

Voices from the Presbytery

See something in EMerge that prompts your response? Let us know. It's one more way we can do ministry together as the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.

In response to [an article written by J. Herbert Nelson](#), the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and published in the October 18 issue of EMerge, I share some thoughts. I've never responded to anything from the EMerge newsletter that gets emailed to me every other week, and I'm saddened that our first communication would be one of disagreement and contention. "It is what it is," an over-used cliché it might be, but often it's "spot-on."

Mark Twain is known for saying, "Get your facts first and then you can distort them however you please." In today's world of "information over-load," it can be difficult to know what the facts actually are. In particular, I'm concerned with Rev. Nelson's comments about immigration and the tumult in Syria.

In regards to the immigration issue, he mentions "men, women, and children" being "pushed away, where they then become prey to traffickers and other criminals." It's the strong implication here that is disturbing to me. The implication is such that because America turns immigrants away ("illegals" is so often left out of the conversation) that we as a nation are the cause of such atrocities. This reminds me of Michael Medved's book from about ten years ago, *The Ten Big Lies about America*. The question has to be proposed: to why do you think these people are fleeing their countries in the first place? I would imagine that you and others have given thought to this. As well, why is it they all want to come to our country? The trafficking and crime existed long before their attempts to enter our country, sad as it is.

In regards to the Syrian conflict, the mendacity of the news media runs deep. The media, such as NBC and others, create one false narrative after another, quite often as nefarious and deceitful as is stated in this link from Rush Limbaugh. I hope you will take the time to look this over and be open to the diversity of conservative talk radio ideas the likes from Mr. Limbaugh. <https://www.rushlimbaugh.com/daily/2019/10/14/abc-news-syrian-genocide-video-actually-shot-in-kentucky/>

As I'm sure are many fellow Americans, I too am saddened and angry by all that I see going on in the world. Most, I think, refer to the book of Revelations when it comes to the theological study of eschatology, but just for the fun of it, Ezekiel 38 would be a close second. We live in some troubling times, yet as Jan Markel says, "The world isn't falling apart, it is coming together" (per God's plan that is).

Rod Lamb
Presbyterian Church of the Master