

**Small Talk – September 10 2021**  
**By Michael Small**

Over the past week I have received a number of notes (and thank you) from some of you reflecting on the events of twenty years ago on 9/11/01 – the attack on the World Trade Center twin towers in New York City, the plane crashing into the Pentagon, and finally the plane being taken down by democracy in the fields of Pennsylvania. Are you aware, passengers literally and quickly voted to take out the hijackers, even if it meant sacrificing their lives. Americans at their very best – choosing to sacrifice their lives so that many others might live. Amazing!

In recent days, months, and even years, it has been too easy to focus only on all the enormous difficulties we face – from climate change to Covid-19 – from insurrection to ongoing and daily gun violence in the streets of our cities – from poverty to over-population – and the list goes on, forever. One could literally chew on and deal with the numerous problems and crises that confront us 24/7 – every day. And we would grow weary, become discouraged, and ultimately fail to solve everything.

As we remember and honor those lost twenty years ago and all those who were lost as a result of the horrific events of that day – let us also acknowledge all the good and miraculous things that have happened in these twenty years. I would wager, if one were able to put on the scales of justice all the good that has been done in these past twenty years versus the bad and tragic – the scales would be heavily weighted toward the good, the miracles that happen every day, in front of our very eyes.

In the days to come let us see the kindness and love we are surrounded by. May we know and experience the generosity of life and life abundant. Let's pause! May we see and feel the newness of each moment. May we all breathe deeply in life-giving oxygen and expel never-ending gratitude. May we greet the new day, this new moment, this here and now with thanksgiving, hope, and possibility. On the landscape scattered with pain, tragedy, and frustration may we utter words that birth new life! And on that landscape may we plant seeds that will grow into a life-giving future for the seventh generation and beyond.

One way to do this is to honor those who have given so much. Let us say thank you to all of those who make our lives possible. Let us take time to greet others with twinkling eyes and smiles below our masks. Let us be the people we wish and hope to be.

I end with the inspiring and relevant words of Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address.

*Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*

*Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.*

*But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate -- we cannot consecrate -- we cannot hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.*

*It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*

*Abraham Lincoln  
November 19, 1863*

May it be so!

In the spirit and agape love of Jesus, Michael

**To Donate**

**And watch 11:00 am Sunday worship services live and at any time.**

**Go to [www.uccwalker.com](http://www.uccwalker.com)**

**Find back issues of "Small Talk".**