



The President's Corner

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Dear W.I. Members:

Have you taken the time to open doors of service lately? Have you opened them with an air of expectancy and enthusiasm?

Delegates, remember how you went to the 27th Officers' Conference full of optimism and excitement! Remember the enthusiasm that was generated and you returned home freshened and renewed in your outlook and resolved to really get with it. Have you been able to keep that spark alive and use it for rekindling others?

What is enthusiasm? How do we define it? Someone said it thus —

Enthusiasm is a mind aflame
a heart aglow
a body a-tingle.

I really believe this is how we all felt as we returned to our respective homes after the Conference.

The question uppermost in my mind still is, "What actually did happen?"

For then came the District Annuals. I was indeed happy that I was able to attend ten of them. Although the format is much the same, each one of them was different with its own special flavour and personality.

But reading and studying the reports of the District Annuals which the Board Directors have returned I have been disturbed by their reported findings.

We are all wondering why W.I. Members are so reluctant when it comes to taking an office or a convenership? So often we hear the phrases, "I can't be bothered. I don't have the time." Strange isn't it when each one of us shares exactly alike in the treasury of time. Each person has been given every day 24 hours or 1440 minutes or 86,400 seconds. How is it then that some people seem to accomplish so much more in a day than others?

I really wonder if those who seem to have the time or who take the time for all things are constantly reminded of this quotation by an author unknown, "This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good. What I do today is important, because I'm exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, not loss; good, not evil; success, not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price I paid for it."

In Wilma L. Shaffer's book, *Serenity of the Soul*, she writes, "the difference in people is mainly a differ-

ence of vision and a difference in the appreciation of time. Time is a flowing stream and many of us hesitate on the bank, afraid to thrust our feet into the passing current. While we are hesitating, time slips away, golden opportunities pass; and at last, it is too late to act."

Recently I have attended many branch meetings that were truly interesting, exciting and enjoyable experiences for me. To witness the activity and the display of enthusiasm is so heartwarming. At the one meeting I sat back and marvelled and wondered just how the ladies were going to do all the things they had undertaken. They were firm in their resolve and confident in their response.

I was reminded of A. H. Glasow's definition: "Enthusiasm is energy that boils over and runs down the side of the pot."

That W.I. Branch was bubbling with enthusiasm, singing with excitement, and spreading happiness at every opportunity. I could certainly see the doors swinging open for those ladies.

They realized that "the door to happiness opens outward" as Soren Kierkegaard so aptly put it.

Several years ago I clipped from a magazine an article that dealt with the Inspiration of Enthusiasm and I'd like to share parts of it with you in closing.

"ENTHUSIASM — that certain something which makes us great — which pulls us out of the mediocre and the commonplace — which builds into us power. It glows and shines — it lights up our faces.

ENTHUSIASM — the keynote which makes us sing and makes others sing with us.

ENTHUSIASM — the maker of friends — the maker of smiles — the producer of confidence. It cries to the world, "I've got what it takes." It tells all men that our job is a great job — that the house for which we work suits us — that the goods we have are the best.

ENTHUSIASM — the inspiration which makes us "wake up and live". It puts spring in our hearts, a twinkle in our eyes, and gives us confidence in ourselves and our fellow human beings.

ENTHUSIASM — it changes a dead-pan salesperson into a producer — a pessimist to an optimist — a loafer to a go-getter.

ENTHUSIASM — if we have it, we should thank God for it. If we don't have it, then we should get down on our knees and pray for it."

We belong to what could be one of the most powerful organizations in the world. Let's get enthusiastic about it and take the time to work for the achievement of its aims and objectives and help to shape the destinies of future generations of world citizens.

"I have a precious little minute,
Only sixty seconds in it,
Forced upon me, can't refuse it,
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it,
But it's up to me to use it,
I must suffer if I lose it,
Give account if I abuse it;
Just a tiny little minute —
But ETERNITY is in it!"

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