

Monday Meditation-August 3, 2020

Baz came home!

When this news spread across the neighbourhoods of Indian Harbour and the Cape Hurd area, there was great celebration, even though most of us didn't know Baz and his family personally.

More than half the residents, at least in my area, are dog owners, and were quite concerned when a flyer was circulated a few days earlier listing details about a lovely, almost two year old, dog who was missing. He picked up a scent and was doing what comes naturally for a hunting dog...following his nose!

The thought of Baz spending the night outdoors in an area known for bears, coyotes, and coywolves (yes, there is such an animal, and we had just seen one on our road), not to mention rattlesnakes, made us all fearful. Every time we and our neighbours were walking with our dogs, we were calling Baz's name, hoping he would appear.

Several days went by...and we were feeling very discouraged. Then signs went up on all the roads where the flyers had been distributed..."Baz came home!" And in a red heart, it said, "Thank you for your help!"

Immediately the parable of the one lost sheep came to mind. *And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'* Luke 15:6

We can just imagine that it was a lost *dog*!

And our neighbours were rejoicing...and Mattie, Hershey, Scout, Vader, and Hubble, just to name a few (of the 99 others), didn't seem to mind all the attention paid to Baz for his successful return home!

For me this incident just reinforces the importance and the evidence of community here on the Bruce. Henri Nouwen has written that "community is first of all a quality of the heart."

Like the heart on Baz's poster...we were being thanked for helping, for caring, for attending to the needs of our neighbour...for being part of a caring community. Perhaps during the days ahead we will open our hearts and find ways to connect with our neighbours or even with total strangers, as we share God's love with one another.

This idea of community is echoed in the following prayer by Father Richard Rohr.

O Great Love, thank you for living and loving in us and through us. May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you and all beings. Help us become a community that vulnerably shares each other's burdens and the weight of glory. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our world. (Please add your own intentions) . . . Knowing you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God, amen.

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