

American Inspiration



American Weekly Inspiration

Thoughts for today and every day:

“I believe there is an old answer for every new problem, that wise whispers of the past are with us to assure us that if we just listen and remember, we are not alone; we have been here before.”

Victor Hanson, scholar

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“Giving is so often thought of in terms of the gifts we give, but our greatest giving is of our time, and kindness, and even comfort for those who need it. We look on these little things as unimportant — until we need them.”

Joyce Hifler, writer

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“People are known as much by the quality of their failures as by the quality of their successes.”

Mark McCormack (1930-2003), sports agent and manager

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“Kindness is the universal language that all people understand.”

Jake Gaither (1903-1994), college football coach

American Update:

Sadly, we say goodbye this week to an icon in our industry. Mike Miller, owner of Mike Miller Special Events, Inc., passed away on Tuesday of complications from pneumonia. Mike has organized the Mike Miller Dance Team for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade for over 20 years and has also organized the halftime extravaganza for the Cotton Bowl, Aloha Bowl, St. Patrick's Day Parade performances in Ireland as well as serving as Exec. Vice President of the Superstar division of N.C.A. He was a generous supporter of Kilgore College as well as the Kilgore Rangerettes and offered support of his alma mater, Southern Methodist University. Mike was one of the most kind, generous human beings I have known and taught me that to give is far more precious than to receive. He will be deeply missed by many of us.

There is an excitement in the air about the Christmas holidays. Everyone is anxious to find that perfect gift for that special someone. I hope that you have found a gift at some point during this year with the weekly American Inspiration and have passed it along to someone that might also be inspired. I thank you all for the constant support you offer and the kind words you take the time to write back. It is what inspires me to strive harder to find the right message to send out each week. This will be the last message of 2007. May 2008 bring you your greatest joys, inspiration and success.

Inspiration of the Week:

The "W" in Christmas

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience.

I had cut back on nonessential obligations - extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending..

Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old.

For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's Winter Pageant.

I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production, unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his Teacher, she assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation.

All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats.

As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as

"Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer.

So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads.

Those in the front row - center stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song.

As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message,

"Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down - totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W".

The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W".

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together.

A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

"CHRISTWASLOVE"

And, I believe, He still is. Amazed in His presence humbled by His love.

Again, HAVE A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON

Merry Christmas Everyone!

This weekly message is generated from:

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