



American Weekly Inspiration

Thoughts for today and every day:

“The best part of a new day, is that is it a new day! Life begins again every day. How will you begin your new life today?”

Andrew Harwell

“It is said that grace enters the soul through a wound.”

Heather McDonald, *An Almost Holy Picture*

“You can’t teach experience.”

Nick Hunt

“People are most critical of the things they least understand.”

Paul W. Spoor

American Update:

Happy 2009 to everyone! It is hard to believe that 2008 went by so quickly. We are off to the Texas Dance Educators Association convention in Houston this weekend. Make sure to be a part of a professional organization in your state. See links to many of the state associations at www.danceusa.com/dusa_org.htm. On Saturday, following the convention, we will host another Rangerette Revelations, a one day dance intensive with the Kilgore Rangerette directors and officers. For more information, visit our web site at www.DanceADTS.com/onedays.htm.

In less than 2 weeks, we kick off our competition season and we are excited to introduce to our clients a new method of recording judges comments. In the team area, directors will receive both video and audio comments from one of the three judges that will be on a USB flash drive that can be inserted into any computer. You will be able to see the video of your team’s performance along with the judges audio comments. There will still be two judges on cassette tape until this method is perfected. Solos and duets will still receive comments on cassette tape from both judges. We hope that this new technology will take us truly into the twenty first century.

To pre-register for contests, visit our web site at www.DanceADTS.com/contests.htm. You will also find a vast amount of information online to help you prepare for competitions. We hope to see you in 2009!

Inspiration of the Week:

AMBITIONOUSLY PURSUING YOUR OWN SELF-DIRECTION

by Jim Rohn

(Excerpted from The Power of Ambition series)

What is the origin of true ambition? There exists really only one place to find true ambition and that is within you – in every thought, in every movement, in every motivation. Your ambition is an expression of who you truly are, your own self-expression.

Self-expression. Isn't self-expression really self-direction? How you think, how you move, how you motivate yourself. Ambition is a result of self-direction and self-direction is one of the six key principles necessary for building ambition. Positive self-direction says, "I know who I am and I know where I want to go. I'm accumulating knowledge and experiences and feelings and philosophies that will help prepare me for opportunities that I know will show up without notice or any help on my part." Because you know where you want to go, you have already been working on the parts of your personality that will make you better. Working on your attitude, working on your health, working on your time management skills. Putting it all down on paper. And you constantly see yourself in the place you want to be, going in the direction you want to go.

Direction determines destination. So here is a question you must ask yourself, "Are all the disciplines that I'm currently engaged in taking me where I want to go?" What an important question to ask yourself at the beginning of the month, the beginning of the week, the beginning of the day. Because here is what you don't ever want to do - kid yourself. Kid your neighbor, kid me and kid the marketplace, but don't kid yourself - fingers crossed - hoping you will arrive at a good destination when you're not even headed that way. You have to ask yourself often, AM I? Am I doing the disciplines that are taking me in the direction I want to go? Don't neglect to ask these important questions, questions that help determine your direction, the set of your sail, your destination.

Is this the direction I want for my life?
Is this someone else's direction?

Is this a goal I have been ingrained with since my childhood?
Is this goal my parent's, my spouse's, my boss', my children's
or is it MINE?

Ask yourself these questions and then debate them. After you have answered these questions within yourself, then take it one step further and ask, "What am I doing that is working or not working?" Debate it all. Work with your mind to figure out the best possible direction for you - your self-direction. And the ambitiously pursue your own self-direction. Let the power of your own ambition take you where you want to go, to do what you want to do, to create the life you want to live!

To Your Success,
Jim Rohn

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