



FTPD-Issue 26

11th September 2021

Dear members of the University family, today, September 11, 2021, marks the twentieth anniversary of the attack; the terrorist attack on our neighbour and the rest of the world, with the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York.

I am sure that each of us remembers where we were and what we were doing at the time that this catastrophic event that changed the way we travel, forever. I remember exactly where I was and what happened that day and the days and weeks that followed.

I was President of Ramapo College of New Jersey. At about 8:40 a.m., my head was down, reading documents in preparation for a Presidents meeting in Trenton, New Jersey. I was in the back seat, on the New Jersey Turnpike, heading south, as my driver, Dan, a former NYPD police officer, grew alarmed watching a huge plume of smoke coming from one of the buildings of the World Trade Centre.

Dan alerted me and I looked up. I said it must be a fire on one of the floors. As we looked at the increasing billowing black smoke, something startling happened. We watched as a low flying aircraft flew directly into the second tower, followed by what looked like a massive explosion.

Dan immediately tuned the radio to what seemed like a special broadcast station. The station reported that a second plane had crashed into the second World Trade Centre Building. As we listened, the reporter said the US was under a terrorist attack. When the reporter said that the Pentagon was just attacked, Dan took matters into his own hands. He immediately found an exit from I-95 and proceeded north on I-81, back to the campus. As the plane, filled with heroes, crashed in the field in Philadelphia, Dan became increasingly concerned because I-81 was in the same path.

The days and weeks that followed were filled with candle vigils, prayers and tears.

Many friends and neighbours were lost on 9/11. As much as we prayed and cried together, the pain of loss would not go away. For days, we watched the smoke until the buildings crumbled. Then, there was the anthrax scare, causing us to create a safe room in the President's House.

What gave us strength and courage was that we believed in what truly mattered, that there was always hope for a better day. As long as we hold on to our faith; as long as we hold on to our hope and belief, there will always be a better day.

As we pause and remember our pain, then and now, please know that we will come through this COVID-19 pandemic, just as we did for this most tragic event when the US was attacked by terrorists and it affected the entire world.

Please stay strong and stay safe. Follow all safety protocols. We will get through this together.

Let us protect ourselves and those we love. Please get vaccinated.

Continue to spread joy and send inspiring quotes or scriptures to presidentsoffice@ub.edu.bs and be encouraged.

To Book A Vaccination Appointment



Visit vax.gov.bs.

