

“Thin Places”

Bishop Mike Coyner
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I Kings 8:27–30

Solomon's prayer to dedicate the Temple:

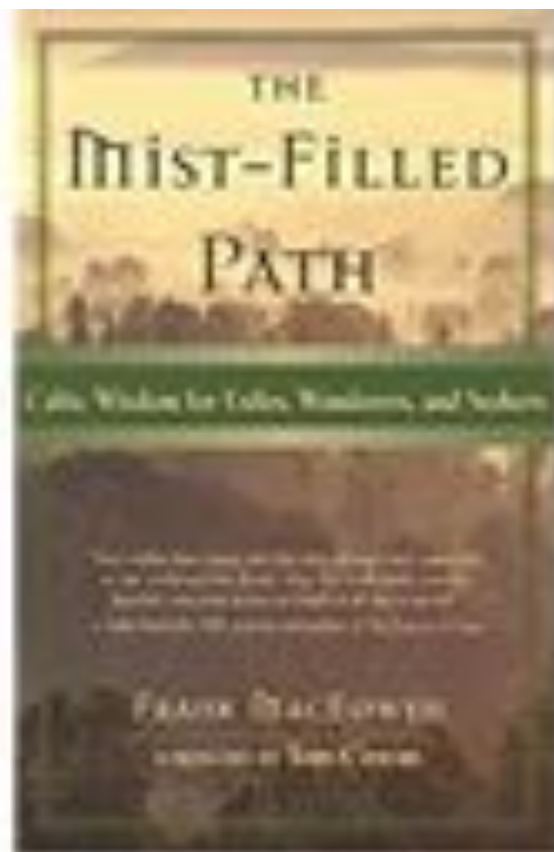
“Will God indeed dwell on earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and prayer that Your servant prays to You today; that Your eyes may be open night and day toward this house... Hear the plea of Your servant and of your people when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven Your dwelling place; hear and forgive.”

Thin Places

The ancient Celtic Christians (in what we now call Ireland) believed that there are “Thin Places” in the world:

- + Places where the barrier between God and us is very thin.
 - + Places to go when we are seeking God.
 - + Children know the way to those places.
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Celtic Spirituality



Where Are Your Holy Places?

Church camp (like Epworth Forest)

Seashore

Mountaintop

Sea of Galilee

Grandparent's home

Church

We Need Such Places

God is everywhere, but ...

We are not always “open” to God’s presence

Special places, holy places, “thin places” help us to be open to God

We Dedicate This Space

We dedicate this building today (and during the mortgage-burning we celebrate it is debt-free)

We give it over to God and to God's use.

We never know who will need the "ministry of this place"



Thin Places and Thin People

The Celtic Christians did not say this, but I believe that if there are “thin places” then there are also “thin people” – people who evidence living in close relationship with God

“Saints” and the “halo effect”

Children Lead Us

In my ministry of supervision as a bishop I have been in and out of hundreds of churches, all over the world (26 countries)

One thing I have noticed: churches which care about children always are more alive, more spiritual, and more open to God.



Let Us Dedicate This Space to God

