

Small Talk – April 16 2021
Required Facial Covering When in Public – Day 266
By Michael Small

It is said “*You will know the truth and the and the truth will set you free.*”¹ In this time it is difficult to discern “the truth”! I, with many, continue to be frustrated by the general focus of media. The phrase from the print media is familiar “If it bleeds it reads!” too often is true. Multi medias focus on the tragic, the negative and the most inflammatory news. We may need to know much of that information, but it may not be the “whole truth and nothing but the truth”. I yearn to hear “the rest of the story”.

I make every effort to be balanced in my consumption of news and events by going to no less than three different national newspapers and numerous web news sites from MSNBC to FOX and I also include the BBC and other worldwide sources. If what I read or hear seems to be “too good to be true”, I will go to www.snopes.com which is “*The definitive Internet reference source for researching urban legends, folklore, myths, rumors, and misinformation.*” Generally speaking, I discover that the story was too good or too bad to be true. I make every effort to discern, to understand the core of the story, the truth of the event or person being reported upon. When I know things to be false or inflammatory, I do not continue to spread those untruths. There simply is too much misinformation that we are exposed to on a daily basis. I would hope that all of us would choose not to spread untruths and misinformation and have the courage to challenge them when they are put forth. I yearn for the days when Sargent Joe Friday (played by Jack Webb in the TV show *Dragnet*) while interrogating a woman said, “*All we want are the facts, ma'am.*”

I also only goes to websites and persons upon who I trust and know. Occasionally I will share that information from you.

On April 13 the Rev. Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister of the Minnesota Conference – the United Church of Christ wrote on a Facebook Post responding to the below posting by Rev. Dr. Ron Bell (www.drronbel.com) “*I’ve been thinking similar thoughts as this all day. Media keep talking about the looting and unrest. But they said not a word about the beautiful vigil that also happened last evening where hundreds gathered to pray, to grieve, and to stir commitment for change. Look again.*”

Rev. Dr. Ron Bell writes,

*“I think you were so busy looking for a riot that
you missed the gathering of the grieving.*

*I think you were so busy looking for looters that
you missed the lament and heartbreak of a community.*

¹ John 8:32 from *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible.* Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

*I think you were so busy looking for trouble that
you missed the tragedy of systemic racialized
trauma on the bodies of black and brown people.*

*Tonight, tomorrow, and even the next day I beg
of you. Look again. Look again.”*

I am convinced that the vast majority of you and of those who march, who speak up and out, who express concern are good and outstanding people. They are our friends and friends to be. They want to work for and build up the common good! They, we, are only trying to be of “good trouble”. Accidents, tragedies, unexpected events, happen on a daily basis. Out of the ashes of all these events may we all seek to rise, to fly as the Phoenix, with the possibility of a new day that is filled with good news and actions.

Let's fly!

In the spirit and agape love of Jesus, Michael

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