



FTPD-Issue 19

11th February 2021

Living in a pandemic has been hard, mainly because it requires all of us to make changes – big and small changes. Almost a year on and some people still forget to wear masks or wear them incorrectly. Almost a year on and some do not understand social distancing. These have been big changes to our daily routines, and therefore require us to adjust and remind ourselves why we do these things. I am pleased however, that students, faculty, staff and administration have been able to adjust and quickly change to accommodate our virtual academic realities at UB.

Reinhold Niebuhr, American theologian, once wrote this famous prayer, “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.” It’s an important prayer to remember, especially in leadership positions, and as we continue to live with Covid-19. The things we miss most about pre-pandemic living (travel, family gatherings, carnival/fetes, etc.) are not gone forever; most simply require us to change our perspectives and adjust. For the most part, we have changed. Community service groups have found innovative ways of giving and continuing to impact the communities they serve. We at UB continue to provide a quality, tertiary education for our students, but relying more heavily on virtual platforms and innovation.

I know that change is not easy. We are programmed to embrace habit and ritual. We like our traditions and don’t want them to change. That is why they are traditions, after all. While we may be disappointed that our plans must change and we have to adjust to plan B, Covid-19 has presented us with the opportunity to be heroes through change. We must change in order to save lives – ours and others. Alan Watts, once said “The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.” In this season of change, I encourage you all to join the dance.

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

