



# JAEI

## July 2026 Environmental Prayer Diary

*The purpose of this Prayer Diary is to provide subjects for your reflection and prayer as the Spirit moves you*

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| <p><b>Wednesday</b></p> | <p><b>1</b></p> | <p><b>The Lord's my Shepherd</b></p> <p><i>Tune: Lord's my Shepherd</i></p> <p>The Lord's my shepherd I'll not want,<br/>He gives me all I need<br/>In plastic bags in super stores,<br/>To satisfy my greed.</p> <p>The Lord's my shepherd I'll not want<br/>The food I like to taste,<br/>But plastic bags that save my food<br/>Are simply worthless waste.</p> <p>The Lord's my shepherd, does he know<br/>We're waging war on stuff<br/>That now pollutes both land and sea;<br/>Enough stuff is enough.</p> <p>Now my good shepherd raise your staff<br/>And lift your golden rod<br/>To help us what's good for Earth,<br/>The real gift of our God.</p> <p><b>Norman Habel</b><br/><a href="https://seasonofcreation.com/creation-songs/">https://seasonofcreation.com/creation-songs/</a></p>  |
| <p><b>Thursday</b></p>  | <p><b>2</b></p> | <p>Almighty God,<br/>you have called us to tend and keep the garden of your creation.<br/>Give us wisdom and reverence for all your plants and animals who share this planet with us and whose lives make possible our own.<br/>Help us to remember that they too love the sweetness of life and join with us in giving you praise.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p><b>Friday</b></p>    | <p><b>3</b></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>4</b> | <p>“When our eyes are graced with wonder, the world reveals its wonders to us. There are people who see only dullness in the world and that is because their eyes have already been dulled. So much depends on how we look at things. The quality of our looking determines what we come to see.”</p> <p><b>John O'Donohue</b><br/><i>Priest, Author &amp; Irish Poet</i></p>                                                              |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>5</b> | <p>Holy God,<br/>Earth and air and water are your creation, and every living thing belongs to you:<br/>have mercy on us as climate change confronts us.<br/>Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live,<br/>to reduce the energy we use, to share the resources you provide,<br/>and to bear the cost of change.<br/>Forgive our past mistakes<br/>and send us your Spirit, with wisdom in present controversies<br/>and vision for the future to which you call us<br/>in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p> |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>6</b> | <p>How majestic, O Lord, our Sovereign, is your name on earth and in the heavens. All creation is aglow and warm because of the work of your hands. Kindle in us not only a sense of wonder at these marvels; but arouse in us a deep sense of responsibility to care for what you have made and done. How majestic, O Triune God, is your name on earth and in the heavens</p>                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>7</b> | <p>We thank you, God, for this beautiful planet. Bless it and keep it safe from harm. We pray for the protection of the animals, the soil, air and water. May we care for all you have made. Help us to love the Earth as you do.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>8</b> | <p>We who recognise that all good things come from the Divine Creator have taken too long to acknowledge that the living-out of our beliefs concerns most deeply the care and nurture of all living things and the environment on which they depend.’</p> <p><b>Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu</b></p>                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>9</b> | <p>Forgive us Lord for our thoughtless wasting<br/>For heat blasting in open doorways<br/>For lights burning in empty rooms<br/>For homes basking in T-shirt warmth</p> <p>Forgive our thoughtless wasting.<br/>For cars that guzzle petrol<br/>For driving little journeys,<br/>For cheaper fares on planes</p> <p>Forgive our thoughtless wasting.<br/>God grant us clear thinking, right action, and a gentle lifestyle.<br/>Amen</p> <p><b>Chris Polhill</b></p>                                                          |

