SAR Compatriots,

Like many of you I am looking for a silver lining in the Coronavirus (COVID-19) cloud. My mind is saturated with the news of how devastating this strain of virus has been on our economy and on the medical profession. Rumors upon rumors of one kind or another have circulated on social media that don’t add to the calm we need at this time in our nation’s crisis. To this end I wanted to reach out to my fellow Compatriots with a few personal reflections.

Most of us have been through some tragic event in our lives - the death of a loved one, a debilitating illness, a life changing accident, an unforeseen financial crisis - and the disappointments are too numerous to mention. Experience tells me that when the dust settles we come through with a new understanding of “normal”.

I suppose the preacher in me is looking for a Biblical reference that addresses our current crisis. The one verse that seems to bring me comfort and hope comes from the book of Galatians, chapter 6, verses 8 - 10: “The one who sows to please his flesh, from the flesh will reap disappointment; but the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due time we will reap a harvest of blessing, if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone.”

My prayer for my fellow Compatriots is that we will remain steady in the midst of the storm, taking every opportunity to safely assist others, knowing that when the “all clear” signal is sounded we were faithful in all things.

I want to encourage you to look for “doing good” opportunities that are safe and promote the principals of the SAR.

This is who we are as descendants of forefathers who endured much worse and were faithful to the end.

Blessings to everyone,

Bubba Smith
Arkansas State Chaplain
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