



Monday Matters

April 14, 2014

Don't Stop Dreaming!

Edwin and Anna had a dream of coming to America, the land of opportunity. Like many people from Scandinavia, they decided to leave their homeland of Norway and move to the United States. The year was 1912. They boarded a boat along with their 13 month old son, Harry, and sailed several days before arriving in New York. From there they continued their travels until they reached their destination, Chicago.

In those days of the early nineteen hundreds, many Scandinavian immigrants were known to start their own businesses. Edwin was no different. Sometime after setting down roots in Chicago Edwin opened his shoe repair shop. The days were different back then. People didn't have a closet full of shoes. There were no Payless Shoe Stores, The Rackroom or shopping malls. People were fortunate to have two pairs of shoes - one for work and one for Sundays. When the sole wore through or the heel fell off, they had their shoes repaired. Edwin's business was successful.



That dream of owning his own business came to an end about 1956 when plans were revealed in Chicago of building what was eventually to be known as the Kennedy Expressway. Not only would it run through Edwin's shoe repair shop but it also would destroy the neighborhood where they lived.

Edwin and Anna had a new dream. By this time in their lives they were ready to retire and retire they did to sunny Florida. Edwin loved to fish off the pier in St. Petersburg and could be found at the pier a couple of days a week. They loved it in Florida.

It was roughly 1958 on a Sunday when my parents and I were in the middle of our dinner listening to Charles Fuller on the radio. It was something we did every Sunday after church. The phone rang and my mother answered it. She said, "Harry, it's for you." I will always remember that

day. A dream came to an end. My grandfather, Edwin Nelson, was dead. He was at the pier fishing when he died.

When I look back on my grandparents lives and the dreams they had of coming to America, becoming a business owner and citizens of this country and then retiring to Florida I believe they had a full life. Their dreams came true. I think that if the expressway was never built through their area of town, they would have continued their dream in Chicago. Sometimes dreams end. The key is not to stop dreaming just because your original dream ended. Find another dream. My grandparents did.

As we go through life, we will find bumps in the road that cause us to change direction in our dream or find a new dream. It might be a change in a job (good or bad), a loss of a loved one, a move to another residence, a change in health, or any number of other reasons. The key again is to not quit but find a new dream.

It is important that our dreams include following God and asking that He not only be part of our dreams but that He be first and foremost in our dreams. He has a plan for us throughout our entire life. I recently heard in a sermon that He is never done being a part of our lives and we should always look for ways to follow His plan. He never is done with us.



Mercy Me- I Can Only Imagine at the 2009 Dove Awards

If we are not dead, God is not done with us.



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