

A pair of glasses with thin metal frames and clear lenses is resting on a stack of books. The books have various colored spines, including red, blue, and yellow. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the glasses and the text.

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW

by Ian Menzies

I recently mislaid my relatively new, multifocal reading glasses and was dismayed to realise how I had come to depend upon everything to be crystal clear when wearing them.

Suddenly I was back in 'misty-land' without even realising that I had left it behind.

After a few days of searching, and in the hope that they'd 'turn up', I ordered two replacements: a set of reading glasses and another pair for long-distance. The constant swapping between the two was a pain, and I regretted my choice.

What a joy it was to rediscover the missing multifocals.

All this reminded me of the verse from the George Herbert (1593–1633) hymn, 'Teach me, my God and King':

A man that looks on glass
on it may stay his eye;
or if he pleaseth, through it pass

and then the heaven espy.
Letting one's eye rest on the surface keeps you earthbound.

Looking beyond, or in Herbert's words, through the glass, and a glimpse of something far greater comes into focus, just like my world has come back into focus.

So came to mind the challenge to 'look beyond'. Beyond complacency and into concern. Beyond vagueness into awareness. Beyond superficial chatter to a real sharing of self and a real interest in the other.

Each week we are 'sent out' from worship into the world, charged to live out a Christian life.

Let's make sure that as we go, we look beyond the superficial and look for the hand of God at work.

We might even see a chance for us to help.
Then indeed might we the heaven espy.