

Shh!

One evening, just as it was starting to be dark, I looked out my back window and saw Simone, just sitting there in the back yard. So I went outside. Simone was still just sitting, so I walked up to Simone slowly, to have a talk.. Though this time, Simone and I didn't say very much to each other, as you'll see.

The words that I said **look like this.**

The words Simone said **look like this.**

Hi Simone. How are you?

Shh. (You know what that means, don't you? It means "Please be quiet.")

Why are you shh-ing me, Simone? What's going on?

Shh.

(I saw that Simone was looking up at the sky, so I looked too, in the same direction.)

I don't see anything, Simone.

Then you must be blind. Now, Shh.

(I looked again where Simone was looking, but I still didn't see anything. So I said, very quietly, in a whisper:

I still don't see anything, Simone.

That's because you're looking only with your eyes. Now please be quiet, or go away.

(I was very curious to know what Simone was seeing, so I looked some more, in the quiet way that Simone was looking. I started noticing how beautiful the sky was. Even though there wasn't a sunset, the sky was large, and still, and a gentle, fading blue. And I started seeing how beautiful it was. I started sort of feeling it, too. Then a thought came into my mind that said, without words, "Wow, that beautiful sky goes on forever." And then another thought, also without words, came to my mind that said, sort of, "God. Wow. God. Forever like the sky. Wow. God." When I was really, really enjoying really really seeing the sky, and feeling it too, and feeling the thoughts that came with it, Simone spoke.)

Okay, we can talk now.

And I said to Simone, **Shh!**

Then I felt a smile coming from Simone, as Simone said:

There's hope for you yet. Then Simone quietly walked away, and left me just looking.

After I stopped looking and started walking back to the house, I remembered some words in the Bible that were sort of what happened to me when I stopped, was quiet inside, looked, and felt the sky. Here are the words. Maybe you would like to say them again and again, and feel what they mean. Or maybe you'd like to stop reading this, and go and look outside, or find something beautiful inside to really see, and feel. The words you might like to say are supposed to be God, quietly saying to people:

***Be still, and know that I am God.
Be still, and know that I am God.***

(I guess the being still part is what helped Simone, and me, to really see, and it's why we both said Shh.)

*Want to hear more **Simone** stories? come to Esquimalt United Church for our Sunday Service starting at 10:45 a.m.
500 Admirals Road, Victoria, BC*

P.S. It is not every Sunday that Ted Bristow has the children time, so if you are in luck you might hear a Simone story the Sunday you come. Otherwise you have to come back the following Sunday and see if Ted is there.

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