them or do not bother to do so.

It does not take a rocket scientist to conclude that God's people in general are not living up to their calling as his stewards and are in the process of messing up his world. What He is telling us is that we are not the ones in charge. As any good, loving parent, the Almighty tries to get our attention before we get into even bigger trouble.

The human race has been entrusted with this planet and the life that is on it. However, we are not the ones ultimately in charge. Consequently, we need to stop acting as if we owned the place. It would be well to take stock of our corporate soul, as well as that of our own.

I would like to believe that a loving God is reaching out to us. True, pain is being inflicted upon the Body of Christ in the process. That was the case at the crucifixion, as well. Nonetheless, it was an act of love in response to humanity's sinfulness. Therefore, ultimately, we can consider ourselves to blame.

As far as I am concerned, the Southern Baptist minister was correct. It is time to take responsibility for our actions and change some of our ways.