



*“The Only Limit to
a Miracle is Our
Response”
2 Kings 4:1-7
Nov. 9, 2008
Rev. Shelley Lavenne*

“Try to do as little as possible.”

This was Dodsworth’s motto.

We began our worship by telling Tim Egan’s story of Dodsworth, the mole. Dodsworth does as little work as he can, collecting items from a junkyard and placing them in his thrift store for sale, until he happens upon a pink refrigerator that spurs him to do much more with his life.

*If you missed Sunday’s service, you can borrow a copy of Egan’s *The Pink Refrigerator* (Houghton Mifflin, 2007) from our Church Library or Community Library. Our copy was purchased through Mustard Seed Book Store at www.naramatacentre.net*

We had chosen to do this story on this Sunday, November 9th – way back in September, not knowing the tremendous events that would take place in the United States south of us this past week.

From *The New York Times*’ Editorial Page, Nov. 5, 2008

“An American with the name Barack Hussein Obama, the son of a white woman and a black man he barely knew, raised by his grandparents far outside the stream of American power and wealth, has been elected the 44th president of the United States.”

You may not agree with the politics of Barack Obama but you can’t help but admire what was accomplished. And to admire his opponent, John McCain, who held up his hands to stop his supporters from booing, to concede admiration for what had been accomplished.

Because Obama got out to the polls a lot of people who may have thought like Dodsworth the mole in our story. It’s only me, one person. Why bother to vote? I can’t make a difference. Why bother?

Barack increased the voting by 25 per cent for Hispanics, 14 per cent of Black, five per cent of whites – and get this – 25 per cent of those between 18-29 years of age.

Statistically, Barack could have been a Dodsworth. Multi-racial male, raised by a single mother and then grandparents – who weren’t at all wealthy.

So we witnessed on Tuesday night what seemed like a miracle. African-American elected president of the U.S. But really it was a miracle that took a lot of work. In fact, maybe what happened earlier in this week was actually a response to a miracle.

Because the only limitation on a miracle is our response.

Maybe the miracle for Obama was being raised by a mother and then grandparents who loved him. Maybe the miracle was getting a good education beginning at grade 5. Maybe the miracle was working with Church people with the poor in Chicago.

You see ultimately there are multiple miracles happening around us – if we will see them. I've been abandoned by my father ...or...I've been given two grandparents who care about me. It's all in how we look at it and how we respond.

Elisha tells the widow to collect as many jars as she can from her neighbours. We don't know how many houses she went to. Maybe she could have collected more. But as long as there were jars, there was oil to fill them. If there had been more jars, the oil would have continued to flow. So it is with the love of God.

And so it is with the miracle of God's love. Ever flowing, never ending. And it's up to us, to keep collecting the jars for the oil to flow into. Gifted, cherished each of us are. Keep your eyes open for those miracles in your life. They happen each day. And respond with love. Amen.