

Joyful in Hope – 25 – April 15, 2020
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

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

A White Wednesday to You, Heritage Family,

That’s right. Here it is April 15, and instead of taxes, we are getting another dose of winter! Welcome to Michigan. All the more reason to stay in and stay safe, I suppose. Hope you all are doing that – staying safe. I think by now, we all know someone personally – a family member, a coworker, a neighbor, a friend – who has become infected with the coronavirus. This pandemic is becoming more and more real to us, even as there are some potential indications that it is lessening. Of course, that depends on whom you’re talking to or listening to. We need to continue to be careful and vigilant - and follow the rules.

Speaking of rules, a friend of mine posted something that I thought I would share. I hope you can have a little fun with it, even in the midst of this very serious situation.

In case anyone was confused... The Rules:

1. Basically, you can't leave the house for any reason, but if you have to, then you can.
 2. Masks are useless, but maybe you have to wear one, it can save you, it is useless, but maybe it is mandatory as well.
 3. Stores are closed, except those that are open.
 4. You should not go to hospitals unless you have to go there. Same applies to doctors, you should only go there in case of emergency, provided you are not too sick.
 5. This virus is deadly but still not too scary, except that sometimes it actually leads to a global disaster.
 6. Gloves won't help, but they can still help.
 7. Everyone needs to stay HOME, but it's important to GO OUT.
 8. There is no shortage of groceries in the supermarket, but there are many things missing when you go there in the evening, but not in the morning. Sometimes.
 9. The virus has no effect on children except those it affects.
 10. Animals are not affected, but there is still a cat that tested positive in Belgium in February when no one had been tested, plus a few tigers here and there...
 11. You will have many symptoms when you are sick, but you can also get sick without symptoms, have symptoms without being sick, or be contagious without having symptoms.
 12. In order not to get sick, you have to eat well and exercise, but eat whatever you have on hand and it's better not to go out, well, but no...
 13. It's better to get some fresh air, but you get looked at very wrong when you get some fresh air, and most importantly, you don't go to parks or walk. But don't sit down, except that you can do that now if you are old, but not for too long or if you are pregnant (but not too old).
 14. You can't go to retirement homes, but you have to take care of the elderly and bring food and medication.
 15. If you are sick, you can't go out, but you can go to the pharmacy.
 16. You can get restaurant food delivered to the house, which may have been prepared by people who didn't wear masks or gloves. But you have to have your groceries decontaminated outside for 3 hours. Pizza too?
 17. Every disturbing article or disturbing interview starts with " I don't want to trigger panic, but..."
 18. You can't see your older mother or grandmother, but you can take a taxi and meet an older taxi driver.
 19. You can walk around with a friend but not with your family if they don't live under the same roof.
 20. You are safe if you maintain the appropriate social distance, but you can't go out with friends or strangers at the safe social distance.
 21. The virus remains active on different surfaces for two hours, no, four, no, six, no, we didn't say hours, maybe days? But it takes a damp environment. Oh no, not necessarily.
 22. The virus stays in the air - well no, or yes, maybe, especially in a closed room, in one hour a sick person can infect ten, so if it falls, all our children were already infected at school before it was closed. But remember, if you stay at the recommended social distance, however in certain circumstances you should maintain a greater distance, which, studies show, the virus can travel further, maybe.
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23. We count the number of deaths but we don't know how many people are infected as we have only tested so far those who were "almost dead" to find out if that's what they will die of...

24. We have no treatment, except that there may be one that apparently is not dangerous unless you take too much (which is the case with all medications).

25. We should stay locked up until the virus disappears, but it will only disappear if we achieve collective immunity, so when it circulates... but we must no longer be locked up for that?

Heritage Prayers – Please, join us this evening at 7 PM on Zoom, just click on 'Join Meeting', and type in the Meeting ID. If you can't join us, tomorrow's "Joyful in Hope" will have an updated prayer list from everything we pray for this evening.

In my daily Bible reading this morning, I was reading from 1 Samuel 21. David was running from King Saul, and he ran into trouble with the king of Gath. He was able to escape by pretending he was a madman. Later, he wrote these words, recording in Psalm 34:1-7:

*I will praise the Lord at all times, I will constantly sing his praises.
I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart.
Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness, let us exalt his name together.*

I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me.

He freed me from all my fears.

***Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy;
No shadow of shame will darken their faces.
In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; he saved me from my troubles.***

For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him.

Stay safe and healthy.
