

I can never, ever close my eyes again during the sermon

Sometimes God blocks your slam-dunk attempt, laments Ted Brown



TED BROWN
Column

Since Day One, I've attended Limehouse Presbyterian Church.

Most Sunday mornings, The Sidekick and I can be found seated in our regular pew.

For us, attending church has always been a time to reflect and enjoy some spiritual comfort.

During that time of reflection and sanctuary, we can let our everyday stress take a position on the back burner in our brain.

That's been my approach for decades - sit back, listen to the minister's message, ponder life around me, and pray for those who are not as fortunate as others.

Reverend Steve Boose is our minister, taking over the ministry at Limehouse and Knox Georgetown, back in August 2013.

He's done a great job, and like every pastor stepping into a new charge, he instigated a few changes at Limehouse.

One of them was the introduction of a digital projector during worship to the hymns and photos or artwork on the wall, to better illustrate his sermons.

It was due at Limehouse, as digital projectors in churches are pretty much the norm nowadays.

Of course, to have a digital projector requires someone to operate it.

When Rev Steve introduced the equipment, his wife Kathy operated the projector, advancing it

through the service in sync with Steve's preaching.

But occasionally there were weeks when Kathy couldn't be there, requiring someone to spell her off.

Having been around computers for decades, I volunteer to take over when she was away. So a couple years ago I became the backup projectionist.

I assumed running the equipment during church would be a slam-dunk, especially with God watching over me during the service.

Man was I wrong! Early in the gig, I found there's a load of pressure that comes with the job.

And that time to reflect, and enjoy some spiritual comfort goes right out the window the moment one operates the A/V equipment.

There are rare times when the laptop slows down a bit, especially during a hymn, (you know, when the entire congregation is singing,) then jumps ahead - sometimes going from verse one to verse three, skipping verse two.

When that happens I have to back up to bring verse two on the screen.

I can live with that little glitch, as it doesn't happen often.

But the big pressure comes when Rev. Steve starts into his sermon.

Throughout his sermon,

there are a series of images or artwork on the screen to illustrate Steve's point. It's key that the images be advanced at the right place in his sermon.

To do that, we have two methods. Either he gives me a printout of his sermon, which shows when the images should be advanced, or he simply gives me a nod when he wants the next frame. You want to talk about pressure.

Before the BDP days, (better known as Before Digital Projector), I loved kicking back during the sermon, taking in all of Rev. Steve's wonderful words as he presented his message.

I'd close my eyes at times, just to visualize what he was saying - honest.

But all that solitude and reflection are gone. I'm either studying his printout without taking my eyes off it, or have my eyes glued to Steve, terrified I'm gonna miss his cue to advance to the next image.

Once in a while he goes off script and that's when panic really rises in my chest. Where are we?

So I sit there, totally wound up.

(I think I know how our dog Hamish feels when he's watching me, twitching, waiting for the signal to blast off and bring in the sheep from outside - complete and utter stress!)

So I'm working on handling the stress and with time, I'm getting better.

But sadly, I've had to accept one thing.

I can never, ever close my eyes again during the sermon.

- Ted Brown is a freelance columnist for the IFP. He can be reached at ted-bit@hotmail.com.

THE WAY WE WERE



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EHS/Photo

Looking very much today as it did in this photo from circa 1910, 530 Main St. is also known as the Logan Cottage. The land was first sold to Williams McClure in 1849, along with a lot to the north of it, but was subdivided and sold as the current lot in 1907. Purchasing the land for \$150 in 1907, Hugh Logan probably built the existing one-storey stone cottage around that time. A unique stone addition was also added to the rear of the structure. Now a private residence, it is listed on the cultural Heritage Register. Text courtesy of Heritage Halton Hills.

German system makes drivers slow down

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We are very backward in our way of thinking about safety. We have blitzes that last a month or two and think that they will educate the public.

Well, they don't. Speeding in our residential areas is and will always be a problem.

I just came back from a holiday in Germany and they have a system that is

fantastic in residential areas. It is simply called "right before left."

That means when you approach a street on your right side, you must yield right of way to traffic coming from there. There are

no stop signs anywhere.

This method forces people to slow down every time the approach a side street on the right. It has worked for years in Germany and it could work here.

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