

Magi came from the East to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the one born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising, and have come to worship Him. (Matthew 2:1-2)

The magi came to Jesus because they saw something that pointed to him. It got me to thinking – what is it that has drawn us to the Christ? Maybe we don't think about it much. For some, the beginning of that relationship goes back and awful long ways. It's hardly something that we give all that much thought to, usually, once we're here and walking in discipleship.

But knowing this and being able to proclaim it matters a great deal because we are called to bring others to what we have known and seen. There was something at some point that got us kick-started on this journey. And as much as we tell ourselves, "Well, the doors are open for everyone to come, and we're in the phone book – they know where we are," there has to be something that draws them here. It's not enough to simply give them God's word once they arrive, but we have to be living in that word and acting out that word for them in the meantime.

What has happened in your life that made Christ real for you? The birth of a child, an unexpected illness/healing, some major life transition? For me, there were many of these turning points in faith. There was my canoeing adventure that went afloat, when I literally felt divine intervention brought us back to safety. And then, there was the Holocaust remembrance in college, when God's hand seemed to be upon all of us as name after name was read. And there have been numerous spiritual retreats and worship services when I felt something calling me home, urging me to let go and follow.

These stories matter for each of us because they are part of our identity as Christians. But also, understanding and knowing them makes us more aware of these circumstances in the lives of others, and where Christ can come into their situation and shine his light.

With that, I share with you the lyrics of the great blues artist, Van Morrison

"Whenever God Shines His Light"

*Whenever God shines a light on me
Open up my eyes, so I can see.
When I look up, in the darkest night
And I know everything's gonna be alright
In deep confusion, in great despair
When I reach out for help, he is there
When I am lonely as I can be
Then I know that God shines His light on me*

*Reach out for help – he'll be there.
With him your troubles – you can share
You can use his higher power
Every day, in any hour*