

From This Corner

My Writer Is Not on Strike

Larry Baird

You almost received a rerun this month. After all, there is a writers strike going on. I was all settled in to take a winter nap as our deadline approached. Then I remembered. I am my own writer.

I cannot help but believe that our world would be better off if more people would write their own material, and take responsibility for it. Take our politicians for instance. It is common knowledge that they do have writers. They have advisors who tell them what they should say and not to say to help them appeal to or at least not alienate their party constituency. That apparently is conventional wisdom on how to get elected.

It is obvious that sometimes our politicians are counseled to keep quiet on certain issues or to toss a line or two to a particular constituency. They are counseled when to show righteous indignation, or to display their “softer side.” What we are left with as voters is a quandary as to how to determine who is the most authentic and honest about issues that really matter. It would be better, I think, if the real person would step up. Then we could make our decisions without manipulation by the campaign specialists who try to write the campaign script. It is OK for actors to be actors, but let the rest be real.

It is not that we don't all draw our thoughts and material from other sources. It is about not trying to manipulate people into thinking we are something which we are not, or that we believe something we do not. I freely admit that the source of most of my thinking and writing comes from the content of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament. What you get here, and what those who hear me preach receive, is that body of material filtered through my own life's experience and current best reflection. I can honestly say if you read this column regularly you know me pretty well, and hopefully you also get a view of the God I try to serve. In it I try to be real and be true in communicating something of the Christian faith. It is therefore not surprising how well it is received. To be honest I was at first surprised how my monthly musings resonate with so many. I really do appreciate the amazing amount of comment on this little column. It keeps me at it even when I have occasional writer's block.

So let's get real. Unless you are an actor forget the script. There is nothing worse than a pastor who is acting or a Christian who isn't authentic. Let those who really know us be able to say as Paul did to the church at Philippi: "I thank God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ."
(Phillipians 1: 3-6 NIV)