

# American Inspiration

## Thoughts for today and every day . . .

“Optimism is an intellectual choice.” Diana Schneider



“The moment may be temporary, but the memory is forever.” Bud Meyer



“Wherever we look upon this Earth, the opportunities take shape within the problems.” Nelson Rockefeller



“Being forced to work, and forced to do your best, will breed in you temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and content, and a hundred virtues which the idle will never know.”

Charles Kingsley

## American Update



This will be the last American Inspiration before summer break. We will resume the weekly messages in mid-August when school is back in session. In the meantime, visit our archives and see hundreds of past motivational message on our web site at <http://www.danceadts.com/linearchives.htm>.

**Summer Camps** are around the corner and we have already scheduled over 75 **Private Camps** and will be at capacity by June with well over 100 Private Camps. To receive a custom bid for your private camp, visit our web site and link to the Summer Camp page and you will see the link to submit your information for a bid that will be sent to you within 48 hours.

**Contest Season in 2012** has had some changes and updates. Due to the new standardized testing dates in Texas for the TAKS and STAAR tests, the TEA calendar has tests scheduled the week of March 26<sup>th</sup>, which would have preceded our **National/International Championship in Denton**. Because the state will not allow school teams to have practice the week of the tests, it would have made it very difficult on teams planning to attend. We have now moved the competition to the weekend of **March 23-24<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. Visit our web site for more information.

We also will be adding back into our schedule our **Santa Fe Dance Festival in 2012**. We had been informed that the New Mexico Activities Association had changed their policies and we would not be able to comply with the new format. However, the board members heard from many of you, our faithful clients,

and have decided to lift the new regulations. Make sure to watch our web site for the confirmed date in the coming weeks. We are so excited to return to the "Land of Enchantment!"

 We have many new fans on our American Dance/Drill Team Facebook page, thanks to the new photo contest with teams having the chance to win cash prizes towards contest fees. Make sure to visit our [Facebook page](#) and add your team's favorite photo!

Have a great summer! We hope to see many of you at camps. Looking forward to reconnecting in August!

## Inspiration of the Week

### *Closed Doors*

We need to learn to praise the Lord as much for a closed door as we do an open door. The reason God closes doors is because He has not prepared anything over there for us. If he didn't close the wrong door, we would never find the right door.

God directs our path through the closing and opening of doors. Once a door closes, it forces you to change your course. Another door closes, it forces you to change your course again. Then, finally, you find the open door and you walk right into your blessing.

The Lord directs our paths through the opening and closing of doors, but instead of praising him for the closed door (which keeps us out of trouble); we get upset because we "judge by the appearances."

You have an ever-present help in the time of trouble that is always standing guard. Because He walks ahead of you, He can spot trouble down the road and set up a roadblock or detour accordingly. But through our lack of wisdom, we try to tear down the roadblocks or push aside the detour sign. Then the minute we get into trouble, we start crying, "Lord, how could You have done this to me?"

We have got to realize that the closed door can be a blessing. Didn't He say that no good thing would He withhold from them that love Him?

If you get terminated from your job, praise God for the new opportunities that will manifest themselves: it might be another job, it might be school.

If that man or woman won't return your call, it might not be them, it might be the Lord setting up a roadblock (just let it go).

One time, a person had a bank they had been in business with for many years tell them "No!" to a \$10,000 loan. The Lord put in their spirit to call another bank. That bank gave them \$40,000 at a lower interest rate than the first bank was offering.

We can sometimes trap ourselves in doubt and discouragement through judging by appearances. Be grateful for the many times our Father has closed doors to us just to open them in the most unexpected places.

The Lord won't always say in spoken words: "Go to the left, now to the Right" ...sometimes He will just close the doors that are wrong for you.

God Bless You Always!

A lthough things are not perfect  
B ecause of trial or pain  
C ontinue in thanksgiving  
D o not begin to blame  
E ven when the times are hard  
F ierce winds are bound to blow  
G od is forever able  
H old on to what you know  
I magine life without His love  
J oy would cease to be  
K eep thanking Him for all the things  
L ove imparts to thee  
M ove out of "Camp Complaining"  
N o weapon that is known  
O n earth can yield the pow! er  
P raise can do alone  
Q uit looking at the future  
R edeem the time at hand  
S tart every day with worship  
T o "thank" is a command  
U ntil we see Him coming  
V ictorious in the sky  
W e'll run the race with gratitude  
X alting God most high  
Y es, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...  
Z ion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

"I AM Too blessed to be stressed!" The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.

This weekly message is generated from:

*Joyce Pennington, Pres. CEO*

The logo features three horizontal red bars. The top bar is above the word "American" followed by five blue stars. The middle bar is above the words "Dance/Drill Team" followed by two blue stars. The bottom bar is above a row of ten blue stars.

**American ★★★★★**  
**Dance/Drill Team★★**  
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*Established in 1958*

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