

travel pics and reflections in early 2009 because I've talked Becky into an adventurous cruise around the tip of South America. I have asked Mr. Husey, publisher of The Focus, for a travel budget, but he has to go back with me.

Five morning, Becky asked me about plans for the day ahead with first's sister, Clio, my daughter and son-in-law, Marc. I told her anything is fine because I don't rush to be somewhere any longer, I'm

not in a hurry to get home, right?"

I have stood on the ancient ruins of Carthage's Carthage, but of this stage in my life journey I don't yearn for Carthage or Carthage. I am blessed to know I'm where I am supposed to be. Through all my travels I have never found any place I wanted to live except in my hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee. The Psalmist spoke of this same perspective of time and place when he said,

"This is the day the Lord

has made for us; let us rejoice, nothing but naught from the media exemplified by CNN's Jim Acosta and the radical left.

Surprisingly, Portland and Knoxville have similar weather, despite different latitudes. This is because the Japan Current warms the coastal seas of the Pacific Northwest. Portland is much larger than Knoxville, but since it is made up of numerous smaller neighborhoods and communities it doesn't feel like a big city

and it's not as far from the west.

Many predicted that the November midterm election would be about the Kavanaugh hearing, the caravan/illegal immigration issue and the booming economy. Obviously, many Americans see the word difference than me. Several Democrat Senators were defeated as a result of the Kavanaugh debate, but the economy was not a big issue, perhaps because half of Americans pay no federal

income taxes and the other hollow promises. Republicans and have now been turned out. It's only fitting that we have divided power in the Congress because we have a divided nation.

As I looked out the window the morning after the election I didn't see anything different. It felt the same as I drove to work the morning after Obama was elected in 2008. The Founders constructed our government with a balance

Luther was principled and wise. I pray that our leaders have the same convictions, if needed and conscience, rather than power and party, are the driving forces behind the decisions and moves of nations and believers, we'll be OK, and we will Make America Great Again.

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Hobo's Tips for Holiday Success

It seems Halloween kicks off the beginning of a season of too much food, too much drink,

too much spending, and way too much of the "Total Holiday Season" dancing in our heads.



By Howard Baker, MD, FRCPC

season but also a unique viewpoint from the eyes of our pets.

For most of us, the holiday season brings families and friends together with lots of cheer and good tidings. But, the holidays also fill our homes with stress, excitement, sights, sounds, and personalities often changing the dynamics of our happy homes in an instant. For our pets, all the holiday excitement can cause anxiety, stress,

family, and public places, then it's probably not a good idea to include Fido at the company Christmas party. Keep your dog's routines as regular as possible. Strange visitors, overnight guests, loud music, laughter, cheer, food, drinks, and a few high-energy children can tax the nerves of Santa Claus and his reindeer. Be realistic and know the limits of your pet. I recommend setting up a

- Gifts: You can bet your bottom dollar that Hobo the Wonder Dog and his pack have stockings hanging on the mantle in hopes of squeaky toys and treats filled with Christmas cheer. Remember, it's not about the gifts but more about the time spent together. In reality Hobo couldn't care less about the stocking and more about a hike in the park or a game of fetch. The gift giving is more reward

same schedule will make for a happier holiday season by all.

We might be able to learn something from Hobo the Wonder Dog this holiday season; nothing will take the place of time spent playing fetch or a hike over a hill or through the woods. Our pets are the best examples of the true meaning of Christmas—they do not care about politics, the cost of gifts, nor how ugly our holiday sweet-