



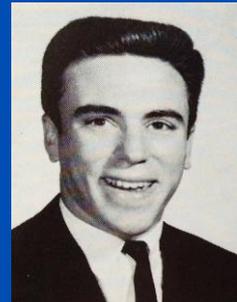
## Monday Matters

June 23, 2014

### Get Busy Living or Get Busy Dying

Abraham Yahuda Lev was a classmate of mine throughout most of my early years in school as well as in high school. Everyone called him Yogi rather than by his given name. In high school he joined cross country, student council, track, the team basketball, the homecoming committee, and became a National Merit winner. Yogi was one of the popular guys in our class of 600+ students. He was also a leader.

After high school, like all the other graduates, Yogi had dreams for the rest of his life. He went to the University of Illinois and enrolled in Pre-Med. That's what his father dreamed that he wanted for him. Yogi had other dreams and was much more interested in literature and pursued those classes instead. As a result, Yogi's father withdrew all funds for his college education. Yogi dropped out of college and his dreams ended. Instead of finding other means to accomplish his dreams and to dream again, he took his life in another direction altogether. The rumors are he became involved with drugs and ended up in jail. Yogi died before his 30th birthday.



The Bible tells us in Proverbs 29:18 that "Without a dream people perish." Without a dream, there is no hope. People turn away from life and health to alcohol, drugs, crimes, etc. all because they have lost hope. Tommy Barnett once said, "People have no hope because they have lost their dreams. Burnout does not come from overwork; burnout comes from dream deprivation."

Christopher Columbus had a dream to find a new country. It took a lot of effort to fund the project and there were setbacks along the way. He never gave up on that dream. Henry Ford had a dream to build a car that everyone could afford. It didn't happen overnight but he kept the dream in sight. Paul had a dream as related in the Bible. That dream was to reach as many people as he could with the Gospel of Christ. He endured hardships, was shipwrecked, and thrown in prison but he never stopped sharing the message. Today his words as recorded in the New Testament continue to spread that message. His dream is still being fulfilled.



Without a dream people will perish. There is no hope. Making those dreams come true just doesn't happen. As Jesse Owens once said, "We all have dreams. But in order to make them come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort." Follow the dreams that God has placed on your heart. Don't ever stop dreaming. Yogi stopped dreaming of what he might become. Paul kept dreaming and after 2,000 years we are still seeing those dreams coming to pass. A line in the movie *The Shawshank Redemption* proclaimed it was time to either "get busy living or get busy dying." So get busy living, get busy dreaming and make those dreams a reality.

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