

OV devotions DAY SIX (Thursday - 6/14/18)

In Acts 2:5-13, Jews from every nation were staying in Jerusalem. They are amazed and bewildered by all of the languages being spoken, each *“declaring the wonders of God in their own language.”*

The crowd’s reaction might remind us of a flash mob. Picture this. You’re at the mall, shopping for a friend’s gift. As you ride the escalator to the food court, the smell of sub sandwiches, cinnamon sweets, and coffee entice you. Then you notice someone carrying huge speakers. When they’ve reached the center of the court, the opening chords of a hit song blares. Suddenly folks run up the staircases on either side of your escalator. They rush forward, dancing to the music with well-rehearsed choreography. Now the focus of your day is no longer buying a gift or eating, but experiencing the beauty of strangers who are shimmying, shaking, and tapping in unison. Your shopping routine has become a musical extravaganza.

Folks gather in Jerusalem from around the globe for one kind of experience, when something entirely different bursts out. They don’t know today is Pentecost—they think they’re celebrating the annual Feast of Weeks. Like a flash mob in which the majority has no idea what’s about to happen, the crowd goes about their usual routine. Then, people around them start moving. Conversations occur between foreigners and the locals who never took a foreign language course. An organized dance of dialogues breaks out! It’s so much fun, but utterly surprising. What was ordinary is now miraculous.

As they go about their business, the crowds gathered in Jerusalem aren’t expecting to hear about God’s power in their

own languages. And we probably don’t expect to witness a flash mob, either. But we can experience the wonder that Pentecost brings.

The Holy Spirit can still take our ordinary days and make them extraordinary. What does your “ordinary” day look like?

If we are attentive, where might we see the Holy Spirit interrupting the ordinary?

(I just thought of one. When you sing the Blessing in restaurants, the Holy Spirit is interrupting someone’s ordinary day!)

Prayer:

God, help us pay attention to the ways you are moving in our world. Surprise US today! Amen.

