

Life in Lockdown as Viewed from the Front Porch While Staying at Home

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused many hardships for people, all over the world. The devastation, the crisis of the coronavirus, continues, to happen, effecting people's health, their economy, their lives, with some losing it all, due to the virus and the new variants.

This lockdown, being extended again, has reminded some of us of what we are really longing for. We are constantly told that our activities, the choices we make right now, following the rules, will make the difference. A few weeks, a few months, good or bad, depends on people's actions. With an uncertain future, we need to do what is right, what is just, basically just stay home. The increasing numbers of vaccinated people, the number of Covid-19 cases, ever so slowly coming down; we hear some positive thoughts; "there is a light at the end of the long tunnel, it's the right thing to do" etc. To keep us optimistic we keep in mind; "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, he will act". Psalm 37:5.

What do you find that you are missing ? For us it is seeing family, friends, in person and being able to hug them. Simple social interactions, going for a cup of coffee to have chats with friends, attending in-person church services, personal shopping, these are a few of our favourite things. Some friends tell us, they are looking forward to going back out to work (on the road again), back to in-class school, playing team baseball, basketball, playing golf – Oops - that one has already been resolved.

There are sacrifices that many have had to make. Milestones that have been missed; the death of a family member, a funeral with no way to be physically close with family and weddings, graduations are being delayed for uncertain times with limited family attendance. What we are all longing for is a future that will be differently better so "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7.

We can be grateful for the things we are still able to do, listening to singing birds, watching sunrises, sunsets, taking walks, taking naps, sitting on the porch watching the world go by, end of the driveway conversations with neighbours about their new dogs and finding the positives benefits that are here right now.

The positives resulting from the lock-down time deserving of our gratitude: i) Improved gardening skills, ii) Stay in, stay home, results in less expenses, less money being spent, for transportation, dining out, stay away from online shopping and there is no impulse buying. iii) Less pollution from less driving vehicles. iv) Quality time with families bonding spending lockdown time together in their bubble. v) Zoom meetings, to stay in touch, make new friends, and coffee hour gatherings, also FaceTime with family. vi) more awareness, importance of mental health. vii) Spirituality, reflection, meditation and appreciating the fact that we still have so much.

"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word." 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17.

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