

Joyful in Hope – 23 – April 13, 2020
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

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

Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones.

But no; Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said."

We are at our best when we serve others. Be civilized. - Ira Byock.

What a timely message and reminder for us right now. I keep thinking of all the people who will be on the "recovery side" of this time of social distancing and isolation, of quarantine and sickness and death. I'm not sure when this will all end, but I am confident that it will end. When it does, and even before it does, let's do our best to serve each other, take care of each other, help each other. Let's be civilized. - Pete

Service for Don Smith – I spoke with Patti just now, and the family is asking, given the circumstances and the restrictions in place, and the ongoing risk of infection, that you should **NOT** try to come to the funeral home tomorrow during the limited visitation time. **It will be for family only.** We certainly don't want to risk Janet being exposed to anything, and there will not be a formal service. This would be a good time to send Janet a note or a card to let her know that you are thinking about her, but again, **please do not come to the funeral home** tomorrow. Thanks for understanding.

Update on Phuong - I also spoke with Ron Janulis a little bit ago. Phuong is at home and is resting. She is very sore, which is to be expected but is doing alright. They will meet with doctors over the next ten days to begin her treatment schedule. Ron asked us to continue to pray for healing and for her cancer to be cured.

And a Thank You - Finally, I want to say thanks for all the positive response we've been getting concerning the Sunday morning worship videos. Our goal has been to provide a format where we can worship God, and be challenged in our walk as Christians. Thanks to everyone who sent in their "He Is Risen" videos. For some reason, there were four or five that we just couldn't get to format properly, and so they didn't make it into the final cut. We didn't leave you out on purpose. And thanks to the Remsing Boys for guiding us through Communion. That was a special time.

God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear . . .

Psalm 46:1, 2a