

The Pastors Connection

April 2011

Change: Nasty or Nice?

“For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed” I Cor.15:52b

In recent years I’ve quoted “the older I get the less I like change.” But what would those of us do who were aching tired of the cold, dreary, rigid days of winter if they never changed to spring?

We have a strong core of aging members who provide a solid foundation to our Conestoga church family. It is miraculous that in recent years few have been ill and funerals have been minimal. But as I write volunteers are cleaning up after leading the funeral of Edythe Huyett, mother of Linda Mast. In two days we host the funeral of Sarah Scott. What if our bodies aged over time but were never changed into the transformative presence of Jesus? What if we had no resurrection hope?

That lack of change would be unbearable!

Earthquakes and wars and tsunamis are shaking our world. Evidence the end is near? Records show fewer natural disasters today than in generations past; the difference being that with radio and TV and cell phones, what happens on the other side of the globe now feels close and personal. Our grandparents would have plowed their fields not knowing an earthquake had killed thousands in Japan; not knowing a riot killed hundreds in the Middle East. If oxen had turned acres successfully they would have concluded it was a good day.

I read recently that no generation in recorded history had more diseases eradicated; more millions moved from desperate poverty to middle class security; more multitudes transformed from illiteracy to world citizens; than recent decades. They conclude our anxiety is simply cause of how it feels in the west as we witness the demise of our culture and the shaking of American domination in the world. Those living through the disintegration of Rome; those experiencing the trauma leading to the eventual eradication of the highly sophisticated Mayan culture; those burying whole villages during Europe’s black plague all felt *the* world was ending as *their* world crumbled.

Whichever interpretation ends up proving correct in the grand scheme of God’s design; this we know: God is not shaken. The Lamb who was slain is coming again. His kingdom of wellness and peace will push off the face of the earth all residue of pain and sin and brokenness; in His timing, not ours; with His angels fighting, not human armies; with His Word as the weapon of choice; not guided missiles and unmanned drones.

And the New Jerusalem will settle upon earth. Restored. Changed! That is change that makes worthwhile the living of HiStory joyfully for the benefit of others. 24/7!

Sure, it's ok to resist change for the sake of change alone. And yes, aging means I'll yearn for the familiar. But may I also be counted, may we be gifted, with eyes to see the gentle movement from the wind of the Spirit. May we yield winter places of the heart to fresh bloom of God's spring time growth.

Joyfully Living HisStory with you, Pastor Bob