



## United in Hope.. and Action

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“What the world needs now is some answers to our problems/ We can’t buy more time ‘cause our tender isn’t valid/ If your soul needs love, you can get consoled by pity/ But it looks as though faith alone won’t sustain us no more” (Dr. Greg Graffin). These lyrics were written in 1990, and are very much relevant today. Dr. Greg Graffin is attempting to convey to his audience that faith alone will not change anything, it must be supported by action from the people. For many, hope and faith drive their actions and guide their behavior. Hope is powerful. Hope gives us a reason to keep moving forward. Ray Bradbury shares the same sentiment as Dr. Graffin, as he famously said “Action is hope. There is no hope without action.” Even throughout history, hope and faith was not enough to make a change, take the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s-60s with key leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks. Without their action to stand their ground and demand their God-given and their Constitutional rights, the movement would have taken much longer to occur and virtually no change would have happened. The actions of many over the past year, regardless of how big or small, spread hope. From singing songs together in balconies to acknowledging the efforts of our healthcare workers, to paying it forward in the Starbucks drive-thru. The inconveniences we endured such as wearing masks and social distancing, were the actions that we hoped would pave the way back to normalcy as we once knew it. The actions of the scientists and researchers who created and tested the vaccines made us more hopeful. Things are coming together with one small step at a time, one small action at a time. Schools will be opening soon. It is often said in commencement ceremonies that high school was the four greatest years of your life to that point. Students like myself feel robbed and deprived of that opportunity and those experiences. However, there is hope. We are hopeful that there is something to salvage. Hopeful there will be a senior prom in our future, hopeful we will walk across the stage to show off our achievement after

four long years. And hopeful that our lives will get back to normal and hopeful that this past year will soon be just a memory. I will conclude with another lyric by Dr. Graffin, "I know I'm not broken, a little cracked, but still I'm not broken". I have hope.