

# THIRTY SECONDS

*in The Kingdom*

P.K. SYKES

# PREFACE

I never intended to write this book. It began as a collection of notes and personal journals based on an exceptional experience I was given in 2006. This book offers an interpretation of the meaning of that experience.

I had no control over the timing or location of the experience. This book relates my discernment process regarding that exceptional experience, and offers perspectives on how we can apply life's real values in our everyday lives and in our world today.

This book also offers a preview of an event that will impact our entire world in the not too distant future. I do not know the day or the hour of that event, but I believe that it will happen based on the experience I had as described in this book.

I could not have written this book without the assistance and encouragement of a number of people from varied walks of life. These include...

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*Carol, my teacher and life coach,  
Father Jerry, a truly spiritual shepherd,  
Pastor Luther, an open mind and heart,  
Amy, a gifted young artist,  
Jim, my encouraging accountant,  
Matt, my social media pro,  
Janet, my CreateSpace editor,*

*And before all else,  
I want to thank Jesus Christ, my risen Lord and Savior.*

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## *Chapter 1*

# **THIRTY SECONDS IN THE KINGDOM**

This story is about an experience I must share. It is my hope that you and others will be able to help me fully realize the meaning of an event unlike anything else I have experienced in fifty-six years of life. It is not my intention to use this story to derive any benefit other than to understand its full meaning. It is my hope that what I saw and experienced will have positive implications for our world.

I first shared this experience with my wife Carol on a Sunday morning in May of 2006. As I told Carol about my experience, she looked at me and asked, "What do you think it means?"

I replied. "I don't know what the vision means, but I do know that the Kingdom of God is peaceful."

Let me present the following brief introduction so that I am not perceived by the reader as a religious zealot. For the past twenty-six years, I have been married to one of the most caring people I have ever met. My wife Carol is a third grade public school teacher who prioritizes respect, individual achievement, and equality in a pedagogical discipline that focuses on bringing out the best efforts of every single child in her class. No student is left behind in Carol's class.

My wife and I have two wonderful children. Our son recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in management and our daughter is a college student majoring in business and fun. Our lives are blessed with good health in spite of having to overcome Carol's breast cancer in 1998 and watching our son spend thirteen weeks of his life in a body cast after having suffered a broken femur at the age of ten. In all circumstances, we have placed our trust and faith in God for all our needs.

My career for over twenty years has focused on managing companies involved in manufacturing plastics packaging and retail security products. If I have learned anything about successful management in my career, it is that it requires humility and honesty. Without humility, you cannot hear what other people have to say. Without honesty, you cannot earn trust.

I originally thought about going to visit with a local pastor to share my experience but did not really know if one would be interested. For all I knew, people all over the world were having similar experiences like mine every day. If this was the case, then I was not alone. If my experience was unique, then I wanted to share it with others and fully understand what it meant.

The location where my experience took place could be considered unusual. It was shortly after 8:00 a.m. on a sunny May morning in 2006. I was driving to my office north of St. Paul, Minnesota on Highway 35E to exit onto Highway 96 in White Bear Lake. When I came to the top of the 35E exit ramp, I found myself in line with two lanes of traffic waiting for the light to change. The radio was off and I was looking straight ahead.

As I waited for the light to change, a horizontal window appeared before me. The window was framed and angled toward me providing a three-dimensional view into another existence. The following is what I saw and experienced inside the window.

To the left was a well-rounded tree thick with green leaves. Behind the tree were rolling green hills and a bright sky with a striking red tint in the upper right corner of the window. As I watched, a white bird, similar to a dove, emerged from the top of the tree and flew to the right side of the window and beyond my view. I then saw movement from the area below the tree.

Although not as clearly visible as the white bird, a person or small group of people moved away from the base of the tree and moved to the right side of the window and beyond my view. It was at that point I realized I was experiencing something beyond what some might call a dream although I was wide-awake and aware of the traffic around me.

I found myself engaged in an experience that I can only describe as eternally peaceful. In the world of the window before me, I felt an overwhelming sense of tranquillity. This was a place where there is no fear, no rancor, no concerns, and no needs. I was

experiencing a place of contentment beyond the limitations of our world and my life to date.

Based on some inner sense, I felt that I was experiencing the Kingdom of God. All of this happened in a matter of thirty seconds or less.

The traffic light changed. The cars in front of me began to move. As I reacted to the need to keep up with the traffic, the window disappeared.

As I made my way through that Wednesday, I periodically reflected on the incredibly peaceful experience I had been given. My business plans that day seemed inconsequential when I realized there were more dimensions to life than those we experience and prioritize in our everyday world. I did not realize at that time that I had been given an extraordinary gift, which would send me on a journey of understanding and communicating the meaning of what I had experienced that morning.

This ends the preview of this book.