

# Busyness vs. making the days count

Ever since I spent the weekend with my oldest daughter in Milwaukee a few weeks ago, I have had a hard time shaking a statement I saw she had on her dining room wall.

I am not sure how long she had the message posted or why she had written it. The words however have given me a new perspective on this corona virus pandemic. “Don’t Count the days, make the days count” the phrase says that she has crafted out of white letters on a black board.

A truer statement could not be said right now, I believe. There have been so many times I have thought to myself and uttered them in addition, that 2020 has been a year that we just need to get through.

There have been so many things we have not been able to do. Our delayed 26<sup>th</sup> year wedding anniversary trip to England. My annual trip to Nebraska to see my family.

The summer festivals locally and in Milwaukee where I had hoped to visit with my oldest daughter Laura.



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



What I have seen and witnessed is a slowing down of our society, which has been a positive. I have enjoyed long bike rides on the Cardinal Greenway and Sweetser Switch Trail.

I have heard how difficult it has been to find bicycle or kayaks or camping gear to buy – those are all positives that make me pause.

Yet, I still find myself instead of capturing the small things that make this year unique, too often I am lost in the despair and grief that has filled my life as I think about

what could have been if the corona virus had not invaded all our lives.

As I talked to my mom by ZOOM Saturday afternoon and she shared how she was starting to determine what to give each of us for Christmas, I had to break the news that most likely we would not be home for Christmas this year.

Now it is still early, I pray we will have a vaccine by then and can go visit both my mom and mother in law. Only time will tell about that.

Ironically, after having that conversation with my mom, I was reading my monthly Bible study “Enough for Now” by Sharla Fritz. This month’s chapter was titled: “Enough Time”

The author talked about a 12-year-old child who when asked by his teacher how he was doing, replied that he wished he could go to the local dollar store and buy some packages of time.

Pre-corona virus, I would imagine there are many of us who would be standing in line with that young boy to buy those packages of time if that

was a thing.

Now with the pandemic causing each of us to slow down, events to be cancelled and isolation to be expected, I would venture to say many of us have more than enough time.

The real question then becomes when we have a vaccine and the pandemic has ended or the corona virus is under control, how will people fill their newfound time?

Will we resume life as it was pre-pandemic and fill our lives with busyness? Or will we think more about how we spend the time that we have been given each day and make sure it is time well spent.

In the book “Enough Time,” the author talks about how every month she will say no to things that do not matter so that she will have more time for the things that do. She said her good intentions last for a week or two and then she finds herself back in the hectic lifestyle again, causing her to feel stressed and over-

whelmed.

“Perhaps this occurs because instead of going to the God of sufficiency for reassurance of my worth, I look for signs of significance in my calendar,” Fritz said. “If I’m honest, I’ve worshiped at the altar of busyness because a full schedule makes me feel important.”

Again, I must ask, once activities and opportunities resume, what will I chose to do? How will I fill my life? Will I strive to make each day count, or will I just try to fill the calendar on my fridge with busyness.

I am not one to sit around. I like to stay busy and feel as if I have accomplished things each day. What I must strive to do is make sure what I am doing is for God’s glory, not just mine. I need to focus my days on helping others and being the example God wants me to be, so as each day ends, I can feel assured that I have truly made that day count instead of just counting days.

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