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| Friday   | 10 |  <p>In a winters chill<br/>or a summers heat..</p> <p>A farmer works<br/>so the world can eat.</p> <p>Thank You Farmers!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Saturday | 11 | <p>“All things are connected like the blood that unites One family. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons and daughters of the earth. Humankind did not weave the web of life; but is merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.”</p> <p><b>Chief Seattle</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Sunday   | 12 | <p>Creator God, You reveal your glory and love in the smallest bits of life, cells of our bodies, the microbial substance of soil, segmented insect wings, glistening scales of fish. Come to us, manifest in us your loving care for the humble and small, that we may preserve your abundance.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Monday   | 13 | <p>Holy God, you alone are unutterable,<br/>from the time you created all things that can be spoken of.<br/>You alone are unknowable,<br/>from the time you created all things that can be known.<br/>All things cry out about you:<br/>those that speak, and those that cannot speak.<br/>All things honour you:<br/>those that think, and those that cannot think.<br/>For there is one longing, one groaning, which all things have for you.<br/>All things pray to you that comprehend your plan and offer you a silent hymn.<br/>In you, the One, all things abide,<br/>and all things endlessly run to you who are the end of all. <i>Amen.</i></p> <p><b>Source: Gregory of Nazianzus</b></p> |

Tuesday

14

## World Shark Awareness Day

What if everything you thought we knew about South Africa's disappearing white sharks is only part of the story?

South Africa pioneered white shark protection in 1991, sparking a booming cage-diving industry worth hundreds of millions of dollars and attracting global research. Within the last decade, Great white sharks along South Africa's Western Cape have experienced a dramatic decline and shifting distribution since roughly 2015.

After the Killer whales (Orcas), notably "Port" and "Starboard", arrived, they were blamed for driving white sharks away after carcasses with surgically removed livers washed ashore from 2017 onward. However, long-term data shows shark numbers were already falling before killer whales appeared. Population estimates dropped from ~1,300 in 1991 to ~300–400 by the 2010s.

Disturbingly, KwaZulu-Natal Shark Control Programme kills 20 white sharks on average each year. Demersal Longline Fishery overlaps with shark habitats, depletes prey, and likely underreports bycatch. The combined impact of these pressures may remove 5–10% of the population each year, preventing population recovery.

White sharks mature late, they reproduce really slowly, and they can't quickly replace lost individuals into a population. So even when a small number are removed each year, intentionally or not, the effects of that compound over time.

Ironically, the first nation to protect white sharks risks becoming the first to lose them – this iconic sharks could face local ecological extinction by 2060.

Solutions to reduce this mortality rate exist – it requires mitigating human impacts like overfishing, ending 70-year old lethal bather protection nets in KwaZulu-Natal, and replacing them with modern, non-lethal shark control methods (drones, spotters, smart drumlines) technologies to balance human safety with marine conservation

The killer whales were visible, dramatic, and easy to blame, but they're natural. They were responsible for accelerating an existing decline rather than causing it outright. Their dramatic impact distracted attention from slower, human-driven pressures - unsustainable fishing practices and government-regulated shark control programs are the deeper, long-term drivers of the decline.

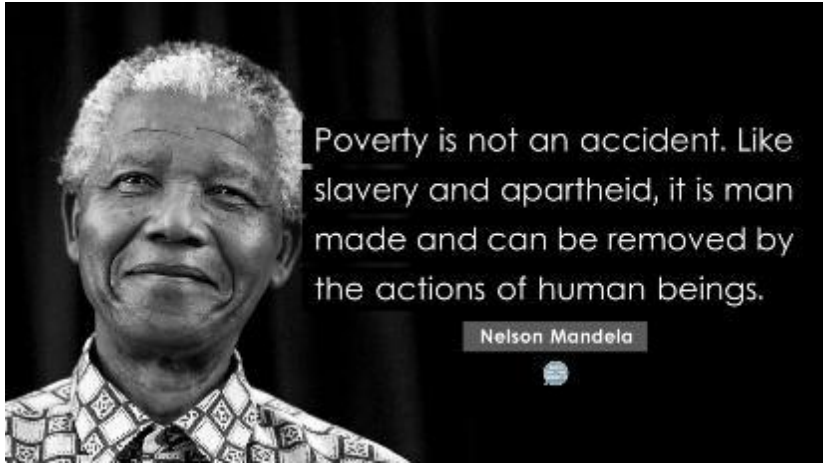
Watch the full story [here](#)

**Let heaven and earth praise him,  
the seas and all that move in them," Psalm 69:34**



**Demersal fishing** in South Africa is one of the country's most valuable commercial harvesting sectors, predominantly targeting Cape hake (shallow and deep-water), kingklip, and various demersal (bottom-dwelling) sharks. It is supposedly regulated through the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) via Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Effort (TAE) allocations but it seems that this enforcement is not as strict as it should be.

