

From: [David Kraemer](#)
To: [Covid Affiliate Archives](#)
Subject: FW: An existential threat- an individual's response to communal fear
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 9:41:11 AM

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From: Morris Allen <mojo210al@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 9:47 AM
To: mojo210al@gmail.com
Cc: docgorin@aol.com
Subject: An existential threat- an individual's response to communal fear

I sit here an hour before I start work having just come back from my first 45 minute walk of the day. I will not move from my table during the work day very much as I partner with a great team on behalf of a superlative US Representative. Today we will announce yet another telephonic roundtable addressing the most in need during this crisis- those who are dependent on the world of non-profit organizations that everyday for the past hundreds of years have been serving those in need and those who fall between governmental support and the for profit world of care and concern. The people who rely on such support understand crisis, they often live it every day. Now their daily fears have reached across the divide of the haves and haves-not and united us all as one people searching for answers, hope and support. I have taken it upon myself to reach out to as many people as I can on a daily basis with a brief word of truth and always hope. These past 22 months have taught me what 33 years of serving a congregation couldn't never have taught me. It was that the farmer in Mazeppa who was unable to sustain a family dairy farm that had been in their family for 78 years had a resilience that was contagious and necessary to share. There are no words for that farmer who walked into his empty barn every day and looked at the stalls and saw every cow he ever depended on in his mind's eye. He told me that having been a dairy farmer was a dream come true- for his employees never talked back to him :). Now for most of us this is our first such crisis and we are unprepared for it. Unprepared emotionally, psychologically and yes, maybe, financially. But like that farmer in Mazeppa, I am confident that by naming our fears, identifying our sorrow and finding our "team", we are going to get through this. It will be a very different world on the other side. Our naïveté, or whatever remained of it, regarding our invincibility will be gone. How will we respond? Over the coming weeks of our increasing isolation, I want to think aloud with you over whatever platforms we can create to do just that. This will cross political lines, age demographics, religious lines, and friendship circles. It will necessitate serious reflection and answers to the real questions that all of us were put here to respond to: what am I here for.; to what end will my life make a difference having lived it?; what do I have to do to touch the soul of another?; what matters at the end of the day, the week, the month and year? We are in this together- but we always have been. Only now some of us are realizing how true that is.

Finally, my request for help this week. I ask you to respond with a \$1 or \$10000 to help one special and sacred clinic in our midst. This clinic needs our support today. I am so unbelievably grateful that Susan Calmenson and Vince Leo stepped forward to offer support. Beverly Calmenson was a mentor to me in ways that I come back to each and every day. I wish she were here to see the goodness of her parenting on a daily basis. Until tomorrow,
Morris

Sent by my iPad

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