

# *“Sam’s Corner”*

## COVID 19

### “The Great Equalizer”

Even if you are one of the thousands on the front lines fighting COVID 19, or you live in the middle of what is now called a “hot spot,” and you know people who have been afflicted and/or have even died of the COVID 19, you still may be experiencing the feeling you are in some sort of dystopian reality. You are completely orchestrating your life around an invisible virus that you are told can kill you. The vast majority of us are not on the front lines, and we must trust the words and the video of those we see on television to help us understand what is happening and how to stay safe from something we cannot see, hear, smell or taste. It seems easy to understand why we sometimes feel like we are in some sort of reality TV program, and we are just waiting to hear the clapperboard “click” and the director say, “That’s a wrap. Go home.” I am not sure how they really do it that way, but I think it would be a great thing to hear.

This “new normal” we are experiencing is a great equalizer. Those of us who are living in this time will forever be able to refer to COVID 19 with almost anyone currently living on this planet, and they will be able to share their particular, and yet, familiar story. It is almost incomprehensible that we are actually waging a world war against an unseen deadly enemy. It is something we may have read about from authors like Stephen King, but living it is very different. No matter how rich, famous or absolutely ordinary, we are all experiencing the moments of terror and feelings of loneliness, abandonment, helplessness, boredom, desperation, anger, rage...etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. Everyone is equal in the “eye” of this invisible terrorist.

I see and hear people in my profession interviewed for their wisdom and knowledge. Just once I would like hear one of them say, “How the hell should I know. I am just as crazed as anyone in this insane situation!” At least I would not feel so alone and inadequate, because I don’t have some great profound knowledge to share about how to psychologically survive a pandemic, and quite frankly, I have not heard anything new or significant from the poor souls who are interviewed. Again, COVID 19 is the **great equalizer**.

The realization and actualization of **equality** for all humans is a lesson and a resolve we just keep learning over and over throughout human history. When I hear how easily this virus travels through the air, I am reminded of the prophetic words of Bob Dylan. “The answer, my friend, is blowin’ in the wind.” Would it not be spectacular if this time we actually **listened**?

*Sam Sligar*