

Thoughts and Smiles....Oct. 24, 2022



"I have forgiven mistakes that were indeed almost unforgivable.
I've tried to replace people who were irreplaceable
and tried to forget those who were unforgettable.
I've acted on impulse, have been disappointed by people
when I thought that this could never be possible.

But I have also disappointed those who I love.
I have laughed at inappropriate occasions.
I've made friends that are now friends for life.
I've screamed and jumped for joy.
I've loved and I've been loved.

But I have also been rejected and I have been loved without
loving the person back.
I've lived for love alone and made vows of eternal love. I've had
my heart broken many, many times!
I've cried while listening to music and looking at old pictures.
I've called someone just to hear their voice on the other side.

I have fallen in love with a smile.

At times, I thought I would die because I missed someone so much.

At other times, I felt very afraid that I might lose someone very special
(which ended up happening anyway).

But I have lived!

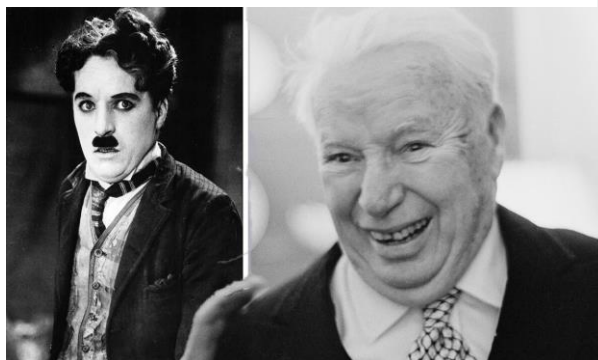
And I still continue living everyday.

I'm not just passing through life and you shouldn't either - Live!

The best thing in life is to go ahead with all your plans and your dreams, to embrace life and to live
everyday with passion, to lose and still keep the faith and to win while being grateful.
All of this because the world belongs to those who dare to go after what they want.

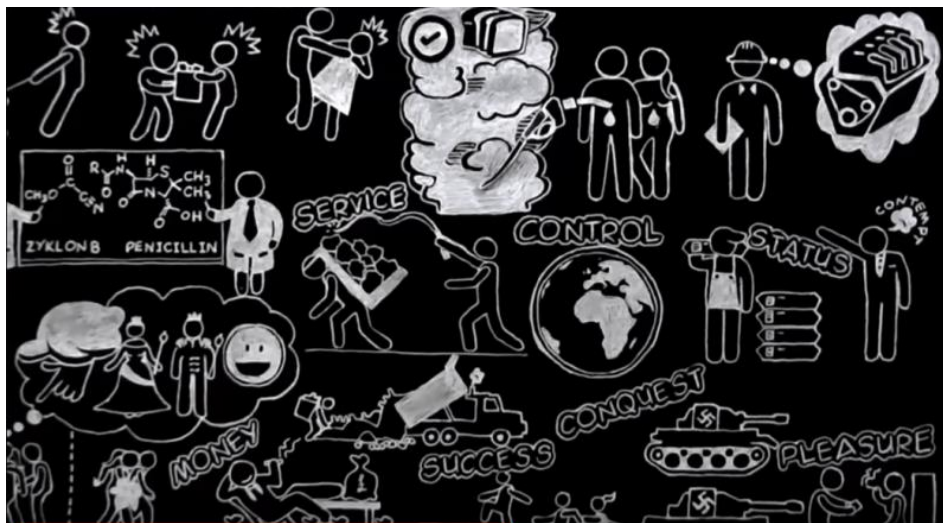
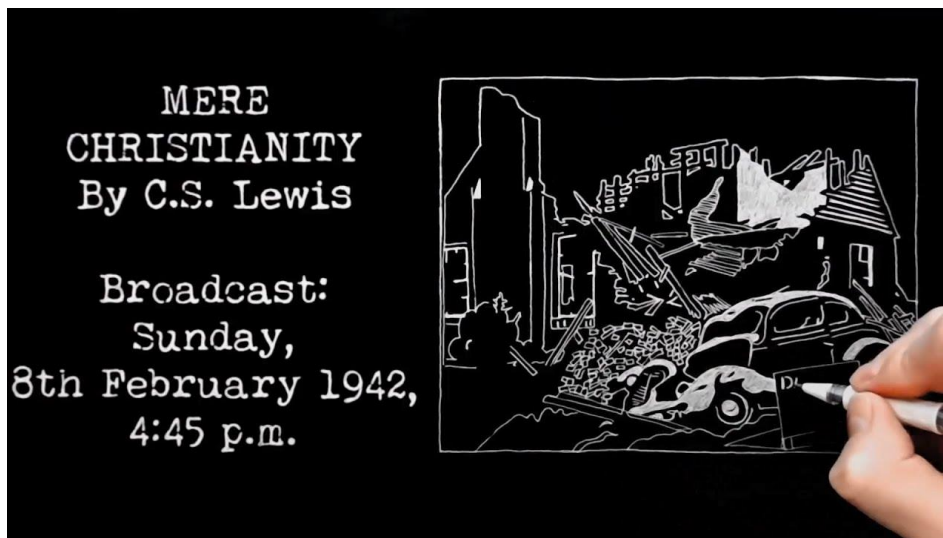
And because life is really too short to
be insignificant."

