



FTPD-Issue 17

29th January 2021

Recently, the Prime Minister moved to have the Emergency Orders extended until the end of May 2021. It was a fresh reminder that COVID-19 is still here and we are still battling this global pandemic. In fact, it will soon be a year since The Bahamas identified its first case and went into emergency mode. In this time, I have learned and re-learned a lot of lessons to make life more bearable, rewarding and easier, not just for me, but for those with whom I interact. One of the most important lessons, is to simply listen.

CNN journalist Larry King, who recently passed away, once said “I remind myself every morning: Nothing I say this day will teach me anything. So if I'm going to learn, I must do it by listening.” It seems like such a small thing, but listening to someone can teach you a lot, especially when you are a leader. I meet with my senior administration team once a week and I have been listening to them even more attentively during this pandemic. Depending on what I hear, I know when they may be a little stressed and need break, or if they are frustrated with a particular problem. Most of all, I think listening has simply helped our team to grow closer because they know that someone cares, not just about work, but how they are weathering this particular storm.

In a time when there are so many opinions being expressed and fake news being spread, take the time to listen. It is through listening that we can learn something new. Listen to the Prime Minister's addresses, and those by the Ministry of Health, so that you have the right information about what is going on in our country. Listen to the experts, but also to that “still, small voice” that never fails to guide us in the right direction and show us the truth.

Let us also continue to make smart choices. COVID-19 is still a threat. We must continue to be vigilant about our health and adhere to the Emergency Orders. Wear your mask, wash your hands, and limit possible exposure by cutting out unnecessary outings. Be sure to educate yourself from reputable sources about COVID-19 vaccinations.

Please continue to spread joy and send inspiring quotes or scriptures to presidentsoffice@ub.edu.bs.
Please stay safe and be encouraged.

