



American Weekly Inspiration

Thoughts for today and every day:

“An Optimist is one who sees an opportunity in every difficulty. A pessimist is one who sees a difficulty in every opportunity.” L.P. Jacks (1860-1955) educator and cleric

“The best years of your life are the ones in which you decide your problems are your own. You do not blame them on your mother, the ecology, or the president. You realize that you control your own destiny.” Albert Ellis (1913-2007) psychologist

“A successful person is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks that other people throw at him.” David Brinkley (1920-2003) broadcast journalist

“Many of us are afraid to follow our passions, to pursue what we want most because it means taking risks and even facing failure. Bust to pursue your passion with all your heart and soul is success in itself. The greatest failure is to have never really tried.”

Robyn Allan, dance show producer and performer

American Update:

Well, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade™ performance is sold out but there are still spots to travel after Christmas to the **Capital One Bowl in Orlando, Florida**. There is great TV coverage and opportunities to go to Disney World, the beach and many other great activities. Join us for this great opportunity by going to <http://www.espsnow.com/>. The new deadline is Friday, September 26th. Those that qualified at our competitions or summer camps may go online and register now. If you didn't have the opportunity to qualify, contact our office today and arrange for a video audition.

Now that school is back in session, if you would like to start an **En Croix** chapter at your school (*Fellowship for Christian Dancers*), simply go to www.encroix.org and download a form that can be mailed or faxed in. We have free dog tag necklaces and bible markers while they last. See more information on the web site.

Everyone is constantly searching for **innovative ideas for fundraising**. If you have a great idea that you are willing to share, send me a short few sentences describing your fundraising activity and we may share it in the coming weeks in our American Inspiration. Make sure to include the number of team members and the amount that you raised.

Inspiration of the Week:

THE FENCE

There was a little boy with a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, to hammer a nail in the back fence.

The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Then it gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same.

When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there.

A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one.

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

Show your friends how much you care.

This weekly message is generated from:

Joyce Pennington, Pres. CEO

American Dance/Drill Team®