

FIVE MINUTES WITH TOM MOOTY

Special to "The Newport Plain Talk"
Release date: Weekend, Jan 9, 2021
Column Number 2102

"ROTTEN? NO! REGENERATING!"

So, I'm going through my annual bout with breathing problems; and, although I am used to this, this year was tiny bit different - what with all the COVID-19 you know.

Ok, I tested negative (getting ready for surgery), negative (getting ready for surgery), negative (finally I'm going to have my surgery), negative (secondarily exposed), POSITIVE - and that "tiny bit different" became a mountain of difference.

Double down on quarantine; if a 10 day isolation is good, then 25 could be better - don't you think. No symptoms; no problem; but, when I sneeze (Anita always counted my 7 sneezes per day), people start "crossing" me, and getting out of the way!

Anyway, I am walking the halls of the Family Practice Center; waiting on my annual x-ray; and I saw a remarkable picture hanging on the wall.

I thought to myself; "Only a photo-artist could get such a beautiful picture from such an ugly scene".

It was a dead rotten, decaying, diseased, hollowed out old stump of a tree, covered with moss and decay and rot and everything you do not want in your home!

And it was surrounded by new life, new green stuff with beautiful flowering plants, fresh green clovers and grasses.

It was using all the decaying "innards" of the once big, magnificent tree to fertilize the ground plants all around.

No body but a true photo-artist could see that knuckled up, knarley old scene in the wild; and tell that story with a lens. Something so beautiful coming from something so ugly! Amazing; truly amazing!

I stood there looking at that simple, unsigned photo and my mind began to click: "There's a column in that, Tom. Look for it, dig it out, and put it down on newsprint what that unnamed photographer has put down on glossy paper".

Life is like that, you know! There are multitudes of ugly episodes that we run smack dab head long into; but there are generally beautiful lessons that can be learned if we look for them.

This COVID-19 Pandemic has killed many people, weakened many others; but it has also caused many of our churches to expand their ministries to include video and radio when we were satisfied to drift along with the crowd before.

The times in which we live have been taken from the pages of your Bible; just as God said they would be - wacky, haywire, not making good sense: "This know also, that in the last days, perilous times shall come . . ." (2 Tim 3:1). There it is - "wacky, haywire, not making good sense time shall come".

But something good can come from this if we let it - and encourage it! People are looking for something real in this make believe world in which we live. So, be real!

Those of us who see this can also say these times are signs of the coming of The Lord!

And that's a really good thing! And, unlike that photo on the Family Practice Wall - unsigned - the photo that will be taken of that event will be signed, "God bless you. Yours truly, King Jesus"

You are ready to meet King Jesus when He comes back aren't you?

No? Don't know how? I do; and I will share!

Tom Mooty has served Newport's West End Baptist Church as its Supply Pastor and Interim Pastor and Guest Pastor and Pastor and Senior Pastor and very, very, very Senior Pastor for a total of thirty three cumulative years; and normally writes this column for The Newport Plain Talk's Wednesday and Weekend Editions. Mooty sincerely appreciates your comments which have been sent to tommooty15@gmail.com or P.O. Box 851, Newport, 37822.