

## Coop's Scoops #38 Friday May 15, 2020

This has been a very busy week for me, filled with a few things that seemed to tower beyond my capacity to reach. There is that wonderful Scripture verse "God will not allow you to be tempted you beyond what you are able to resist". When I first heard that at least 50 years ago my first reaction was "Hmmm....God has



much too high an opinion of me". And still, He loves me! What an awesome God we serve! Anyway, thinking of high towering things reminded me I had a picture I want to share with you. You might recognize the children from several years ago. We are at Great Beginnings and the kids have build a lego tower that touches the ceiling. They used ladders and lifts and worked very, very hard at this. My only part was some of the lifts, and balancing it so it wouldn't crash during the picture taking.

When this building project started, it seemed impossible, beyond their reach, and getting those blocks all exactly together tight and right was a big chore.

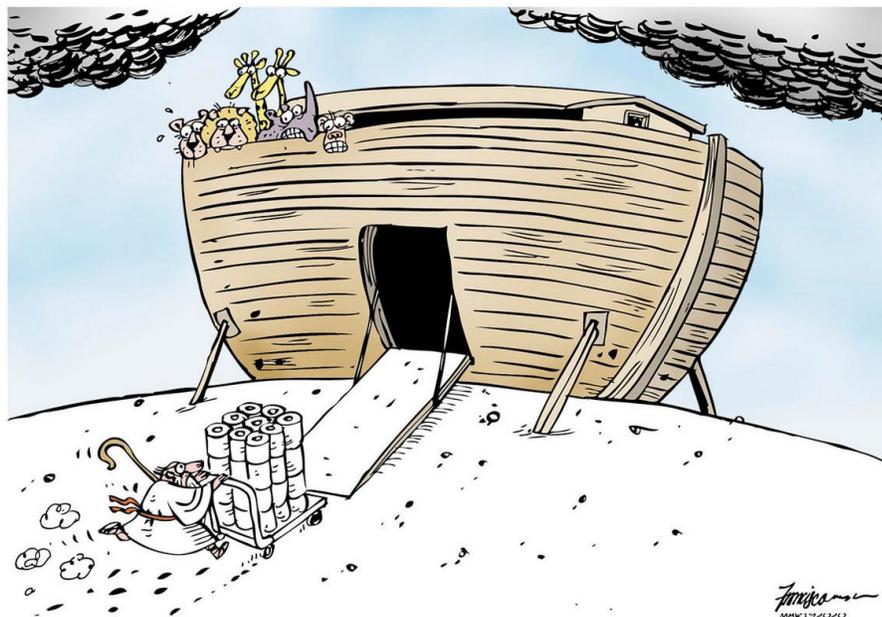
But they had the vision...they wanted to do it....they had enough faith in themselves that together they thought they had a chance....they knew it would probably fall down at least once or twice....they just wanted to reach beyond what they thought were their limits. And they did. On January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

I don't really need to spell out the moral of the story. I just want to encourage everyone to know that they can endure more than they imagine, they can find challenges to work on that will thrill them if they succeed, and give them a worthy experience even if in the end they don't quite make it, and they can, as people of God, know that they never work alone, never walk completely alone,

and have someone to say “Well Done” for the trying, whatever the outcome may be. Is there a high tower of something that looks impossible facing you today? Go ahead, give it a try. And if no one else claps for you, do it for yourself!



Remember yesterdays “ there is nothing new under the sun?” This cartoon just proves the point!



This being the long weekend, there will be many more people coming to Muskoka. Let's be careful, and let's be kind. Cottagers own their properties and pay taxes and support our economy. They also must follow the same restrictions that everyone is to follow everywhere. Keep a safe distance, no outdoor gatherings of more than four people who don't live together, having only the people who **live** in the cottage actually “in” the cottage, hand washing, hand washing, hand washing, and keeping others safe by wearing a mask – not ordered, but very kind. It's a difficult situation. Some cottage communities have closed their borders. That has not been the choice of our towns in Muskoka.

So....give a wave, stay apart, smile even if no one can see it under your mask ( but your eyes can send the message as they twinkle), look after yourselves, and if concerning things happen, report them to the appropriate people. Pray for all who will inhabit our communities and be patient...the lineups will be a little longer!

### Smiles

- Day 45 without Sports: \_I found a young woman sitting on my couch. Apparently she's my wife. She seems nice.
- Panic sometimes need reinterpretation!



**Government:** work from home  
**Lifeguards:**



## Your Scripture for Today: John 17: 20-23; 25-26

**“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us,<sup>[f]</sup> so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me..... “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”**

Blessed...bravo joy happy...are we when the full meaning of Jesus’ words to His disciples burst fully into our hearts and are claimed as our own truth. Jesus is praying for His disciples, for those who believed in Him, asking the Father to give them strength and assurance of love because He is soon going to die. Life is about to change for them in ways they can’t yet comprehend.

Do you know that as for His disciples, also for you He prays! He clumps all who will ever believe because of the ministry of the disciples right together with them. He is going to die within hours. Yet they will “Together Apart” for all time. Those words have become the Covid motto, but they were Jesus teaching so very long ago. Further, Jesus tells His disciples that God the Father loves them in just the same way, just as much, just without condition as God the Father loves Him. The same love with which the Father loves Jesus is in us....Jesus lives in us...

Jesus and you and me all God’s beloveds....Jesus uniquely His only Son...and each of us loved in the very same way. It never fails to take my breath away. And as a result of Jesus’ prayer, of God’s love, we are to love each other in the same way that Jesus loves us, which is the same way that God the Father loves Him. That is the vocation of every Christian; that is why we need the Power of the Holy Spirit, that is why we live in hope and total mercy. There is no greater love and it is ours. To receive and to give. Wow.

While I am writing this, just five minutes ago, I received the call from Chris that Geoff has now passed into the embrace of our Lord. Very peacefully, listening to

words of truth and love from his son Chris who has done all things well for his father. Leslie is there with Chris even now and Juanita has been praying and keeping watch out East. Of course I know you will pray for them all, including Geoff's beloved grandchildren. It is a gift of God that He put the Scriptures for today into my mind to share with you. My heart is breaking quite a bit and my comfort is that Geoff Plummer is loved by God the Father in just the same way as Jesus is loved by God the Father....no harm can come to him, no power defeat his new life in the Kingdom, and all who love God love as God loves. We are called now to love one another in that way. I have to stop now. I pray for you all as you receive this news.

"Rest eternal grant unto Geoff, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him."

"Loving and merciful God, we entrust Geoff to your mercy. You loved him greatly in this life; now that he is freed from all its cares, give him happiness and peace forever. The old order has passed away; the new order welcomes Geoff into paradise where there will be no more sorrow, no more weeping or pain, but only peace and joy with Jesus, your Son, and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen."

Do reach for the Kleenex, and smile.... remembering this servant of God who has blessed us so very much.

### **Benediction:**

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, <sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

May the peace of God which passes all our understanding keep your hearts and your minds in the knowledge and love of God and His Son Jesus Christ, and the blessing of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. Amen.

