



American Weekly Inspiration

Thoughts for today and every day:

“I’ve learned that if I don’t’ celebrate the exquisiteness of each day, that I’ve lost something I’ll never get back.” Sally P. Karioth, educator and nurse

“Surprises, by their nature, come in disguise, masked sometimes as disappointments or detours when they’re in fact dreams turning solid, if you’ll just step aside and give them some air.” Nancy Gibbs, editor

“The traditional version tells us that there are two things you need to succeed: talent and drive. I have added a third thing, and that is optimism. You can have all the talent in the world, but if you don’t believe you can overcome failure, if you do not mentally rehearse success, then your talent and drive will come to nothing once you have been knocked down.” Martin Seligman, psychologist and educator

“Remember that the biggest gap in the world is between *I should* and *I did*.” H. Jackson Brown, Jr, writer

American Update:

Many of you will see your football season winding down to a close in the next couple of weeks. This will open your minds to begin thinking about One Day Dance Intensives, Conventions and Competitions. Make sure to visit our web site for all the latest updates on workshops and contests. The *National Council of Dance* companies are all teaming together to help teams affected by Hurricane Ike. Make sure to visit their web site at www.danceadts.com/ncdtc/index.htm

Directors, take time to sign onto the **Directors Corner** and visit the contest page where you can view schedules from last year’s competitions to see the teams that attended as

well as how the schedule lays out for the day (or weekend). Make sure to also visit the new photo page from Nationals (link from the main contest page).

Inspiration of the Week:

The Penny

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about.

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband.

He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment.

Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny.

He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before!

What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says." She read the words "United States of America."

"No, not that; read further."

"One cent?" "No, keep reading."

"In God we Trust?" "Yes!" "And?"

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful!

And, God is patient...

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