

## **Holy Water**

### **A SIMPLE BLESSING — CHOOSH!**

A friend and prophetic spirit among us is Dave Bell. He holds the title of *Minister for Indigenous People, Yakama Christian Mission* at White Swan, Washington. His blog is always a thoughtful read. His latest is called Choosh! It's about water.

Water is in the news big time. It's a political issue. Water has more to do with our human destiny than anything I know about. Unless it is air.

The most recent assault on water is by coal mining interests in West Virginia. You can't blame the people for seeing it as a struggle between water and jobs, or between environmentalists and big business. It's that way at Standing Rock and Flint and almost everywhere that there is controversy about water.

Sadly the concern seems to be driven by local politics and what a politician needs to appease donors and to keep a voter base for the next election. Usually pure water and pure air are outweighed by what it would cost for industry to find a better solution. Jobs are the chips on the table.

It's amazing what can be done with water...both good and bad. Lose it to draught or waste, poison it with lead or oil or coal; Or turn it into morning coffee or evening wine. You can even drink it as it is. One thing we can't do is live without it.

Then here comes Dave Bell taking us to a new level of thinking beyond the human need for good water. He shares the native people's idea that water matters for itself. *"Water has soul."* It is worthy of honor. Here's one way some do it:

***"'Choosh.' Said quietly by some and an exclamation point by others. Meals never begin until each person lifts a glass with a swallow of water and swallows it. A blessing, folk say, 'choosh' as they drink to recognize that life comes from water."***

We've begun to do that at our house. Wine works as well as water. We click glasses, remember, sip, and choosh. I feel some communion with those who make a stand in behalf of water.

Whatever and however, I suggest a non-partisan lifting of the glass for a holy moment of remembering.

Choosh! and A-men!

*Art Morgan, February 4, 2017*

I recommend Dave's Blog, *Ridged Valley Reflections*

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