

THERE IS HOPE

I have attempted to write this article several times over the past few weeks but have struggled to find the right words.

These are certainly challenging times for our world, country, state and local communities. I will resist the urge to weigh-in on what went wrong, who is to blame and what needs to be done, as there is no shortage of opinions on these matters. However, I do believe that not only will we survive, but we will emerge stronger as a result of this calamity.

One silver lining to this shutdown has been the opportunity to read and reflect on what all this means to us personally as well as to our businesses. So, a few observations and recommendations:

- 1) While COVID 19 may have caught the world by surprise, it did not catch God off-guard. I believe that our faith in Him gives us a perspective of humility, strength and hope which is in short supply elsewhere.
- 2) In a society that believes we are in control over such phenomena as the climate and our gender, this has been a crushing setback. Of course, we really only have control over our own thoughts, attitude, and treatment of those around us. Focus on the things we can control and quit worrying about everything else.
- 3) The endless news cycle has not been helpful in providing accurate information, historical perspective or thoughtful insight. Limit intake to a maximum of thirty minutes per day and replace with quality reading.
- 4) COVID 19's spread is not unprecedented, despite what countless sources are saying. Read about the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918/1919 that impacted about one-third of the world's population and killed 50 million people, including 675,000 Americans. We will get through this!
- 5) What social distancing has shown us is we have an innate desire (need) to be around others. We are social beings and technology can only do so much. This bodes well for the restoration of many of our hardest hit businesses and institutions.

We wish you the very best and please let us know if there is anything our Archway team can do to assist you.

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