

Flexibility with Kindness

A nice way of saying it is “things happen.” Out of our control we continue to face epidemics like COVID, wars, tornados, high food prices, and stray female cats dumping their litters on our back deck.

Twice during the past five years a stray female cat deposited her kittens on our doorstep. Last winter a stray female cat was strolling between our place and the lot across the highway. This cat had long hair, a crinkled ear and a stub for a tail. She was not a cat one wanted in their house.

Sure enough a stray male cat of ours and the tailless cat got romantically involved and on May 26 of this year she delivered a male kitten. In order to keep my words under 500 my male cat, Bear Junior and the tailless cat were spayed and neutered by an area vet. The mother cat, named Mama and the kitten named Mickey are receiving 4-5 meals a day of the best food, living inside and outside our cabin style home and both are being loved and petted.

We are all being called to show flexibility and kindness to the planet and all our neighbors. The question that haunts me is why are we ready to show compassion, mercy and kindness upon a tailless, crinkled eared cat and ignore people fleeing for their lives through Mexico, and Central America. We continue to lack compassion upon African Americans, Native Americans, the poor, our insistence upon destroying our rich top-soil with poor farming practices and gays and lesbians?

The older I get the less flexible my bones are. So, I try to exercise more, take vitamins and eat right. When it comes to people living different lifestyles than our own, we need to exercise our brain, read more, talk more to others from other cultures or ideas and yes, a few vitamins might help.

Let us stop throwing shoes at stray cats and people and show a little compassion, mercy and love. Shifting into the kindness gear is no easy thing to do but in order to right the American ship that is way off course we all need to show more kindness to all and become more flexible in our grounded, ship -wreck thinking.

The Bible talks about “those who are gracious to the poor lend to the Lord, and the Lord will fully repay them,” “love being patient and kind,” and “loving your neighbor as yourself.” The Dalai Lama said, “If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.”

Sincerely,

Dennis Siebert