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Trinity Musings #35: from Rev Brian Goodings trinityminister@bmts.com
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If you are a religious kook like me, you might have been doing a lot of praying and hoping the last nine Covid-months for Divine Inspiration to save us from this plague. (Divine Intervention is not something I pray for but it might be a good topic for another Musings.)

I believe that people of faith don't need to make a choice between good science and good faith. Evolution (yep, I believe in that too), over time and trial and error, brings new truth and better practices. Hope did come, far sooner than we expected, through some very hard work, scientific method and God-given ingenuity.

My (our) prayers were answered and the Three Magi this year go by the names Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna. Johnson and Johnson sent a text yesterday to say they are also coming to the vaccine party.

They are coming with their vaccines to give (sell) us a very welcome defence against this deadly virus. (On a quiet day, you can already hear the shareholders in these companies singing hymns of raises.)

How the life-saving-jab-in-the-arm is to be fairly and quickly distributed, without causing riots in the streets, is yet to be determined.

Let's all agree to be patient. It will be slow and steady, with some setbacks, but ultimately, it could become, a very happy time for all of us.

2021 could be the best year of our lives. Maybe, a few weeks after being vaccinated, people will line the streets to celebrate, like they did, when the World Wars were over. Ticker tape parades, unmasked sidewalk smooching and laughter might be the order of the day.

I can't wait to get back on my motorcycle and head for the coast(s), without thinking or hearing about this stupid virus, all day every day.

I know not everyone is pumped up about getting this miraculous needle of life. Some folk are reasonably asking, how on earth one vaccine, let alone

at least three or four, could have been discovered and produced so quickly?

In March, we were told that these things normally take around two years or more to produce and put through all the safety hoops. Apparently not necessarily...hmmm...

And so the suspicion and conspiracy theories begin. But maybe what seems just too good to be true is actually true.

That's what I'm going with.

Retired General Rick Hillier, who is overseeing the distribution of Covid 19 vaccines in Ontario, put a genius spin on why the wait time is a good thing. He said we will get a chance to watch what happens to all the early adopters. We will see how the Brits fare while we wait our turn, but I'm still extremely optimistic.

The question now is whether these vaccines should be mandatory or not. I know...some will say their civil rights protect them...others, their own distrust of science and medicine...others that it was all a hoax anyway...and others, that their church and pastor will protect them. (Yeah that's a thing. Don't look at me, I'm not that kooky.)

Some who are advocating for mandatory vaccination, say "if you want to drive a car in Canada you have to wear your seatbelt". The vaccine, they say, is a seatbelt against Covid 19. Anyone who wants to go into public spaces should be vaccinated.

It's a good argument...but I know we are inconsistent with our rules and regulations for public safety. Alcohol and cigarettes are legal and I don't wear a seatbelt on my motorcycle. I could be on the blessed-thing in bare feet and wearing only a speedo or a thong (sorry for that image and no, I don't own either). I'm legal, as long as I am wearing a helmet.

But to dress like that would be, in my opinion, as foolhardy as not getting the vaccine. There are some who ride with minimal or no protective clothing, but not me. Why take that kind of risk when it's so easy to wear the right gear? (Yeah I know, why ride a bike at all? I can't exactly say...)

Life is short and there are risks we assume in the choices we make, but most of endeavour to minimize these risks when we can. I see these vaccines as wonderful options that will allow us to return to living much more joyful lives.

They certainly are worth the risk to break this spell of fear and doom and gloom we've been living under for the last nine months. I'm going to get in line for the shot as soon as I can. It might be the best Christmas present we get in 2020.