

Lisa Buck: 5/19/20

Lessons Learned from Quarantine

Quarantine is hard. Had this assignment not had a requested word count, this could be the entire article. The stress, worry, isolation, being cooped up with the same people – just the nature of the situation is difficult at best. But here’s a few things I’ve learned about myself and others during this time and I hope it helps you realize you are not alone in whatever you are feeling and we will make it through together (albeit six feet apart).

1. Distance Learning - or as have I come to call it – day drinking. This has taught me that I am, in fact, a terrible educator. Evidently I have no math skills above the third grade level and diagramming sentences today is just as stupid as it was 40 years ago. I have learned that my children are super smart; the teachers are patient beyond belief; and that my ten year old constantly makes noise while doing his work. Constantly. I will no longer be sending teachers a Christmas candle from the TJ MAXX Christmas collection as the obligatory holiday gift; henceforth, teachers of the Buck children will receive tequila. God bless the teachers – truly.

2. Hide n Seek on facetime is tough. Although I am completely at my zoom limit with work meetings, I am grateful for electronics and the opportunity for virtual connection with people. The virtual connection my teenagers have with their youth group is beautiful. My favorite use of electronics has been the playtime with my 2.5 year old grandson. Although I spend most of the facetime looking at the ceiling fan because he “sits” me down to play next to him, the ability to connect and talk and see his little forehead cross the screen from time to time is priceless. I will admit, hide n seek is a bit tough. He sometimes hides me, and gets distracted by a snack or PJ Mask and I’m left yelling “Hello!?! Lollie is in the box! Someone come get me!” As I type this I am struck that oddly I don’t hang up. . .

3. My co-worker holds his breath when he types. Working around your spouse constantly has added a whole new layer to the “for better or for worse” clause. Evidently Steve is physically unable to type, breathe, and think all at the same time. He literally holds his breath while typing! Considering how lengthy some of his emails are, I am amazed he has not passed out at some point! I have also learned I cannot be in the same room when the man eats nuts – the loud chewing is too much. (I, on the other hand, am a delightful co-worker – always pleasant, never annoying --a true gem!) I have also confirmed what I have always known – my co-worker is brilliant. I have been fascinated watching him work, listening to how quickly he adapts and problem solves. Steve started a new job with the nursing home association two days before the Thunder game cancellation – talk about baptism by fire! But it has been a blessing to watch and see that God placed him right there at the exact right time.

4. I’ve also learned that people are inherently full of hope. No matter which side of the political issue you are on, Americans are fighting for hope. In fact, the world is

fighting for hope. They are fighting for the hope to live, the hope to maintain their perceived rights, the hope to heal, the hope to rebuild. Some may do it in unpleasant ways, and some people's hope is different than our own, but I think at the root of it all is hope. Hope that tomorrow is better than today. Hope that our future is one without masks and social distancing. Hope for a cure.

As Christians we have functioned in this space of hope for a long time. We live, quarantine or not, in the hope of Jesus. My prayer for us going forward is to use the practice we have had up until this point living in the hope of Christ to share the grace, mercy, and love that comes with that hope, and for others to easily see Christ in everything we do.

Hang in there family and stay well!

Lisa