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| <p><b>Wednesday</b></p> | <p><b>15</b></p> | <p><b>Psalm 84 (<i>The Message</i>)</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!</p> <p><sup>2</sup> My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young - a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.</p> <p><sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.</p> <p><sup>8</sup> Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty; listen to me, God of Jacob.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> Look on our shield, O God; look with favour on your anointed one.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.</p> <p><sup>11</sup> For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favour and honour; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you</p> |
| <p><b>Thursday</b></p>  | <p><b>16</b></p> | <p><b>World Snake Day</b></p> <p>It's World Snake Day!</p> <p>Today we celebrate one of nature's most misunderstood creatures—snakes! Often feared, but vital to our ecosystems, snakes play a crucial role in maintaining balance in the environment.</p> <p>Did you know?</p> <div data-bbox="1157 1093 1497 1326" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="459 1393 794 1617" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="453 1630 794 1778" data-label="Caption"> <p><b>Herald Snake</b> - Common in gardens in Gauteng. Mildly venomous but requiring no medical intervention.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="836 1335 1497 1809" data-label="Text"> <p>South Africa is home to over 170 species of snakes – only a handful are venomous.</p> <p>Snakes help control rodent populations, which supports both agriculture and disease prevention.</p> <p>Many snakes, like the African Rock Python, are non-venomous and play a big role in keeping ecosystems healthy.</p> <p>We all need to be committed to protecting all wildlife – even the ones that slither!</p> <p>Conservation means respecting every part of the</p> </div> <p>ecosystem.</p> <p>So next time you spot a snake, take a breath and remember – they're part of Creation too!</p> <p><b>Respect, educate and conserve!</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                        |