✍ ~ Charlie Chaplin ~



https://youtu.be/I4q_vB5jyk4

The Perfect Penitent by C.S. Lewis Doodle (BBC Talk 9, Mere Christianity, Bk 2, Chapter 4)



And now, a little silliness....(aka, Groaners)

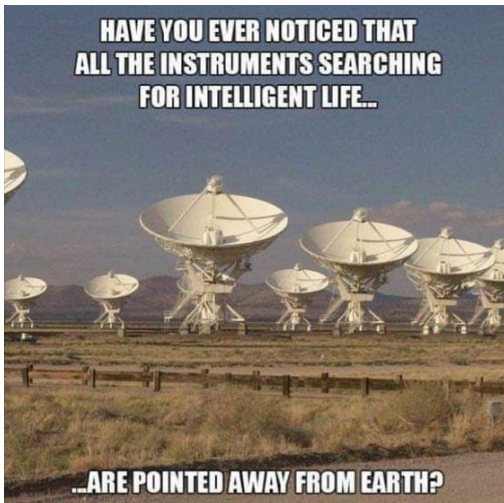
SOMETIMES I JUST WANT
SOMEONE TO HUG ME AND
SAY, "I KNOW IT'S HARD.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY.
HERE'S A COFFEE AND 8
MILLION DOLLARS."



I don't want to alarm anyone, but I think this church just challenged Jesus to a fight.



HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THAT
ALL THE INSTRUMENTS SEARCHING
FOR INTELLIGENT LIFE...



...ARE POINTED AWAY FROM EARTH?

SERIOUSLY?
WHO REALLY NEEDS THAT MUCH



APPLE SAUCE?

INTERGENERATIONAL MOMENT

What we were meant to do. What we are meant to be.

There is an illustration which I often attribute to something that was written by the eminent Christian Author: Clive Staples Lewis - but for the life of me cannot find in a Google search of his books. Maybe it was less a story than a quote.... Anyway, I remember it this way:

It's a story of encouragement when we might think that we have come up short of our Christian calling - that we haven't done something spectacular - healed the sick in discovering a universal cure-all, brought about world peace in contributing to the ending of all wars, or broadcast the gospel so that no one has any prospect outside the kingdom of heaven. Feeling, perhaps that we have let God down, that we haven't done what we were brought in this world to do.

So this story is told.

An old man dies, goes to heaven, and warily approaches the Pearly Gates.

I'm here, finally, but I don't know if I'll be let in

St. Peter is there and welcomes the man: *Hello there, it's so good to see you, come closer we have much to talk about!*

You are Peter, aren't you? I was told through so many stories that I would meet you upon my arrival in heaven and that you would know of me by what is written a large book on a stand by the Gates of Heaven.

Well, said Peter, you've come with a lively imagination - but if it makes you comfortable, let's make it happen, come with me, and we'll have a look.

Now, you are Frank Campbell... let me see... oh, here you are... there is a sentence here under your name.

There is a long pause - just a sentence - are you sure there isn't more?

No, just a single sentence.

Frank feared the worst - would it read: **A life wasted on trivialities of no consequence - entrance denied!**

Shall I read it to you? Asked Peter.

Before you do, I think it's essential that I tell you things that might have been missed (and no offense to the guardian angels, of course)

Sure, said Peter, speak.

Well, it should be noted that I went to church most of my life, gave what I could when I could, and even went up the ranks on committees and served on the governing board. I contributed to my community, and I did buy lottery tickets - but it was to support a hospital project.

