

Focusing on the good

We are living in an interesting time. We are experiencing things we have never seen before. Many are saying, “When will this end?”

Others voice, “This is awful.” There is no doubt that everything happens for a reason, and this event is no exception. Scripture tells us, “This know, also, that in the last days perilous times will come” (II Timothy 3:1). It also tells us, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). There have been many good things that have come from this pandemic. You may be thinking, “I haven’t seen any good come from this.” Have



JUST A THOUGHT

Rev. Tom Mansbarger



you ever thought you might be looking at it wrong? Recently I listened to a Sunday morning message by Chuck Swindoll. He spoke about the priority of solitude. As always, he was very practical and enlight-

ening. He caused me to do some soul-searching about life and what it is all about. Sometimes solitude is a good thing. Have you taken time alone to think about your life? Where have I been in life and where am I going? A common problem we can all face is direction. Solitude will help to sharpen our direction. How am I going to get to where I want to be without direction in my life? For me personally, I have been reading through the Bible again this year. God’s Word is full of guidance if we will only listen.

The family is very important to me. As the family goes, so does the church. The family has been greatly attacked over the last gener-

ation. Too many places to go, too many sporting events, and little time for the family to gather. One of the best changes over the last few months is the use of that large round piece of furniture in the kitchen, the table. Families are actually sitting down together for meals. People have been forced to stay at home and cook home-cooked meals. This is a drastic change from a few months ago. I still remember sitting down at the dinner table every night as a family. Great memories!

One of my greatest thoughts over the last three months is the question, “What is important?” Would you have ever thought that there would be

life without sports? Now, don’t get me wrong, I like sports, and my two boys and my grandchildren have brought us much joy in life through sporting events. It becomes a problem when sports become our God. I was very active in sports while I was growing up, but those memories aren’t the greatest highlights of my youth. Going fishing with my dad and brother were always special times. Riding to the junkyard with my dad when I was little made me feel important because I was with my dad. Do you ever think about all of the fun things you did as a kid? Don’t you want this young generation to experience the things we did?

What has changed? Life

has changed, and we have changed with it. We have become too busy. I don’t believe God ever intended for man to live at this pace. What is the answer? Slow Down! Take time for you family. Quit seeing this pandemic as a nightmare and turn it into wonderful events in life. It is all in how we look at life. I have done well during this time, and it has helped me to become a better person. What has been your experience? If it hasn’t been good, change your focus. Just a thought!

The Rev. Tom Mansbarger is senior pastor at Grace Community Church. He offers free counseling. Reach him at 765-517-1187 or tom@graceccmarion.org.

COVID conference provides updates, reflection on nation’s current state

By Sean Douglas

While Grant County’s 11th COVID-19 press conference did provide updates on the novel coronavirus, the weekly meeting had a more somber feel as leaders from around the area reflected on what has been a tough few weeks in our nation’s history.

“Grant County government extends its sincere condolences to [George] Floyd’s family and to the Saint Paul/Minneapolis community at large,” Grant County Commissioner Mark Bardsley said. “Our local demonstrators have done their best to call attention to the injustice that has been ongoing. Our people have been orderly and respectful of life and property, and we want to continue to affirm their

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**Marion Community Schools Superintendent
Brad Lindsay**

rights to assemble and exercise free speech. We look forward to healing and formation of a strong community based on our diversity and our strengths.”

Marion Community Schools Superintendent Brad Lindsay, the leader of a school rich in diversity, echoed Bardsley’s sentiments.

“When I watched our students in action, one of the things that struck me was how diverse our students

are and how much love they have for one another, their school, and their community,” Lindsay said. “I just love that. Our students are prepared, because at Marion, we are a diverse community. Our diversity is our strength. Our love is our strength. Our students learn to be cautiously sensitive and cautiously responsive and learn to understand one another.

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ing in America. I only know what it feels like to be a white male living in the community. I don’t know what it feels like to be a black man. But what I do know is this: there have been social injustices and inequalities throughout the history of America, and that is not okay. I do want to love enough and be sensitive and responsive, just like I see from our students. I want to learn. I want to learn so I can help and not hurt. That’s what our community is all about.”

Dr. David Moore, one of the many prominent African American professionals living and working in Grant County, like Bardsley, was pleased with how Marion has come together during this difficult time.

“What we saw on the streets of Minneapolis was

a gross injustice,” Moore said. “What happened on that ground was injustice and was not fair. Many communities have expressed their concern explosively and sometimes destructively, but the leadership and the people of Marion have effectively said, ‘Let’s make a change.’”

In regards to COVID-19, Grant County EMA Director Bob Jackson stated that as of June 2, there have been 278 confirmed cases and 23 deaths. Over the last two weeks, there have been spikes in the number of positive cases, but that is to be expected due to higher test numbers.

While the EMA is no longer on high alert, Jackson and his team will continue to remain vigilant throughout the summer

months as the state of Indiana continues their slow re-opening process.

“We will continue to monitor new cases in Grant County as we partner with the commissioners, the health department, and other communities within Grant County as they start to make preparations and plans for summer events,” Jackson said. “We are looking forward to some things opening up and some restrictions being relaxed a little bit as we move forward.”

According to Bardsley, a member of the Grant County government did test positive for the coronavirus. Isolation has begun, and tracing protocols are ongoing to make sure any potential exposure is monitored and effectively treated.

See COVID, page 8

Indiana History Answers

1. Crawfordsville
2. Terre Haute
3. Muncie
4. Richmond

PAUL FOX ESTATE & BETH WRIGHT ESTATE AUCTION

NO BUYER’S PREMIUM

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Photos on www.priceleffler.com and auctionzip.com

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