

Be Thankful

The following came in one of those circulating emails that arrive in our inbox daily. One of the senders along the way said this in preface. The content is highly appropriate as we observe Thanksgiving next week.

My Generation Is Blind to the Prosperity Around Us

From the web.

I'm sitting in a small coffee shop near Lake Nokomis (Mpls) trying to think of what to write about. I scroll through my newsfeed on my phone looking at the latest headlines of Democratic candidates calling for policies to "fix" the so-called injustices of capitalism.

I put my phone down and continue to look around. I see people talking freely, working on their MacBook's, ordering food they get in an instant, seeing cars go by outside, and it dawned on me. We live in the most privileged time in the most prosperous nation, and we've become completely blind to it vehicles, food, technology, freedom to associate with whom we choose. These things are so ingrained in our American way of life we don't give them a second thought.

We are so well off here in the United States that our poverty line begins 31 times above the global average. Thirty. One. Times. Virtually no one in the United States is considered poor by global standards. Yet, in a time where we can order a product off Amazon with one click and have it at our doorstep the next day, we are unappreciative, unsatisfied, and ungrateful.

Our unappreciation is evident as the popularity of socialist policies among my generation continues to grow. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez recently said to Newsweek talking about the millennial generation, "An entire generation, which is now becoming one of the largest electorates in America, came of age and never saw American prosperity."

Never saw American prosperity! Let that sink in. When I first read that statement, I thought to myself, that was quite literally the most entitled and factually illiterate thing I've ever heard in my 26 years on this earth. Many young people agree with her, which is entirely misguided. My generation is being indoctrinated by a mainstream narrative to believe we have never seen prosperity. I know this firsthand, I went to college, let's just say I didn't have the popular opinion, but I digress.

Why then, with all the overwhelming evidence around us, evidence that I can even see sitting at a coffee shop, do we not view this as prosperity? We have people who are dying to get into our country. People around the world destitute and truly impoverished. Yet, we have a young generation convinced they've never seen

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prosperity, and as a result, elect politicians dead set on taking steps towards abolishing capitalism.

Why?

The answer is this, my generation has only seen prosperity. We have no contrast. We didn't live in the great depression, or live through two world wars, the Korean War, The Vietnam War or see the rise and fall of socialism and communism. We don't know what it's like to live without the internet, without cars, without smartphones. We don't have a lack of prosperity problem. We have an entitlement problem, an ungratefulness problem, and it's spreading like a plague.

When I read this short writing, I thought that it's not only this young gal's generation that has only seen prosperity. It's actually most living Americans, any of us born in the late 1930's and beyond.

Yes, in those earlier decades since about 1940 there were many more pockets of poverty than there are today, but it wasn't long before our parents' hard work after the Second World War provided unbelievable economic,



industrial, and technological advancement.

Those of us born in the late 40's through the 60's grew up in a relatively peaceful, prosperous environment, until many in our generation, who seemingly knew too much prosperity, acted out their spoiled, entitled outlook on life. They demonstrated, rioted, broke out of our social and moral guardrails, and set us on the path to spiritual ruin, where we find ourselves now.

Although I believe our social fabric has been torn beyond repair, and that we as a nation are under God's judgment for violating the covenant our earliest settlers made with Him, we can individually and with our families and groups of fellow travelers reset our own attitudes and spirits. We can point them back to God, humble ourselves before Him, and thank Him for all of the favor He has shown us.

We who live in this country, the U.S.A., have been blessed beyond imagination. We owe God our overflowing thanks for being here, and especially here in Lucerne Valley!

This proverb came to mind when I read the gal's writing. I love this truth expressed by Solomon:

Proverbs 30:7-9

"Two things I ask of you, LORD; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.

Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?'

Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God."

Linda Gimmel

Lessons

Anonymous from the web.



A Minister passing through his church
In the middle of the day,
Decided to pause by the altar
To see who came to pray.



Just then the back door opened,
And a man came down the aisle,
The minister frowned as he saw the man
Hadn't shaved in a while.

His shirt was torn and shabby,
And his coat was worn and frayed,
The man knelt down and bowed his head,
Then rose and walked away.
In the days that followed at precisely noon,
The preacher saw this chap,
Each time he knelt just for a moment,
A lunch pail in his lap.

Well, the minister's suspicions grew,
With robbery a main fear,
He decided to stop and ask the man
'What are you doing here?'

The old man said he was a factory worker
And lunch was half an hour
Lunchtime was his prayer time,
For finding strength and power.

I stay only a moment
Because the factory's far away;
As I kneel here talking to the Lord,
This is kinda what I say:

'I Just Came By To Tell You, Lord,
How Happy I Have Been,
Since We Found Each Other's Friendship
And You Took Away My Sin.
Don't Know Much Of How To Pray,
But I Think About You Every day
So, Jesus, This Is Ben,
Just Checking In Today.'

The minister feeling foolish,
Told Ben that it was fine.
He told the man that he was welcome
To pray there anytime.

'It's time to go, and thanks,' Ben said
As he hurried to the door.
Then the minister knelt there at the altar,
Which he'd never done before.

His cold heart melted, warmed with love,
As he met with Jesus there.

As the tears flowed down his cheeks,
He repeated old Ben's prayer:

'I Just Came By To Tell You, Lord,
How Happy I've Been,
Since We Found Each Other's Friendship
And You Took Away My Sin.
I Don't Know Much Of How To Pray,
But I Think About You Every day.
So, Jesus, This Is Me,
Just Checking In Today.'

Past noon one day, the minister noticed
That old Ben hadn't come.
As more days passed and still no Ben
He began to worry some.

At the factory, he asked about him,
Learning he was ill.
The hospital staff was worried,
But he'd given them a thrill.

The week that Ben was with them,
Brought changes in the ward.
His smiles and joy contagious.
Changed people were his reward.

The head nurse couldn't understand
Why Ben could be so glad,
When no flowers, calls or cards came,
Not a visitor he had.

The minister stayed by his bed,
He voiced the nurse's concern:
No friends had come to show they cared.
He had nowhere to turn.

Looking surprised, old Ben spoke up
And with a winsome smile;
'The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know,
He's been here all the while.'

Every day at noon He comes here,
A dear friend of mine, you see,
He sits right down and takes my hand
Leans over and says to me:

'I Just Came By To Tell You, Ben,
How Happy I Have Been,
Since We Found This Friends!
And I Took Away Your Sin.
I Think About You Always
And I Love To Hear You Pray,
And So Ben, This Is Jesus,
Just Checking In Today.'

Philippians 4:4-8

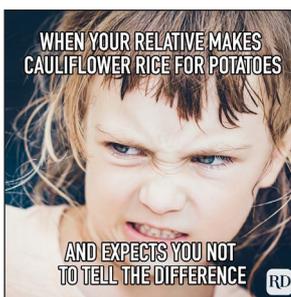
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Colossians 3:12-17

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Psalms 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.



Ask Linda about this blank space and you will get a WOODEN NICKEL!