

Joyful in Hope - Day 2, March 19, 2020, (thoughts & ideas to encourage & challenge)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:9

The best laid plans, right? None of us imagined that we would be sequestered, quarantined, confined to quarters when the week started. I know, it's not quite that bad, unless you're home with some stir crazy kids (It's only week 1). Some of us are still going to work, running to the grocery store, taking the dog for a walk. However, there's this eerie stillness, as we all practice social distancing – all of us trying to do our part to bring this terrible scourge to an end.

I was supposed to be leaving on a jet plane to Africa this evening, but Uganda announced last week that they didn't want us come right now, and if we did come, we'd have to sit in quarantine for fourteen days. That kind of put a damper on our eleven day plan. So, my brother Paul and I are working with the church leaders in Jinja, hoping to come up with an alternate date to go and fulfill our commitment to teach at the Busoga Bible School and conduct the conference for the church leaders. Hopefully, we'll only need to worry about Yellow Fever and Malaria when we go.

By the way, Paul and I are asking all the folks that are helping us financially if we can just hold on to their gifts, until we can get things rescheduled. I am also asking that of the Heritage folks who have given me money to purchase food/necessity boxes for our students. I would like to hang on to your donations until we are able to go. However, if you need it back right now, just let me know.

As I canceled my flight, I thought about how quickly our plans can change, and how seemingly upended our lives can become. There are some things over which we have absolutely no control. Just ask Mike and Priya, whose wedding I performed this past Saturday. They were headed to Disneyland, and then on to Bora Bora for their honeymoon. That's not happening. They are presently enjoying some quiet days as home.

Jesus says, “Do not worry about tomorrow, let tomorrow worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:34)

The Psalmist encourages us to, “trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:3,4)

For today, let's do the things we are able, to keep ourselves and others safe. Let's not spend time worrying and fretting about things over which we have no control. And above all, let's trust in God as we do the right things, as we do good.

Chin up! Press on! Do good!

Generous Hearts - Some of you have thoughtfully asked what to do about your Offering during the time that we are not meeting. Tom has offered a couple of suggestions:

1. You can go to the Heritage website, (www.heritage-churchofchrist.org), and click on the Menu, then go to the Giving Page. There you can make a one time or repeating contribution from either a bank account or a credit card.
2. You can mail your contribution to the Heritage address– 529 Grove St, Clawson, 48017. Please don't mail cash. Pete will make sure it gets to Steve Sprague for deposit.

Prayers, please. - Add these folks to your prayer lists.

Bobbie Hayden had cataract surgery last week, and is doing well. She was scheduled to have her other eye done, but that surgery has been put on hold for now.

Phuong Janulis has a small mass on her liver, which was biopsied this morning. Phuong is resting now. They should know the results tomorrow. Please keep both Phuong and Ron in your prayers.

Beverly Gacioch's brother, Michael, is scheduled to have an open heart at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, on March 24th. He flew there this week to prepare for that critical surgery.

Devyn Hadfield (Andrew's sister), fell last week and suffered head trauma and a fractured jaw and cheek. She is recuperating at home, but could definitely use some prayers.

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)