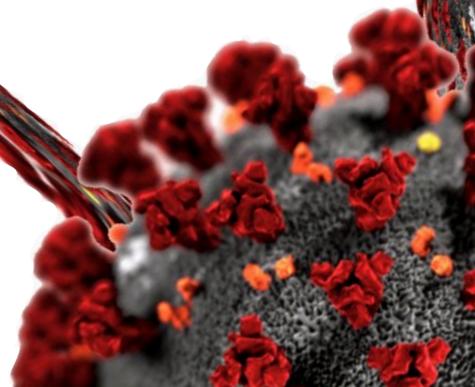
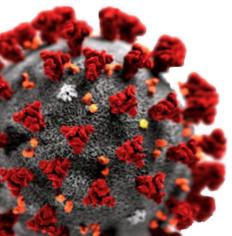


V231

JUNE 2020

St. Some Times

From the Life and Times of Greg Lemoine, international
educator since 2001.





I still Don't Cook, but I can find my way around a kitchen. Lately, my favorite form of sustenance is better than any bowl of ice cream or desert I can think of. Truly.

First in the bowl goes a pint of frozen berries. I've been addicted recently to blueberries because they come in these little plastic pint packages. (1 pint = 170 calories)

Cover the berries with organic Yeo Valley yoghurt and you won't be disappointed. Yeo Valley is my new tastebud playground. (1tub 450g = 450 Calories) Visit their site: <https://www.yeovalley.co.uk/come-and-visit-us/>

Finally, add in some crunch. If you can find Grape Nuts (the original nuggets) they are just the right crunch. (1 cup = 420 Calories)

So to get the Calories out into the open:

- Blueberries = 170 Cal
- Yeo Yogurt = 450 Cal
- Grape Nuts = 420 Cal
- Total = 1,014 Calories

EVEN OUR COMPANY HAS TO CUT JOBS

Never before, have they cut teaching positions.

This is a first, ever, for the Island Company that I work for and live on. Teaching positions are part of the Human Resources Department. Our school system is considered one of the premiums and draws for any family that decides to come work in the middle of the desert, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, since 1940.

The Covid-19 hit the world but I still never would effect staff. Almost know, has teaching at our of "Golden their careers. the "Golden because once making the money, you won't leave and they won't ever fire you. Never. Before now, most long term colleagues would have to sit and think for several minutes before they could think of even one person that was "let go" from our schools. And now...



the desert, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, since

Pandemic has companies, thought it our teaching everyone that I considered schools a kind Parachute" for Some call it Handcuffs" you start

Don't ask me who. I still don't know. Not that I'd ever publish names. For the first time ever, even we teachers are wondering if we will get a pink slip just before a "milestone" year. Who knows. It's very likely that I will be let go just before July 28th of 2021, if the Covid-19 continues to harass the world into the next several months. Why? Suffice it to say I am one of a large group of teachers that will be coming up on a large incentive to work for five years and a day for this company. The company will stand to save a lot of money by letting us go. It could happen.

Time to revisit the resumé and hold off on major purchases. Who is going next? We just don't know. This is no longer the golden secured job that it was before March 9, 2020.

JUNE 15 2020

HAPPY COVID BIRTHDAY TO US.

GREG 51, MATT 44

Somewhere, TARA is about 25





ET LOREM IPSUM
DOLOR SIT
AMET, LIGULA SUSPENSISSE
NULLA PRETIUM.

This was one of the weirdest birthdays ever. Yep. Covid B-Day. I didn't plan on celebrating at all. I told no one. Few people would care even if they knew. My close friend pool here is not very deep. But I certainly have family here.

(from left to right) Angie (maid), Me (51), Carew (8 in six days after this picture on June 15), Walker (5), Brooks (5), Crosby (3) Stacy (just over 25), and Matt (44)

Not too long after this, on June 21, Carew had his birthday. Dad celebrated on the 24th, and Matt & Stacy had their 12th anniversary on the 28th. June, huh!

Understand, this was my first time more than a few blocks away from my apartment since I don't know when. (Not including one or two trips to the larger grocery store just outside of the island security). SO this was a big deal for me. I phoned Abdul Latif (he's the Manager/Owner of the Driver Company I always use). My driver picked me up around 3pm, right on time. According to him, their company has about 4 trips a day. That's for about a hundred drivers that Abdul Latif manages.) With so little traffic, I made it to the Cheesecake Factory in a little over 20 minutes.

This was totally weird. Masks? Gloves? Have you ever seen a three year old try to eat with plastic gloves on? No way Crosby could do it. No way Matt or Stacy would allow it.

After yogurt and berries, the CheeseCake Factory burger, fries, and CheeseCake were so TASTY!!!

Happy Birthday to me..... GRAG. So funny. 51? Young dude.

When the food arrives...NO gloves!





July is almost here. June is coming to an end and we (my school, my friends, my work, my life here in Saudi) are still dealing with CovidCation. Yes, our daily life has improved a little. No more curfews in sight. A few things are open again. No more signing up to go to the company grocery stores.

But, we STILL have to wear the damn masks and the plastic, crappy, 1-time use only, throw away, 1-size-fit-all gloves. There is no alternative for gloves. Stores never had latex gloves to give away. The hospital and clinics have them but latex gloves didn't show up in the stores until May, and then only Small sizes that few people can wear.

It is common to see plastic gloves drifting in the grass as you walk or ride on the now-open sidewalks.

What is with the masks anyway? I've heard the appropriate masks only protect from 3%-5% of germs. Why are we wearing them then? Who really knows? Do cloth masks really work? I just have a feeling this is going to become a simple fashion statement.

I think I'm going to go for one of those full face plastic shields instead of a mask. That would be cool. No one else has one of those. In the states, even killers on trial get one of those!

“NOTHING . I DID ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.”

**This has been my response during the month of June
— just like March, April, and May.**

I have done absolutely nothing! And I mean nothing. Now, I am certainly creative. But putting together an entire newsletter each month is becoming a monumental challenge. Writing about small, everyday things has always been something I have prided myself on. Yet, when there is so little - if any - input, I am challenged.

Ok. I went to the grocery store here on camp. Did I mention that it was 46°C (115 °F) outside and I ride a scooter around? Well it was that hot and I ride a scooter. Someone had the bright idea to install thermal Covid-19 checkpoints at the entrance of the grocery stores. Doesn't anyone think anymore? I guess no one really cares because the majority of people choose the closest parking spots and have air-conditioned cars. Anyway, next time I go, I am going to enter the building, and act like I am just there for the Baskin Robbins looking at the flavors. I'll just rest my wrists on the frozen glass for a minute or two rather than standing around for a half an hour like I did that time.

So...what now? Two weeks in-kingdom vacation. I'm not waiting to solve the vacation equation for 2020 in December. It's a simple equation for me now. Two weeks in my apartment getting paid like I am repatriating. Thousands of dollars to sit and write my book. I'm not allowed to go anywhere during June and most likely, July, so sitting in my apartment for extra pay is clearly the choice for me. Two weeks. As I write this, I am seven days into my fourteen. I still have another week. 4th of July will go by without a hitch. When the 8th of July hits, I go back to work - well work from home and go in once in a while. Crazy life. That was June 2020. Done. Finished. So little to prove my existence.

**I was outside, yes outside,
the other day. I sneezed. My first reaction
was to look around. To make sure I hadn't
offended someone?**

What's wrong with me?



Sometimes you just have to get lost in a book.