

Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)
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WHAT THE CIGARETTE COMMERCIALS DON'T SHOW

The doctor, as gently as he could, told me that I had cancer of the throat and suggested I enter a well-known Eastern hospital.

When I saw the three other patients in my room, I didn't want to believe my eyes! It was suppertime and the patients were eating. They stood by their beds and carefully poured a thin pink liquid into small glass tubes. Then they held the tubes high over their heads and the fluid drained down one of them through a thin, clear plastic hose which disappeared into one nostril! They had to eat this way because throat, mouth, tongue and esophagus had been cut away in surgery. I could actually see the back wall of their gullets--the entire front of the throat was laid open from just below the jaw down almost to the breastbone. Each had a large wad of absorbent bandage under his chin to catch the constant flow of saliva pouring out of his throat.

The "idiot box" was on, and the cigarette commercials droned along, extolling the wonderful taste of the product. But these people who had smoked all their lives could no longer taste cigarettes--or anything else! There are no taste buds in plastic tubing. All the people in the commercials had wonderfully appealing voices, young and vibrant. But the patients around me did not have very nice voices, in fact they had no voices at all as their vocal cords had been cut away. These voiceless wraiths carried pad and pencil to communicate. One, whose throat opening had been closed, was able to use an electronic device that looked like a flash light. You just hold it against your throat, and it picks up vibrations from the section where your vocal cords used to be. It produces a tinny, electronic voice like a robots'.

I fled, unwilling to face the surgical horrors in my room. Yet everywhere I looked there were patients whose tongues, pharynxes, jaws, throats, chins or noses had been removed. Many were waiting for plastic surgery to reconstruct their faces and necks. For this, it is necessary to grow extra pieces of flesh and by some sort of surgical miracle these pieces of flesh called pedicles, can be made to grow anywhere on the patient that the surgeon decides is best. One patient had flesh growing out of the side of his neck in a tubular U like the handle on a suitcase. Another had one growing from between his shoulder blades over his right shoulder to a spot in his throat just below the chin. It must have been 18 inches long.

My radiation treatments failed and I was told I would have to undergo surgery. Knowing I would never speak again I tried to tell my wife and the children how much I loved them. The next day after an 11 hour operation, I learned that the surgeons had removed my larynx, pharynx, part of my esophagus and a few other random bits & pieces. From this time on, I would breathe through a hole at the base of my throat called a stoma. Knowing how odd my open throat made me appear, I felt completely cut off from humanity. Eight subsequent operations were required to reconstruct the front of my neck. T.V. helped pass the time and all of us there in Seven-East were, I confess, morbidly fascinated by the cigarette commercials. After smoking approximately 19,000 packs of cigarettes, I-we all-had turned out a bit different from those handsome fellows and beautiful women.

Young people today are great believers in realism. It might be interesting if some advertising agency were to do a cigarette ad featuring a patient who has lost his throat to cancer caused by smoking. They might even show the one addict I met who smoked by holding his cigarette to the hole that led into his windpipe, through which he breathed air into his lungs.

We don't ride horses or helicopters or sports cars here in Seven East. We ride wheeled tables to the operating room, and, if we are lucky, we ride

then back again. Seven East is only a part of cancer country. They treat lungs on the third floor. I thank God that I have not yet had to visit there.

--Reprinted From The Contender--

IF THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S ODD BRAIN WAVE PATTERN

"A Veterans Administration psychiatrist, Dr. Barbara B. Brown, has discovered that the brain waves of people who smoke alot "differ dramatically" from those people who don't smoke at all.

Dr. Brown carried out her research at the Sepulveda V.A. Hospital in Los Angeles. She classed as heavy smokers those who burn up from two to five packs a day.

As recorded by an electro-encephalogram (EEG) so called Alpha waves are the predominant electrical signals of the brain. According to a V.A. report, these signals showed up strongly in most non-smokers, "while in 84% of the heavy smokers no alpha waves whatsoever were recorded."

The heavy smokers, the V.A. said, showed a new brain wave pattern... that is nearly twice the frequency of the normal pattern. Dr. Brown said that rapid, jerky patterns similar to those manifested in the EEG of heavy smokers "are commonly associated with varying degrees of apprehension or anxiety, or perhaps with high awareness, vigilance, or alertness".

--Copied From A Newspaper Article--

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Rom. 12:1-2)

ORDER OF SERVICES

- * Lord's Day: 10:00 a.m. Worship
- * 7:00 p.m. Worship
- * Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

"As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance; but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, be ye holy for I am holy." (I Pet. 1:14-16)

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in manner of life, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (I Tim. 4:12)

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you which ye have of God, and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's." (I Cor. 6:19-20)

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." (I Cor. 3:16)

"Having therefore, these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the sight of God." (II Cor. 7:1)

"And they that are Christs' have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." (Gal. 5:24)

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." (I Peter 2:11)

"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work." (II Tim. 2:21)

May God bless those brethren who have quit smoking and may He give courage and strength to others who are attempting to do the same!