

American Inspiration

Thoughts for today and every day . . .

“To carry a grudge is like being stung to death by one bee.”

William H. Walton



“If you want to succeed, you had better look as if you mean business.”

Jeanne Holm



“If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance.” George Bernard Shaw



“I adore wearing gems, but not because they are mine. You can't possess radiance, you can only admire it.” Elizabeth Taylor

American Update



This weekend is the ‘big show,’ our **American National/International Championship** at the University of North Texas just north of Dallas. We will have over 4,000 participants that will compete two days for top national titles. We will also hold our American Collegiate Championship this weekend as well. See 21 of the top college dance and hip hop teams in the nation! See the Dallas Mavericks Dancers perform at the Awards Ceremony. Watch the events live on our web site at www.DanceADTS.com.



This weekend, we have two teams that will be traveling from **Japan** for our event. They are **Wakaba High School** and **Shibata Performing Kids**. Last week, we mentioned that we were searching for a charity that would help the people of Japan after the terrible earthquake and tsunami. We have decided that the **Salvation Army Japan Disaster Relief Fund** is the best choice. They promise that 100% of your donation goes to help the people if you note it for the Japan Disaster Relief and no administrative fees are taken out. There are 4 ways people can contribute money to this fund:

- Text the words “Japan” or “Quake” to 80888 to make a \$10 donation.

- Phone: 1-800-SAL-ARMY
- Online at: www.disaster.salvationarmyusa.org
- Send by Mail: Send a check marked "Japan Earthquake Relief" to Salvation Army World Service Office, International Relief Fund, PO Box 630728, Baltimore, MD 21263-0728

We can ALL make a difference!

Inspiration of the Week

"Cracked"

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across Her neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments.

But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?"

"That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them."

"For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding.

So, to all of my *crackpot* friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path.

Live simply.
Love generously.
Care deeply.
Speak kindly.
Leave the rest to God.

This weekly message is generated from:

Joyce Pennington, Pres. CEO

 **American ★★★★★**
Dance/Drill Team ★★
★★★★★★★★★

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