

COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

Longing To Communicate

I have gotten unnaturally happy recently talking to people. Last week on our walk, Katherine and I ran into not one but two neighbor groups on our walk. While staying at a respectful distance, we chatted happily about summer plans and our pets, the weather and staying healthy. When we were done talking, Katherine turned to me and said, “I really like them...who was that?” I replied, “The lady and her husband whose dog Zeus chased away half a mile three weeks ago.”

Isn't it amazing how much we can long to communicate? That our longing and need can even bridge earlier transgressions or limitations? Of course, not everyone has the same need to communicate or not even in the same way, but longing to be heard and understood is central to who we are as humans, let alone Christians.



One of the great challenges and opportunities of this totally strange season is the ability to communicate. The ways we used to interact, which for almost all congregations used to center in Sunday morning worship, has been disrupted. Prayers, God sightings, announcements, opportunities for service, celebrations; all have been moved in strange ways to new expressions or worse, gone unexpressed.

At the same time, we are finding that the disruption of our patterns are allowing some new ones to grow. We are learning new languages we never knew existed. If you had asked me about Zoom, Facebook Live, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, BlueJeans, GoToMeetings or YouTube Premiere several months ago, you would have gotten a very blank stare from me.

I am nowhere near naming the Pandemic as a blessing. It is a major pain in the backside. BUT... through God, all things are possible. I am reminded that the curse of Babylon was that humanity got too big for its britches and the different languages were named as a GIFT God offered to remind us to be humble. This action was reversed at Pentecost when all the disciples were given the gift of ‘tongues’ or languages to gap the distance of miscommunication so others could hear the Good News. And what is the Good News? That we can be forgiven of sin, change our habits and turn towards God and God’s Kingdom. It results in us loving God and neighbor.

So no, the Pandemic is not a blessing. It is part of the fruit of sin. Yet in seeing it through God’s eyes, we might yet embrace that God is doing a new thing in us. That we are being used for God’s own new kingdom — we are becoming a new creation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Pastor Brian