

Faith Comment published in the Petersfield Post

1 February 2012: Susanne Irving, Life Church Petersfield

Star gazing

Last week the stars produced sufficient light to walk around the Heath without a torch. However, the light they produced could not compare with the night sky in the Jordanian desert.

After sunset, it was pitch black in our tent, yet when I stepped outside in the middle of the night, it seemed as if the sun was already rising. The sky was illuminated by so many stars that it looked grey rather than black.

There are various reasons why I had a clearer view in the desert: In Jordan, my view was not obscured by light pollution or clouds.

The stars are teaching me humility. I probably saw a few thousand stars in the Jordanian desert, yet there are about 100 billion stars in our galaxy alone. I will never comprehend the size and scope of the universe.

It is the same with God's Word. It is so deep and wide that there is always something new to learn. I can never say that I now understand it all.

God's Word is described as a light to our path, but how easy do we get distracted and walk in the light of our own ideas about life. It takes attention and focus to absorb God's truth.

At times of tragedy and disaster it can seem that the darkness has swallowed all light. Yet the stars are reminding us that light is ultimately more powerful than darkness.