



Monday Matters September 9, 2013

Just Shake It Off!

Have you ever had one of those days when you just wanted to throw up your hands and give up? Are there days where nothing seems to go right and you don't know how to fix it?

This week two friends that I have known for many years commented on Facebook about their troubling week. One wrote, "There are days that I just want to run & hide, and not come back! And this is one of those days & week!!!!!!!"



**We'll Soon Be Done with
Troubles and Trials -**



Another friend had taken a vacation and when she came back she found out that during that time her household services fell to pieces! In going through her mail, she had a notice from her cable/internet service that said, "A cable leak has been detected inside your home and needs to be repaired." Additionally there is a notice from her gas company that states, " We inspected your natural gas service line. The inspection revealed that your natural gas service riser needs to be replaced." Also, the circuit breaker for the garage refrigerator popped while she was gone. Of course, all the fish, seafood and meat that was in the freezer rotted. The stench was overwhelming. The fridge has been cleaned out, the garage is airing out, but some of the odor remained.

Her daughter-in-law commented, "Just life's things that keep you on your toes. Shake it off and trudge on. Thank God for your blessings, which I know you do, and the rest will take care of itself!" This reminded me on the following story:

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the

Gaither Homecoming

Quote of the Week

"All the adversity I've had in my life, all my troubles and obstacles, have strengthened me ... You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you."

~ Walt Disney ~

Monday Matters

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well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey.

He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down.

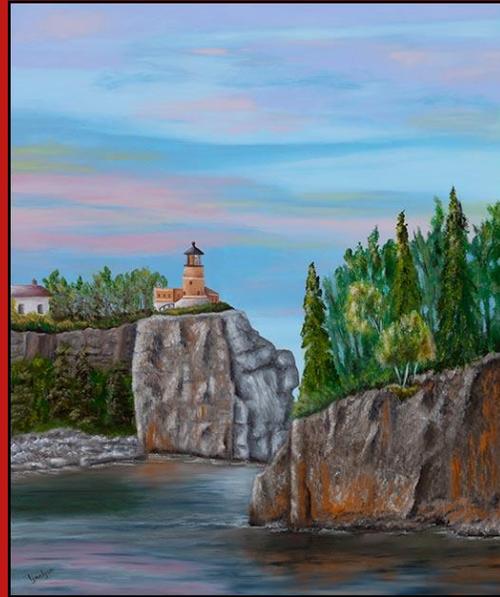
A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

A lesson we can all learn is - Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up.

And above all - count your blessings. Your blessings will far out number any troubles or trials you have. The first verse of the old hymn "Count Your Blessings" goes like this:

When upon life billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings - name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.



Lighthouse
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Count Your Blessings

By Ron Nelson

Seoul Church Grace Handbell Choir
and Daejeon Handbell Choir