

## West is best?

Were you any good at geography in school? Well unless you have been asleep for a month you can't possibly have missed the latest ongoing geography lesson. The Straits of Hormuz! A narrow stretch of water with global implications. With geography in mind you could almost think the Gospel itself was in need of a revision lesson, judging from the current faith map. The number of Christians is on the rise in Asia, Africa and parts of Latin America. And yet in Western Europe, this is much less the case. What is God up to?

As we follow the Book of Acts, post Easter, the Apostle Paul has really gotten into his stride (Acts chapter 17 verses 22-31). Taking the message of Jesus further west to Athens. A place where the academics reigned supreme, in the light of the great philosophers. Paul played them at their own game using rhetorical argument, and failed miserably! Especially when the idea of Resurrection was too much for their allegedly 'rational' minds. Yet Luke would not have included the event in his book except with good reason. I think that was to make the point that one does not comprehend God with the intellect alone.

Now of course reasoning is important. Jesus himself shared many a thought provoker. Yet, he also focussed on prayer and healing. Many also had a 'feeling' about him. A feeling that he was different. Many couldn't argue with great articulation, but just knew within their belly's that he taught with a godly authority (Matthew 7.28). A man, name of Augustine, put his finger on this 'something' in a famous prayer he penned.

Our hearts are restless, until they find their rest in You  
May we engage our minds, certainly, but  
also what we feel, sense and experience in  
our very souls. Then we are truly open to  
God, and leading the way in a Western  
Europe which has let go of its compass.  
What is God up to? God is perhaps westerly  
waiting!

