

June 17, 2020

Trinity Musings #19: Rev Brian Goodings (self-isolating and feeling slightly older but hopeful in my office at Trinity United Church: Collingwood)

Ever notice that if you spell Covid-19 backwards the letters make the word “Donaldrump”(I omitted on purpose)? Well ok they don’t actually do that but the spell they cast is not dissimilar. Both are infections that have created a pall over the entire world and have stirred fear and anxiety in all of us because nobody knows what they might do next. Both, we know, can be deadly, and both, right now at least, seem to be incurable. They are both going to be hard to get rid of and I don’t think either bug is going to go quietly into that dark night.

I’m actually getting really tired of talking about Trump and Covid. In the “before times”, every conversation I used to have was about the Leafs and whether or not Nylander was really worth 7 million or if Freddy had lost the starting job etc. You know, world shattering, stuff. Now all we talk about is The Red Rooster and his latest idiocy or how many new viral infections have been reported. We are trying to stay as far away from both these plagues as possible but they have infected our brains.

We are endeavouring to understand where they came from and how they happened upon us. The Guardian says so far there have been 4500 (yep forty-five hundred) English language books written about Trump since his election. The Covid-19 virus is spawning a huge number of books too and when it’s all said and done there may be around the same number written. This isn’t even trying to estimate the number that will be written in the future. Not surprisingly, because how they have changed our lives, Trump and Covid have become fascinating topics on which we are fixated.

There are many evolutionary theories of how they emerged from the swamp. Trump, among many others, believe Covid came from the petri dish of nefarious government scientists working in a secret lab in “Chine-ah”. They then released the virus by infecting bats and trained dolphins that spread it worldwide. The intention is to paralyze and disrupt the global economy with this semi-deadly-hoax so Chine-ah can become dominant. Hmmm...I don’t buy the origin but, combined with the Stable Genius of Donald (his words), China may well become dominant. I’m not sure how his KGB buddy Putin plays into this plan but I’m sure he’s involved too.

I do actually believe that The Trump Frankensteinian Monster did rise up from the primordial soup of the secret manipulations of the masses by the Koch brothers’ Toxic Empire Lab. He is a puppet creature of the Dark Money billionaires who are doing very well, thanks be to their Donald.

And so it goes. We spend a lot of time and spin a lot of theories about their origins but nobody yet, knows exactly how to simply stop them. They seem too strong for most of us. They are tyrannical.

My belief is that it's not the strength of a single superhero or silver bullet that is needed now but recognition of, and joining in, our collective weaknesses. (That's the Jesus-thing for me. None of us can find or live an abundant life unless we look out for the well-being of our neighbours.)

If we look at history, it's the weak force of peasant interdependency that has eventually prevailed over all tyrants. The old wisdom story, "Stone Soup", begins with nothing and ends in a wonderful meal because people contributed to their greater good, without actually realizing it until the end.

Even as I write there are medical research labs all over the world sharing information about the virus and working feverishly (pun intended) to find a vaccine. According to one scientist who was interviewed on CBC, the global sharing of information right now is unprecedented. These previously fiercely competitive labs are now opening their books and findings to each other. It's sharing what they do know and what they don't know that will advance the effort and find the cure. It really is extraordinary to have labs in China working in full collaboration with labs in Halifax.

In the Divided States of America, people are forming political alliances and sharing their resolve to actually show up at the ballot box to put an end to the rule of Donald. They are going to need the support of each other and the global-us because they are up against some very strong forces that will not let go of power easily. But by sheer numbers, not violence or money, they (hopefully) will prevail.

Did you ever notice that if you spell Donaldrump backwards, maybe a million times, it might even form the name Jacinda Aredern? (She's the Prime Minister of New Zealand and, in my opinion, one of the greatest leaders of our time.) And did you notice that if you spell Covid-19 backwards through enough cooperation and science it eventually spells vaccine?

I know I'm not very good at spelling...but I'm pretty optimistic about the future. I wanna get back to talking about the Leafs. Say, did you know if you take the first letters of all their names they spell Stanley Cup in 2021? Really.



**People who work together will win, whether
it be against complex football defenses, or
the problems of modern society.**

Vince Lombardi