

Thursday, March 26, 2020

WHEN THIS IS OVER

It is astonishing to think how much our life has changed over these past ten or more days:

- Schools are closed
- Restaurants can only do take-outs
- Shortages of items at the grocery stores
- Cancellations of sports
- The need to do social distancing
- The closing of our borders to non-essential travel
- People returning from trips isolating themselves at home
- The temporary closing of our churches and so many other changes.

The question that so many people have on their minds is when will this be over? The answer to that question varies depending on who you listen to – it could be a few weeks, a few months or not until the summer or fall. Because we like certainty, we would love to know the answer to the question, but there is no certain answer at this time.

One thing we do know is there will be a time when all of this is over. Just as we have experienced changes during this crisis, hopefully we will experience positive changes once this is all over. One change that can sometimes happen when we

go through a difficult time in our lives is, we come out of it with a whole new sense of appreciation for life.

I experienced this myself back in 2007 when I nearly died from pancreatitis and could not work for the next two years. Having endured such a difficult ordeal I came away from it with a new sense of appreciation for life, family and ability to do ministry. Will we find a new sense of appreciation for life as we get through this COVID-19 virus? This is what one writer named Laura Kelly Fanucci hopes when all of this is over. The Rev. Mother actually forwarded this poem to me that Laura wrote:

*When this is over
May we never again
Take for granted....
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbours
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of Communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday*

*Life itself.
When this ends,
May we find that we have become more like the people
We wanted to be
We were called to be
We hoped to be
And may we stay that way –
Better
For each other
Because of the worst.*

As Laura stresses in this poem, hopefully we will not only have a new sense of appreciation for the little things in life once this is over but also be changed for the better as a result.

As Christians, when this is over hopefully, we will have a new sense of appreciation too!

- Appreciate the gift of being able to come to church on Sundays to worship
- Appreciate the hugs and handshakes and words of welcome and encouragement we experience with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Appreciate the cups of coffee and tea we share at coffee hours.

- Appreciate hearing a sermon even if it is a boring one!
- Appreciate the chance to sing uplifting hymns as a congregation.
- Appreciate being spiritually fed and nurtured.

Yes, when this is over hopefully, we will all have a new-found sense of appreciation for the gift of worship. But Laura's poem also identified that hopefully we come out of this as better people. Hopefully, when this is all over, we will all come out of it more CHRIST-LIKE than we were before

- More forgiving than unforgiving
- More loving than unloving of others
- More trusting in God and his faithfulness
- More hopeful, more faith-filled
- And more close in our walk with the Lord than before.

Our lives and world have changed so quickly over these past 10 or more days due to the COVID-19 virus. Nobody but God Himself knows for sure when this will be over. When this is over though, may God see a new sense of appreciation in us for life, for worship, and for Christ-like living.

Keep hoping,
Keep preserving,
Keep clinging to our risen Lord.

God Bless,
Rev. Dean Adlam