

The Times of Our Lives



We've heard so many people say that "we're all in the same boat" to describe how COVID-19 has transformed our lives. To be honest, the coronavirus has impacted us all in vastly different ways. Some people lost jobs, while careers in healthcare ramped up dramatically. Some houses are buzzing with kids home from school with no activities to attend, while other homes are unbearably quiet and lonely, or even worse in foreclosures. Some of us are living in extreme fear, and others are unburdened by the threat of health issues. No matter where you find yourself today, we hope one of these verses reaches you in your exact situation and season.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

We hope these words encourage you and provide comfort, regardless of where you're at today. Although everyone has had different experiences navigating the health crisis, we will look to one another to provide emotional or spiritual support when needed. In this 23rd annual edition of **The Times**, we wish that your holidays be merry, healthy and safe... and that 2021 brings a much better experience in all our lives.

The Joys of Motherhood

For Samantha and Antonio, the hotel industry certainly took a hit, resulting in their furloughs since the late Spring. With the Asilomar Conference Grounds now running with a skeleton crew, the pair will hold out until next year for new options to be back at the facility, as Pacific Grove continues to be called home.

The silver lining to their time off is their opportunity to bond with Gabriel during an important period of his early childhood development. He is with Mom and Dad 24/7 and what a better way to grow and learn during this time. This August, Gabriel turned one and celebrated a birthday weekend with small family gatherings.

We're the First Born

Gabriel celebrated his first birthday in August...

The Joys of Fatherhood

Justin meanwhile is keeping himself busy with the addition of his new Australian Shepherd, Riggins, which gives him reason to get outdoors for his daily exercise. It's tough to keep these shepherds cooped up during a pandemic. This situation is alleviated by a sizable backyard in Justin's new home near Old Town Scottsdale. He has replaced going to bars for libation with jaunts to Home Depot for BBQ pits and window treatments.



Justin continues his employment with TEKsystems and this year achieved another milestone. He reached a challenging sales quota and was named into the President's Club. Justin also now holds an officer position in the company's Asian Employees Network to build his base.

Outside of work, and during the shelter-in-place, Justin has moved into refining his skills as a DJ, dabbling in the craft to vertically integrate a "party" business to

complement his being a licensed bartender and an ordained minister.

"Weddings will take off when COVID's gone and I can fill a need from my one-stop shop," Justin said with a hearty laugh.

... while Riggins the Aussie joined the family as a pup in March; he will turn one in January.



The Bachelors

Left: Gabriel has a few years to go to reach the bachelor status of his uncle Justin, seen here with his college friends at McCormick Ranch in Scottsdale.

Homebound in 2020

Since early March, Mannie and John joined the throng of employees at Jensen Hughes and PG&E, respectively, to work remotely from home. Current plans are to return physically to the office no earlier than the end of March 2021.

Since her last site visits for hotel projects in Maui before the pandemic, Mannie placed many others on hold. Work has resumed, however, in Maui and Honolulu in December (before the most recent stay-at-home order in CA). There obviously was unease and trepidation at airports and boarding a plane, but the couple found comfort once on the island. John said, "Maui was a welcome break with eerily empty areas often frequented by tourists."

John continues to ponder retirement from PG&E only after the vaccine allows for future travel to other parts of the globe. He said, "If I'm going to be stuck at home with no place to go, then I might as well continue to work until the virus is under control and the situation improves."

John is one of the few at PG&E to have successfully navigated through and survived two utility bankruptcies in the company's history after exiting its second Chapter 11 reorganization in June.

Outbound in 2021 and 2022

For the most part, Mannie and John stayed close to home as the pandemic continued to rage. From time to time, the couple would only venture out for day trips to the Napa Valley. Only time will tell if the couple will head farther outbound to take the trips that were postponed or cancelled earlier this year... Weekend trip to New York City – cancelled; tour of the Balkan states in southeastern Europe – postponed to 2021; river cruise through the Danube during Oktoberfest and the Passion Play in Oberammergau – postponed to 2022; Germany-Prague-Poland explorer – postponed to 2022; and cruise through the Nile and Egypt – cancelled. Adding where it can fit at either the end of 2021 or 2022 will be the Christmas Markets.

"In the meantime, we get to enjoy having Gabriel around when they stay at the house for a few days at a time," Mannie said.



It's hard when the Holiday Season comes during a difficult time and 2020 definitely won't go down as the best Holidays ever. It has been an interesting year – in ways we never imagined... but we wish you a new year full of good health, peace and love. All we want for Christmas is a vaccine!

We're thinking of you and wishing you the best for the new year. We can't wait to see you and give you hugs that we all need. Happy holidays from our bubble to yours!

Lots of love, the Davids