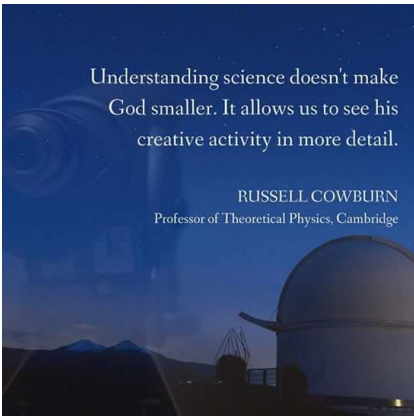
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| Friday   | 17 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Saturday | 18 | <p><b>Nelson Mandela Day</b></p> <p>Mandela Day is celebrated annually on July 18th to honour the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela. Officially recognized by the United Nations, it serves as a global call to action for people worldwide to dedicate at least 67 minutes to community service, representing the 67 years Mandela spent fighting for social justice and equality.</p>  <p>The overarching philosophy of the day is "It's in your hands" - a reminder that every individual has the power to make an imprint and change the world for the better.</p> <p><b>Get Involved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Donate your time:</i> Volunteering at local soup kitchens, early childhood development centres, or animal shelters.</li> <li>• <i>Giving back:</i> Donating clothes, books, or non-perishable food to charities and community food drives.</li> <li>• <i>Environmental action:</i> Participating in tree-planting or local clean-up drives.</li> <li>• No matter how small your action, Mandela Day is about changing the world for the better, just as Nelson Mandela did every day.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>What are you doing to make every day a Mandela Day - by taking action against poverty ultimately benefits the environment. What are you doing to make the world a better place?</i></b></p> |
| Sunday   | 19 | <p>Forgiving parent to all creation, your mercy is boundless. We squander the inheritance of this earth as mere commodity to be bought and sold for our comfort and entertainment. We refuse to share its bounty with our brothers and sisters in the great family of creation. Yet you welcome us home, and invite us to celebrate the feast of your new creation with all your children: those who swim beneath the waves of the sea and those who live in its soil; the children of the flowers in the meadows and the trees in the forest; all the children who roam over the land and the winged ones who fly with the winds; and yes, your human children too</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| <p><b>Monday</b></p>  | <p><b>20</b></p> | <p><b>Indescribable</b></p> <p>From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea<br/> Creations revealing Your majesty<br/> From the colours of fall to the fragrance of spring<br/> Every creature unique in the song that it sings<br/> All exclaiming</p> <p>Indescribable, uncontainable<br/> You placed the stars in the sky<br/> And You know them by name<br/> You are amazing, God<br/> All powerful, untameable<br/> Awestruck, we fall to our knees<br/> As we humbly proclaim<br/> You are amazing, God</p>  <p>Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go?<br/> Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow<br/> Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light?<br/> Yet, conceals it to bring us the coolness of night<br/> None can fathom</p> <p>Indescribable, uncontainable<br/> You placed the stars in the sky<br/> And You know them by name<br/> You are amazing, God<br/> All powerful, untameable<br/> Awestruck, we fall to our knees<br/> As we humbly proclaim<br/> You are amazing, God ; You are amazing, God</p> <p>Incomparable, unchangeable<br/> You see the depths of my heart<br/> And You love me the same<br/> You are amazing, God; You are amazing, God</p> <p><b>Chris Tomlin</b> wrote “Indescribable” in 2004, joining the unique voices of all creation in declaring how indescribable God is. The song draws heavily upon God’s answer to Job. “Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim you are amazing God.</p> <p><a href="#">Listen</a></p> |
| <p><b>Tuesday</b></p> | <p><b>21</b></p> | <p>God of all creation, as we look at the environment, your divine power and immense love are ever present. We thank you for the beautiful creation and abundant resources you have provided your children. We ask for your help in revealing how we can be better stewards of your creation. Help us to use only the resources we need, never being selfish by taking more than necessary. Please give us the opportunity to appropriately share our wealth with those who are less fortunate instead of disposing of our surplus. Help us to remember that the environment is home to all life and that we must take up the responsibility to ensure all life is respected. We thank you for this day and ask for your blessing on this journey. Amen.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| Wednesday | 22 | <p><b>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</b></p> <p><b>Chapter Five</b></p> <p><b>Forms of Populism and Liberalism</b></p> <p><b>The benefits and limits of liberal approaches</b></p> <p>166. Everything, then, depends on our ability to see the need for a change of heart, attitudes and lifestyles. Otherwise, political propaganda, the media and the shapers of public opinion will continue to promote an individualistic and uncritical culture subservient to unregulated economic interests and societal institutions at the service of those who already enjoy too much power. My criticism of the technocratic paradigm involves more than simply thinking that if we control its excesses everything will be fine. The bigger risk does not come from specific objects, material realities or institutions, but from the way that they are used. It has to do with human weakness, the proclivity to selfishness that is part of what the Christian tradition refers to as “concupiscence”: the human inclination to be concerned only with myself, my group, my own petty interests. Concupiscence is not a flaw limited to our own day. It has been present from the beginning of humanity, and has simply changed and taken on different forms down the ages, using whatever means each moment of history can provide. Concupiscence, however, can be overcome with the help of God.</p> <p>167. Education and upbringing, concern for others, a well-integrated view of life and spiritual growth: all these are essential for quality human relationships and for enabling society itself to react against injustices, aberrations and abuses of economic, technological, political and media power. Some liberal approaches ignore this factor of human weakness; they envisage a world that follows a determined order and is capable by itself of ensuring a bright future and providing solutions for every problem</p> <p><b><i>Prayerfully consider how this affects our Country</i></b></p> |
| Thursday  | 23 | <p>On this winter's day<br/> We are thankful for the small things that lift our spirits-<br/> The warmth of another's smile or embrace,<br/> The glimpse of the sun through the clouds,<br/> Freshly brewed coffee, Hot soup.</p> <p>We are thankful for the small things that lift our spirits<br/> the beauty of this place in which we live,<br/> the company of family and friends,<br/> our passion for justice and peace.</p> <p>May the thoughts of our hearts,<br/> the words of our mouth,<br/> the work of our hands,<br/> and all that we do with our lives speak of grace and truth<br/> as we seek to live in the way of Christ. Amen</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |



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| Friday   | 24 | <p><b>Prayer - based on Psalm 67</b></p> <p>Creator God, you know us better than ourselves and it is only through your mercy, your kindness that we can turn from our own selfish desires to see your will and see the blessings that surround us each day as your gift. May we honour that gift so that all may see the blessing of life you have given the world.</p>  <p><b><i>May every voice be used to celebrate God's gift of life!</i></b></p> <p>If your voice was listened for and followed, life would be just, peace would reign, happiness and joy would fill our daily lives, the life of our community, our country, and the world.</p> <p><b><i>May every voice be used to celebrate God's gift of life!</i></b></p> <p>The blessing of life fills the air we breathe, the ground we walk on, the rain, the heat of the sun. Your world provides everything we need, but is harmed by what we want. May we live out your blessing so that all may share in it.</p> <p><b><i>May every voice be used to celebrate God's gift of life! Amen</i></b></p> |
| Saturday | 25 | <p>Because you are a forgiving God, we are happy and your creation is hopeful, for there is no reason for us to hide our sin. We confess that our imperial ways waste the habitat of your most vulnerable creatures, both human and other kind. By your mercy restore to us, as to the woman of the city who anointed Jesus with oil, the joy of loving and righteous use of the gifts of your creation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Sunday   | 26 | <p>Anticipating the newness of life,<br/>coming in the springs of your resurrection.</p> <p>The soaring eagle lifts our hearts, that with your holy angels,<br/>we can climb the heights of your holy hills.<br/>The crispness of the morning refracts the light and beauty<br/>that the call of your holiness brings to us.</p> <p>Jesus, Love, our Creator King,<br/>we rejoice at your coming, and yet we sorrow.</p> <p>Your Holy Word shines upon our path. And we see...<br/>Lives imprisoned and impoverished by greed.<br/>Country sides crushed and ravaged by wars<br/>where hate, pride and arrogance reign.<br/>We see waters poisoned by neglect,<br/>Birdsongs of praise stilled by the corruption of need and want.</p> <p>Creator King, we weep with the buck seeking her lamb<br/>crushed by the rush of human traffic.<br/>We sorrow with the unborn child who will never know,<br/>the beauty of the daybreak.</p> <p>We weep, coming King,<br/>Because we fail to see and cherish,<br/>the holy beauty and joy of all life and creation you have made.</p> <p><b><i>Rachel V. Holmes</i></b></p>                                     |

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| Monday    | 27 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Tuesday   | 28 | <p><b>World Nature Conservation Day</b></p> <p><b>Nature Conservation Day – Because This Is Home</b></p> <p>Today is a gentle reminder that nature isn't just a place we visit - it's home.</p> <p>It's the sound of birdsong at sunrise, the scent of rain on dry earth, the quiet presence of elephants in the distance. It's the life that surrounds us and sustains us.</p> <p>Caring for Creation is not just our job - it's our purpose. It's in the small, daily actions: monitoring wildlife, protecting vulnerable species, teaching young minds, and walking side by side with communities who share this land.</p> <p>Every creature, every tree, every drop of water matters.</p> <p><b><i>So today, on Nature Conservation Day, pause and feel connected to Creation - to this land; . to its stories. and to the people working every day to protect it.</i></b></p>  |
| Wednesday | 29 | <p>We praise you, our Lord and God, for the variety of your creation<br/>And for the sanctity you have bestowed on all life through creation.<br/>May we know the sanctity of life and foster the conservation<br/>And preservation of the variety of God-given life<br/>May we never- knowingly or otherwise – be responsible<br/>For the extinction of a plant or an animal.<br/>God, may new life fill us, through the gift of your Holy Spirit<br/>To know your wonder, your love and the abundant life you give.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Thursday  | 30 | <p>Dear God: The animals, plants, air, water, children, babies, and old people and disabled need YOUR help. Please help. We thank you for that help as we see the world becoming what YOU want it to be, not harmed and filled with pain and heartbreak by a few mean, greedy people who do not care for all the amazing and awesome things you have given to all of us.</p> <p><b><i>Anna-lee<br/>aged 9</i></b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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| Friday | 31 | <p><b>World Ranger Day</b></p> <div><p>Thank you for your loyal service and dedication to protecting our natural treasures and cultural heritage.</p><p><small>WORLD RANGERS DAY<br/>#WorldRangersDay</small></p></div>  |
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"I can see God in a daisy. I can see God at night in the wind and rain. I see Creation just about everywhere. The highest form of song is prayer."

— Bob Dylan

[www.jaei.org.za](http://www.jaei.org.za)