

## Longings for Beauty

By Joel Vestal, 2005

John O'Donohue writes, "The human soul is hungry for beauty; we look for it everywhere - in landscape, music, art, clothes, furniture, and in many other things. No one would desire not to be beautiful. When we experience the beautiful, there is a sense of homecoming. We feel most alive in the presence of the Beautiful for it meets the needs of our soul. Beauty brings a sense of completion and sureness."

Seeing the immense beauty in a culture and people not your own can be challenging, yet possible. Irregardless of the ethnic origin or economic status, Jesus was a man who saw beauty in others when he walked the earth. I have been meditating on the beauty of the gospel story throughout history in recent days as my family and I have returned to a pre-Christian land. As I have come to a deeper consciousness of the beauty of Jesus, new possibilities emerge to offer hope and healing. My desire to embrace the beauty in those around me who are image bearers of the creator increases. Life and service in the Kingdom of God is one that is defined and determined by the beauty of Jesus.

It is time that we are captured by the beauty of the gospel of Jesus and give beauty to people's lives.

People are longing for meaning and beauty, indeed.

They spend all kinds of money, go to many places in the world. There is so much beauty to be resurrected in the word. There is so much beauty to be discovered and created. It does not have to be determined by the size of your bank account.

May our longings grow and explore.