

MAGNOLIA MINDS: What I've learned during this incredible year

By Don Gann
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Having never lived during a crisis year quite like 2020, I have done my best to learn what I can and not waste any of this experience. Here are some things I'm learning:

- Staying connected is hard, but it's worth the effort. In a time of social distancing and avoiding crowds, it's hard to stay connected to each other but the times we can connect are more special.
- Kids change more in seven months than adults do. When kids started coming back to church after time away, I was shocked by how much they have grown up. I'm so proud of their growth and am reminded of how quickly they grow up. I also come away with a renewed commitment to children and youth ministries. These impressionable years are vital.
- Unplugging from devices really can be good for our souls. While technology is a blessing, taking a break from technology can be a life-saver. Give it a try.
- Though we can't control our circumstances, we can control our attitude. God is greater than our circumstances. Psalm

118:24 says, ***“This is the day that the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it.”*** The last phrase, “and be glad,” is about our attitude. We have a choice of our attitude each day.

– God is faithful. Psalm 90:1-2 says,

***Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.***

***² Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.***

I hope we will all consider with gratitude what God is teaching us during this strange year.

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