

Epiphany - Bruce Wilson

A story of Bruce's sense of call to the ordained ministry

The Wilson family had an outside loo, and for Bruce it was a place for thinking. At night he would leave the light off and the door open.

In his final year of school, loo time had become agonizing thinking time about what to do when he left school.

While deep in these musings an unusual event occurred – Bruce saw a meteor flash across the sky. After years of sitting there he had never seen a meteorite, but he thought nothing of it... until the next night.

Same time, same door open, same agonizing thoughts about what to study at university, and another meteor sighting. Two nights in a row. Bruce began to wonder if it was a “sign”, whether there was some meaning about it. Someone had jokingly suggested priesthood as a career option for Bruce because he was “religious”.

After a third meteor sighting the following night, Bruce began to seriously explore the possibility of a calling to the ministry of the church, and was later accepted into theological studies.

He later learned that it was the usual time of the year for meteorite showers, and accepted that the meteors were not “sent” for him. But the conviction that this was an epiphany experience remained. He kept it secret for over thirty years for fear of ridicule.

Reasons to tell it then?

1. The young experience profoundly and deeply
2. It will have resonances for other adults who have either negated or suppressed their youthful experiences
3. At the time of the experience it was a serious and deep event.

In his book, Bruce describes it as: “God using the synchronicity of the meteor showers and my own inner struggle to “call” me to spiritual leadership. What there is to be known is not limited to rational intelligence.”

From Bruce Wilson (1998) REASONS OF THE HEART, Allen and Unwin and Albatross Books