

## **Pondering Late August Transitions**

Let me first assure those who think I have made the transition from Earth to Heaven, that contrary to recent reports, I am still alive. At our Friday supper at the Frying Pan, a member of our church came over with her cell phone to show me that according to the on line Daily News publication of my last article titled *All Things are Passing Away*, somehow, I too had passed away.

Let me simply quote Mark Twain's famous correction: "reports of my demise have been greatly exaggerated." And that's why I trust paper printing over on line news casts; paper is a lot more traceable. And to quote my wife, "He isn't dead; he just looks that way. She even told one caller, "He is risen." That puts me in good company.

I took a trip to the Science campus via the 8<sup>th</sup> avenue north belt way the afternoon of Sat. the 24<sup>th</sup>, and was happy to see many student cars filling all the parking lots. That's because when Science thrives, Wahpeton thrives.

To better check out the new crop of students, I went to the obvious place, *Wal Mart*. Sure enough there were new faces galore, many from towns too small to merit a megastore.

Another place I people watched was Kidder Park. Every new arrival likes to explore the town he or she will be living in for the next 9 months. Sure enough the road down to my beloved Red River was very busy indeed. Many were getting their picture's taken under 'the world's biggest catfish.'

Finally, and thankfully, both of the big political conventions are over, and I pray that the American voters will be wise enough to see through the

fog of political rhetoric to vote for candidates who truly have America's best interests at heart: tight borders, low inflation, cheap gas, safe neighborhoods, well paying jobs, and evidence that our children can confidently believe the American dream is still attainable. The pack now running the country have pretty much run it aground, but I don't think God has forgotten the blessings He bestowed on us of an America where liberty, justice, and righteousness still open the doors of opportunity.

In this regard, I saw great things in women's sports just last night. The *Minnesota Lynx*, celebrating the great Maya Moore's induction into the Lynx' hall of fame, came out and mopped the floor with the powerful past-champion *Las Vegas Aces*.

The beauty of it was that the Lynx' best player, Napheesa Collier, grew up idolizing Maya Moore, since they both come from the same Missouri town. And now Naphessa is on course to possibly break some of her idol's records.

Maya is famous for leading the Lynx to 5 national championships. Even more to Maya's credit, she retired early, to devote herself to humanitarian causes, inspiring many, many young people looking for a role model.

A final bright spot in the twilight of this August was Harvest Outreach Church's celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, for which most of the previous pastors returned. It was truly amazing how little damage time has inflicted on these fine servants of the Lord. I don't have space here to list them all, but I must lift up Pastors Cliff Sanders, Brad Morrow, and Sam Mac Cay all of whom contributed hugely to my Christian walk.

Having had the pleasure of learning from these gifted teachers, convinces me that we serve not a Santa Claus-like score keeper, busy “making a list and checking’ it twice,” but a good God, “full of compassion, loving kindness, and tender mercy” who loves each of us, warts and all.

Gene Pinkney 24-08-25- for the Daily News