



## FTPD-Issue 4

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28th August 2020

*James 1: 2-3 says "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." This pandemic is a real testing of our faith and endurance. We must constantly remind ourselves that we will get through this and that God has not abandoned us, but has allowed us to be in a situation where we must persevere. After all, it is through perseverance and commitment of the UB community that we have been able to successfully open the academic year 2020-2021.*

*Oftentimes it is very hard to persist when it feels like everything around us is against us. Zoom crashes, power outages, disagreements with colleagues, threatening hurricanes, loss of business, and other problems all distract us from our end goals. However, these are the very times when we must persist, meet our problems head on and push back. We must develop our fighting spirit to survive these times. Even more than that, we must "consider it pure joy..." We must find joy in these little battles, as they help us to persist and they strengthen us on our way to success.*

*I want to encourage everyone to persevere. This pandemic won't last forever and it's important that we persist and make it past this, to whatever is on the other side. I am confident that whatever it is, the world will be better, safer, healthier and kinder because we persevered and got through this pandemic together. We have been allowed the opportunity to get closer to God; to learn how to listen in silence. That still small voice is real. But we can only hear if we are silent ... "silent" meaning not trying to figure it out alone ... but being still and trusting God.*

*Please continue to send inspiring quotes or scriptures to [presidentoffice@ub.edu.bs](mailto:presidentoffice@ub.edu.bs). I have been inspired by those shared so far and I thank each of you who took the time to write an email with encouraging and inspiring words. Please stay safe and be encouraged.*

*Rodney D. Smith, Ed.D.*

*President and CEO*

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