

A Change for the Best

One of my favorite cartoons is of a group of people sitting around a table. The title above the picture is “Week Two of the Church Plant.” One of the men at the table is red-faced and angry, his hand clenched in a fist. The caption reads, “That’s not the way we did it LAST week.”

Let’s be honest—most people don’t like change and find it hard to adapt. They yearn for predictability, the security of routines, and the knowledge of what’s going to happen next.

But there is one area of life in which change is unavoidable—and that is at the end of life. We will all die and face judgment. But there are changes we can make to experience an abundant life now and into eternity.

Do you want a better life? Become a member of God’s family. God calls us to make a radical, deep-seated change of attitude, mind, and conduct. In other words, we must repent and let God transform us. We have all sinned (Romans 3:23), and God cannot tolerate sin. The change God requires is in

how we perceive ourselves, our attitude toward him, and our understanding of who he is.

We must turn from the self-centeredness that is at the root of our sin and humbly ask for God’s forgiveness. Then we must change our attitude toward God because we are accountable to him. “Each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).

“Most people don’t like change and find it hard to adapt.”

Finally, we must rely on God’s power at work in us. We do that through the simple prayer we can make our own: “O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner” (Luke 18:13). The call from God for change is hard. But the alternative is harder. The good news is that when we take the step, we’ll wonder why we ever hesitated. The new life is indescribably better than the old. It is a change for the best—turning from death to life.

[Jim Kraus]



|| April 2018 ||

A Life-Saving Act of Kindness

Glen Oliver of Pickering, Ontario, has a morning routine that he has been following for years. He places his drive-thru order at Tim Hortons, then pays for not only his breakfast but the person’s in the car behind him. It’s become a habitual small act of kindness that Oliver enjoys doing.

Last July, Oliver’s gesture had an unexpected payoff. When he picked up the tab for the person behind him, Oliver actually saved the stranger’s life.

According to an anonymous letter sent months later to the *Pickering News Advertiser*, the recipient admitted to being in a desperate place that July and had decided to end their life that day. And then they heard these words from the cashier, “The nice man in front of you already paid for your order and said to have a great day.”

The letter continued: “I wondered why someone would buy coffee for a stranger for no reason. Why me? Why today? This random act of kindness was directed at me on this day for a purpose. I decided at that moment to change my plans and do something nice for someone.

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and know your kind gesture has truly saved a life. I not only had a great day, I had the greatest day!”

And so did Oliver when he read the story and realized the big impact a few dollars had made.



NAME & ADDRESS:

HAVE A GOOD DAY AND A SPLENDID forever!



A MESSAGE OF CHEER AND GOOD NEWS. *Pass it along!*

The Scoop on “Soaps”

From the mid-1950s to mid-1970s, the genre dominated television’s afternoon ratings. Soap operas, or “soaps,” were serial weekday dramas that had started first on radio, capturing a fiercely loyal audience. Adopting their nickname from their soap-manufacturing sponsors (such as Procter & Gamble), they were extremely popular, but suffered from skimpy budgets and short production time. Compared to primetime shows, they seemed visually lackluster, with cheap sets, poor lighting, and lots of close-up camera shots.

But that didn’t deter fans from tuning in. When *As the World Turns*, the longest-running soap in history, televised its last show after 54 years, the golden era had passed. Still, you can find four classics—*General Hospital* (debuted in 1963), *Days of Our Lives* (1965), *The Bold and the Beautiful* (1987), and *The Young and the Restless* (1973)—providing dramatic twists and turns to this day.



A Slice of Culture

Pizza is more than a tasty dinner choice. According to UNESCO, the art of creating a Neapolitan pizza is a world treasure, worthy of the annual Intangible Cultural

Heritage of Humanity list. In the 18th century, bakers in Naples began making a round, flat focaccia bread topped with oil, garlic, anchovies, and oregano as an inexpensive street food. Not only is the process an art form to be mastered, Neapolitan pizza “fosters social gatherings and intergenerational exchange” which “makes it an authentic community product.” Naples takes its pizza-making seriously, keeping the culinary tradition alive with courses that focus on the history, tools, and technique of making a treasure of a pie.



Customer service and subscription number: 1-800-692-9912. Jim Kraus, publisher; designed by Heather Swardstrom. © 2018 HAVE A GOOD DAY, vol. 50, no. 12, April 2018. *Have a Good Day* (ISSN 1062-2829) is published monthly by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 351 Executive Drive, Carol Stream, IL. Printed in the USA. *Have a Good Day* is a registered trademark of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Subscription \$14.00 per month per hundred copies. Canada \$16.00 per month. All rights reserved. Front page article by Ian McMillan and photographer: © Ron Pietroniro/Metroland and used with permission. Photo of woman watching television © iStockphoto/AndreyPopov. All rights reserved. Photo of pizza © iStockphoto/LauriPatterson. All rights reserved. Photo of USPS worker in snow © iStockphoto/CribbVisuals. All rights reserved. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Have a Good Day, Subscription Services, PO Box 405, Mt. Morris, IL 60154.

Given Up as Stolen

It’s happened to most of us at least once. You park your car, go into a store, and when you return to the parking lot, you forget where your car is. After a few slightly panicked moments, you eventually find it.

For one German man, his few moments turned into 20 years.

In 1997, after a long and frantic search, he deter-

mined his Volkswagen had been stolen. He received quite a surprise when two decades later, the police notified him that they’d found his vehicle in a Frankfurt garage that was scheduled for demolition. That’s when the unidentified 76-year-old driver remembered exactly where he parked it in that garage. Rusted and undriveable, the VW headed to its final spot in a scrap heap.

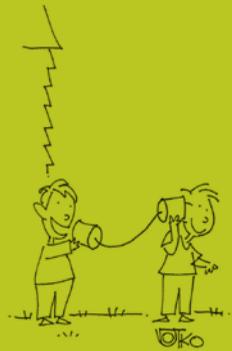
506.4 Million Pieces Per Day

Yes, that’s the average volume of mail getting from point A to point B via the United States Postal Service. The USPS claims to deliver your mail in any and every condition. But there are certain exceptions. If your dog is running loose in the yard, the carrier will not deliver your mail. If your steps are unsafe, no delivery. If your walkway is too icy, no mail. “[If] anything presents a hazard to the carrier, the carrier is within his rights to not deliver the mail,” says Dan, a postal worker in the Northeast.

What if you live at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, like the Havasupai tribe? Mules transport mail, food, and supplies down the 8-mile trail. And if you’re on board a ship on the Detroit River? The *J. W. Westcott*, the only floating zip code, will make sure your parcels get to you. And on the Magnolia River in Alabama, they deliver by boat to dockside mailboxes.



Just for laughs 



“Hello, this is Robert, first-time caller.”



“I took my wife out for our anniversary. I couldn’t believe how long it took at the drive-thru.”

A friend is a person who goes around saying nice things about you behind your back.

He who laughs, lasts.

Prayers can’t be answered unless they are prayed.