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Trinity Musings #33: from Rev Brian Goodings trinityminister@bmts.com

Serving Trinity United Church: Collingwood

Apparently Senator Mike Duffy isn't the only one who can't figure out where they live. Seems to be quite a number of people in Ontario who don't know exactly where their home is either.

I know this is localist, edging towards xenophobic talk...but I've been looking at licence plate holders (they have the names and address of the dealer) on cars and a lot of the vehicles appear to have come from Orange and Red Covid-Zones. This might only be circumstantial evidence, but I'm guessing that the people who drove them, probably came from these zones too.

I know that most of them are really fine people and ordinarily bring a lot of good (and money) to the area but now is not an ordinary time. Some argue that they actually do have a place here and one in the city...ok...pick one as your primary residence and stay put.

Right now, our safe-bubbles are mixing and bumping into each other like they did on the Lawrence Welk show. This "champagne-virus" is loving it. (Younger readers will have no idea what I'm talking about...Google it!)

We've been through this discussion before and I defended the right of people to go where they want but...as the number of infections in Ontario rises exponentially, maybe the time has come to better define where Covid-safe-bubbles start and end.

How on earth we would do that without creating a police state is really beyond me. It would take some very careful planning and widespread agreement amongst Ontario-ans to limit travel but I think we need to talk about it.

Funny thing is that the Maritime Provinces have been doing exactly that since the early spring and they have effectively "flat-lined" the virus stats.

If you show up at the border of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI or Newfoundland you will be greeted by a very polite official. They will ask you what you are doing there and, if you are planning on staying, where you are going to spend the next fourteen days in strict self-isolation.

If you are crossing the province to go directly to your isolation cell (no grocery or booze stops), you will have seven hours to do so and they will be definitely be checking.

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I suppose you might be able to say you're going to stay at Mike Duffy's house, although he might be there now, but if you don't have a plan and place to self-isolate you will be asked to leave. Tout suite.

I have heard that they will let you go to the bathroom and get gas but that's about it.

Sound harsh? Un-Canadian? Yep sure does.

Has it been effective? Yep sure has been. Look at their low numbers. Look at all the social benefits they are enjoying.

So here's the thing...this Province of Ontario "stay at home and wear a mask if you have to go out", is a polite way of Doug Ford asking people to do the right thing. Especially if you are in the Red or Orange zone.

It ain't working and the numbers are rising because too many people aren't doing the right thing.

If the numbers of cases keeps going up, the repercussions may be very far reaching. Elective surgeries (even for cancer) will be cancelled...schools might be closed...most businesses would be shuttered etc.

And before you call me a communist or control-freak here's **the most important point**...if we all kept to our Bubble Zones for two weeks or even three...it would break the rate of infections and flatten the curve again. Officials are now calling this method a Circuit Breaker.

It would be really unpopular for many and it might cause demonstrations in the streets...so be it. Most people would stay home and the hue and cry of the non-masked conspiracy believers would only last two or three weeks. Let 'em rage- within designated areas. Hope they don't get sick and come near me.

I've been rather circumspect about faith over the last couple of Musings but I do believe that keeping our neighbours well- even (especially) when it inconveniences us- is really a holy practice.

Ultimately, the best practices of faith, will serve all of us, very well indeed. Three weeks of hanging out in your home or in the neighbourhood where you live really, in my opinion, isn't asking all that much. Is it?