

Editorial & Opinions ENOUGH

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Helpers



By **MARY BETH SALLEE**
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"When I was a boy, and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" - Mister Rogers -

It is no doubt that we are facing scary times right now. We are in the middle of a pandemic. Schools are closed. The stock market is tanking. People are hoarding essential items from grocery stores, leaving the shelves bare.

And it seems that the current state of mind for most people are one of two things: full of fear or no fear at all.

But among it all, there are those that are doing their best to help among the chaos. I have seen and heard first-hand of the helpers in our own communities.

Last week, Superintendent Nathan Smith and Asst. Superintendent Debbie Fowler announced the closing of all schools in Hart County for the health and safety of students. But their work never ended once those doors closed for the next few weeks. They have provided countless resources for families. Mr. Smith, Mrs. Fowler, and others of the Hart County School District have provided several learning resources for parents and children to implement at home. They also announced that a breakfast/lunch meal will still be provided for all students at each elementary school. I have heard similar plans being made in other school districts as well. What a blessing these helpers are for those children who will still need a meal.

Others throughout our communities have offered childcare services for parents who still must go to work. Some have offered picking up medicines and groceries for elders who may be fearful to leave their homes. Once again, these are the helpers that are willing to step-up in times of need.

At the state level is Governor Andy Beshear. I did not support Gov. Beshear in last year's election, and I do not agree with most of his political views. But I must say that I am pleasantly surprised of how well he has faced this pandemic head-on to keep Kentuckians safe in the best ways possible. This isn't about Republican or Democrat or pointing fingers in politics. This is about joining together to do what is best for our state, and I believe that Gov. Beshear has done that in his choices thus far regarding the pandemic.

There are those who are facing sicknesses each and everyday when they step into their jobs at our hospitals, urgent cares, and medical offices. They are health care workers, doctors, nurses, and medical lab technicians who are there to serve all of us in need. They have no time for fear as they must be brave for others.

I also believe it is those who are taking this seriously that are also helping. While some are not concerned at all, there are others doing their best to mitigate the situation by staying at home to help eliminate any possibility of spreading the virus.

I am a Christian, and I do understand that the Bible states that we should not have a spirit of fear. But at the same time as a Christian, I do not understand those people who choose not to have compassion or awareness during this pandemic. While this virus may not be dangerous for most, it can still spread to people who will not be able to recover from it at all. While there are those living their lives "without fear", there are others who live in fear of even the common cold. This new strand of virus has not previously been found in humans and currently has no vaccine. Therefore, shame should not be thrown at those who are fearful for either themselves or for those they love.

People in our communities have compromised immune systems and already battle health problems on a daily basis. There are also a lot of elderly people in our communities. These are all real people, not just statistics. It is up to us all to be HELPERS to others by taking this pandemic seriously. It is up to us to help protect our fellow human beings at all costs, even if that means staying home.

If helping others to keep from getting sick means having church services online or even taking a Sunday off, what is the problem with this? The Word of God is not limited to four walls in a building. If God's presence is only found on Sundays in church, then we have an entirely different problem.

If helping others means not going on vacation due to the possibility of contracting the virus and bringing it back to our communities where it can spread, then simply do not travel. We must put aside selfishness and do our best to slow down the rate of transmission of this virus. Staying home and away from crowds will be a huge help to those who are most susceptible and also a help to our health care providers.

As I have heard stated this past week: when this is all said and done, we may not know if we overreacted or did too much, but we WILL know if we did too little.

God has not given us the spirit of fear, but he has given us common sense and the ability to help others. Be safe. Be well. Be thoughtful. Be a helper, and use that common sense.

Mary Beth Sallee resides in Hart County with her husband and son. She works as a reporter for the Hart County News-Herald.



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Vacation at home even more important now



By **JERRY MATERA**
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Are you thinking about a vacation this Spring Break? With many things shut down because of the Corona virus and the chance of illness among family members it is even more important that you consider a local vacation.

Caverna issued the following statement for parents along with other details:

Due to Governor Andy Beshear's recommendation to close schools during his press conference yesterday. Caverna Independent Schools plan to implement non-traditional instruction (NTI) in accordance with KRS158.070. Starting Monday, March 16th through Friday, March 27th, instruction will be delivered for all students during the day while at home. The NTI period could last beyond March 27th if recommended.

Parents need to read the entire statement on line or ask the Central Office for a written copy.

Hart County Schools will be closed Monday, March 16 to April 12. This will include the Spring Break and parents are encouraged to contact their individual schools for work information.

You might want to consider some

shorter trips, in-state destinations as a means of stimulating our students while they are out of school.

How many of our local attractions have you seen? Hidden River Cave has made some improvements and added to its tours and if you haven't visited it, now is your chance.

Children will love Dinosaur World; I've visited it with young folks and they were thrilled. It's not hokey.

Munfordville has a great Historical Museum and you could visit it and plan to see all the Civil War sites the city offers. The staff there will help you plan your trip.

One idea for a series of shorter vacations is visiting some of our state's parks.

My family and I have visited several of our state's parks and have always had a pleasant experience.

Kentucky is blessed with 52 state parks, 10 of which are classified as Historic Sites.

Pineville donated a large tract of land for the first state park, Pine Mountain State Resort Park.

In addition to excellent accommodations at our state parks they contain a variety of features worth investigating.

Plan to stimulate your children and our local and state economy while schools are close because of the virus and Spring Break.



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