

**Joyful in Hope – 57 – May 23, 2020**  
**(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)**

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

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Well, it happened. I missed a day. I failed to post an edition of “Joyful in Hope” yesterday. I am so sorry. I realized my mistake at about 11 PM. I wish I could say it was a computer glitch or user error, but the fact is, I simply forgot to take care of it. Aside from being a forgetful person (Janine begs me to put reminders in my phone all the time), here’s what I think may have happened:

As I mentioned on Thursday, Cole and I drove to St. Louis to pick up Buster, our newest family member. After a parking lot dinner of Taco Bell and Subway with Misa and his friend Josh, we turned around and headed home, arriving at 242 Bellevue at 5:05 AM, Friday morning. It took a while to get Buster to settle down (he couldn’t figure out why he wasn’t at his house with his people), and I finally fell asleep on the couch at 6:30 AM. That kind of threw my whole day off. I woke up at 11 AM in a daze. Our afternoon was filled with taking care of some important family stuff, and working on Sunday worship, and when I finally realized that there was unfinished business, it was too late.

You all have been kind – no texts or emails or Facebook posts wondering about my failure. But then I got to thinking, I wonder if anybody really missed it. Oh, I have received some very positive feedback from some of you in the past couple of months, that indicate that “Joyful in Hope” has some merit, and keeps us somewhat connected, especially when prayer updates are included. And I appreciate that.

But this week, I asked for some help on something I wanted to use in worship this Sunday. Questions about standing in line. Remember? I posted it Monday, and reminded you on Tuesday. I asked you to make a phone video and send it to me. To date, I’ve received exactly one video, and one apology. And that’s ok. I know that some are not comfortable doing that kind of thing. I’ve already headed in a different direction for Sunday. However, it got me wondering how many of you actually read “Joyful in Hope” and saw the request.

So, here’s another question, and I promise I’m not asking this because I need a pat on the back, or personal affirmation. And please, don’t be concerned that my feelings are hurt. I just want to know whether a daily email during this “Stay at Home” time is a worthwhile endeavor. The question then, is this, ***Would you like to continue to receive daily email updates and encouragement via “Joyful in Hope”?*** Just a quick thumbs up or down via text, email, or Facebook.

It appears that restrictions are easing, although the order itself has been extended. For our part, the Heritage elders are more concerned about the spiritual and physical health of our church family than we are about whether or not our constitutional rights are being compromised. None of us believe they are, by the way. That is why we have decided, even with a startup date of June 7, we will only meet outside, weather permitting, during the month of June, at least. And we recognize that not everyone will be comfortable coming together, even with precautions in place. So, theoretically, there is merit in “Joyful in Hope” continuing. Let me know if you agree.

Note: While I’ve been writing this, Janine got a call from Kelly Sprague, wondering if we were ok, because there was no “Joyful in Hope” yesterday. Thanks for checking, Kelly!

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*How beautiful on the mountains  
are the feet of those who bring good news,  
who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation,  
who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”*  
*Isaiah 52:7*