

TIME FOR ANOTHER INSTALLMENT OF LIFE IN THE BIG HOUSE. I GUESS ITS ACTUALLY PAST TIME, BUT AS I'VE SAID BEFORE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A PROCRASTINATOR. YOU WOULD THINK (AND YOU WOULD BE RIGHT) THAT WITH THIS MUCH TIME ON MY HANDS THAT I WOULD BE BETTER AT GETTING THINGS DONE IN A TIMELY FASHION, BUT IT WOULD SEEM THAT I'M HOPELESS IN THIS DEPARTMENT.

IT STILL SEEMS A LITTLE REDUNDANT TO ME TO HAVE CLOCKS IN PRISON. MOST GUYS IN HERE MEASURE TIME IN YEARS OR DECADES, SOME OF THE LUCKY ONES IN DAYS AND MONTHS. SO WATCHING THE CLOCK TICK OFF SECONDS, MINUTES, OR HOURS DOESN'T MAKE A LOT OF SENSE TO ME. THERE IS 86,400 SECONDS IN A DAY, TRUST ME, IT GETS BORING WATCHING THEM.

HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW I'VE USED THE WORDS REDUNDANT AND PROCRASTINATOR AND MENTIONED THE SECONDS IN A DAY? YOU CAN'T HIDE GENIUS - (DOES THE FACT THAT I MISPELLED GENIUS GIVE IT AWAY THAT THIS STATEMENT WAS A JOKE?).

I WANT TO WISH SHANNON A HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY! FIFTY IS A MILESTONE, IT'S WHEN YOU STOP AND CONTEMPLATE WHERE YOUR GOING TO END UP, ALSO A TIME TO REFLECT. I SUPPOSE YOU SHOULD HAVE A LIST OF THINGS TO DO BY FIFTY, THEN MAKE A LIST OF THINGS TO DO AFTER FIFTY. EXAMPLES: BEFORE FIFTY, RAISE FAMILY, SAVE SOME MONEY FOR LATER LIST, FLOSS, EXERCISE, EAT HEALTHIER, STAY OUT OF JAIL (O.K. THAT ONE WAS FOR ME.) AFTER FIFTY: I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT A BUCKET LIST, TRAVEL, SPOIL GRANDKIDS, ETC.

AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, I LIKE TO THINK I CAN PASS ON SOME BITS OF WISDOM BY NOW. I'VE ^{TRIED} TO TEACH MY GIRLS SOME BUT I KNOW I FAILED IN MANY AREAS. IF SOME OF IT COMES IN HANDY I GUESS IT WASN'T TO BIG A LOSS. LIKE PUTTING THE TOILET PAPER SO THAT IT RUNS UNDER THE ROLL, NOT OVER THE TOP. AND AT LEAST TO GOT THIS ONE, STIR YOUR CHOCOLATE MILK CLOCKWISE THEN REVERSE TO COUNTER-CLOCKWISE. TWO AREAS OF IMPORTANCE THAT YOU CAN USE ALL YOUR LIFE AND HOPEFULLY PASS ON TO THE NEXT GENERATION.

AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, MOST OLDER GUYS IN HERE, AFTER A HANDFUL OF YEARS, FEEL THAT WE ARE NOW QUALIFIED TO BE THE GURU ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN, WE CAN ANSWER MOST OF LIFE'S DIFFICULT QUESTIONS. A KID ASKED ME THE OTHER DAY IF I TAKE THE BIBLE LITERALLY. AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE PRONED TO SAY YES. BUT THIS CAN LEAD TO 'TRAP QUESTIONS'. I SPOTTED THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION AS ONE OF THOSE TRAPS. THATS WHEN THEY BRING UP SOMETHING LIKE "CAN GOD DO ANYTHING? THE BIBLE SAYS THAT NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD. BUT THE TRICK QUESTION WILL BE "CAN HE MAKE A ROCK SO BIG THAT HE CANT LIFT IT?" OR PS. 91:4, HE SHALL COVER YOU WITH HIS FEATHERS... WE KNOW GOD DOESN'T HAVE FEATHERS. BUT I DONT MIND WHEN THESE GUYS TRY TO TRICK ME OR MAKE FUN OF ME, BECAUSE IT OPENS THE DOOR TO TALK ABOUT THE LORD WITH THEM. I DO TELL THEM THAT I BELIEVE THE BIBLE WAS WSPIRED BY GOD. THE WORD 'WSPIRED' COMES FROM THE GREEK WORD MEANING 'GOD BREATHED'. SO GOD BREATHED INTO MAN WHAT HE WANTED WRITTEN. THATS A BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT ISNT IT? THEY TELL YOU GOD WORKS N MYSTERIOUS WAYS, THEY JUST DONT TELL YOU HOW MYSTERIOUS THOSE WAYS CAN BE.

I SUPPOSE THEY ALSO TELL YOU THINGS WHEN YOUR YOUNG THAT MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY HONEST. THINGS LIKE - WHEN YOU GROW UP YOU CAN BE

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PRESIDENT, THEY JUST DON'T TELL YOU THAT IT'S PRESIDENT OF A
FAN CLUB. OH. THE THINGS WE LEARN IN LIFE.

I PUT IN FOR A PROGRAM THEY OFFER AT KIRKLAND FROM
COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY. IT'S A TWO YEAR PROGRAM
GOING TO SCHOOL FULL TIME TO GET YOUR ASSOCIATES DEGREE. IT'S
A BIBLE BASED COLLEGE THAT DESIGNED THIS PROGRAM FOR INMATES.
IT'S OFFERED FREE OF CHARGE TO INMATES WHO MEET ALL THE
REQUIREMENTS WHO WANT TO BETTER THEMSELVES AND MINISTER TO
OTHER INMATES. IN ADDITION TO SPEECH, WRITING, LITERATURE,
MATHEMATICS, PHILOSOPHY, ETC. WE GET NEW TESTAMENT, OLD
TESTAMENT, BIBLE DISCIPLINSHIP, BIBLE INTERPRETATION, BIBLICAL
EXEGESIS AND EXPOSITION, ROMANS, ETHICS AND SANCTIFICATION,
EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLINSHIP, PLUS SEVERAL OTHERS AND THREE
DIFFERENT WORKSHOPS.

IT IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY AND I ASK FOR YOUR
PRAYERS IN BEING SELECTED. HOSEA 4:6 STARTS OFF BY SAYING
'MY PEOPLE ARE DESTROYED BY LACK OF KNOWLEDGE'....
ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO GROW IN KNOWLEDGE IN THE WORD
AND IN SECULAR STUDIES IS NOT WASTED TIME. WE NEED TO BE
EFFECTIVE IN SHARING HIS LOVE WITH OTHERS AND I BELIEVE
THIS WILL DEFINITELY HELP ME IN MINISTERING TO OTHERS.

ONCE AGAIN, YOUR IN MY PRAYERS, AND I DO THANK YOU
FOR PUTTING ME IN YOURS. ALSO PRAY FOR THIS BLOG SITE TO REMAIN
OPEN, THERE'S TALK OF S.C. SHUTTING IT DOWN.

WITH LOVE

JOE