

## Truly illuminating...

This week I celebrated being around here on planet earth for another 12 months. To mark the occasion, amongst other things I threw myself out of tree, tucked into a scone almost as big as my head and took in no less than 3 films in one day, all with various members of the family. It was a whole lot of fun and without doubt I was reminded of how blessed I am.

I was also transported back to the night when I first showed up and my parents' lives were never to be the same again. You see, I was born in the middle of a thunderstorm. Obviously, I don't actually remember that night all those years ago, but I'm guessing it may have been something akin to what was experienced on Tuesday night here along the south coast.

For those of you who simply slept through it or haven't seen any of the photos or video footage, Tuesday saw the night sky illuminated on a truly magnificent scale with an almighty thunder and lightning storm. The sheer scale of the brightness was something to behold and an awesome sight. If it hadn't been for the fact that I had an early start which was to be followed by a long day, I could have sat up and happily watched it.

The reason for the early start was this past week Mark and I headed up to Stafford to spend just over 24 hours with others connected to and through the Fresh Streams network. Along with the January conference we've attended in recent years they hold a mid-year gathering of prayer and fasting.

It was during one of the sessions as people were sharing what they felt God was saying, that a word was given all around light in the darkness. The person sharing felt God was wanting to remind us that light is most powerful in the darkness. They went on to ask the question what are the stories of light in the darkness? I was struck by the imagery of what they shared, but also the challenge as to what are my stories of light in the darkness, what are ours?

Light impacts in the darkness! It brings transformation and change. The night sky on Tuesday was brought to life, where moments previously there was nothing to see. In John 8:12 Jesus describes himself as the light of the world. As followers of Jesus we have the light of the world living in us, so what different does this light in me shining out into the darkness make?

What stories of light in the darkness do we have to share? What has the light of the world been doing, as He shines out of us into the darkness? Let us share these stories, encouraging and spurring one another on and let us continue to ask the question what stories are going to be outworked today, tomorrow, over the coming week; how will we be light carriers, beacons in this dark world, as the light in us shines out for His glory and Kingdom!

Be blessed

Ed