Not to build a golf course? - asked Peter.

Well, that was just once... or twice, maybe, but all for good causes, mostly, you understand.

I was a model citizen, married, had children, and I think a very good husband and parent - ask anyone. I paid my taxes, was honest in my business dealings, and helped in whatever way I could whenever I could.

That might not be in the Big Book. But I thought you should know.

Well, said Peter, that's all well and fine, but I'll let you in on a secret? In your case it's doesn't really matter.

Now Frank REALLY dreaded the worst!

You see, Frank, all those things you listed are noble and worthy of you, but you haven't even mentioned the very thing that you were born into the world to do.

I don't understand, said Frank Campbell.



Well, it happened on May 12th 1984. You sat down by yourself at a table in a restaurant and ordered a soup and salad. All of heaven was watching you with great anticipation. You were Prime Time.

You noticed a middle-aged woman sitting in the corner on her own, and she was preparing to get up from a lunch she had hardly touched. Your eyes met, and you gave her a friendly smile. Just a nod and warm smile, no more. And then your own lunch arrived, and you tucked in. Do you remember that?

Honestly no, said Peter softly.

Well, that gesture set into motion a great plan in heaven to help a soul who was distraught over losing a job and having to face the future in great uncertainty - at least in her mind.

Do you mean the woman at the corner table? Asked Frank.

She was contemplating such dark thoughts, and that smile of yours was a reminder of human warmth and that she was worthy of the kindness of a stranger.

Peter, I don't remember it at all. Tell me, did she smile back?

Peter went back over to the Big Book. Under Frank Campbell, it is written.

On May 12th 1984 Frank George Campbell fulfilled his calling with a smile and the hosts of heaven rejoiced.

But what about all the rest that I did? Asked Frank.

Oh, said Peter you did a lot of good stuff - but that's mere trivialities, anyone could have done those, and many do! But YOUR calling and purpose were to be at that restaurant on that day at that time to offer that grace. And you showed up, and in that smile, God started



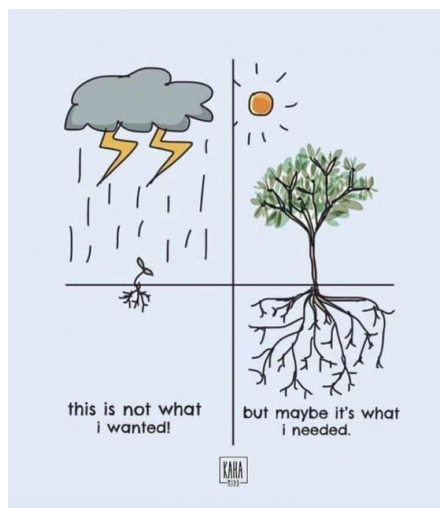
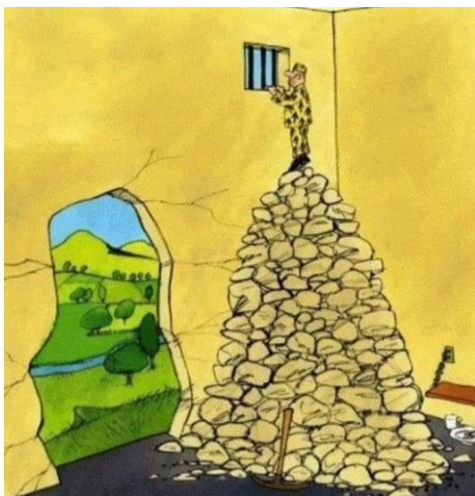
something in that person's life that you could never comprehend. But I can tell you are wondering about all the rest of your time on earth - that was for you to simply enjoy, all the dawn and sunsets, the joy of good food, the love of a partner and family, the sights and sounds of nature, that garden you were so proud of and sharing that warped sense of humour that lifted spirits - all of it for you to enjoy and relish in - it was the Lord's gift for you to enjoy...

You know, Frank, so many miss out because they fret and worry, hesitate or are afraid. And that can

sometimes get in the way of fulfilling their task.

In any case, Frank, welcome and come on in. Someday I'll introduce you to the woman you helped unawares in the restaurant, but that's to come, she's enjoying her life, and she's not here yet.

And bonus – images that are just interesting...



***Have a terrific week!
Blessings to you all!***

David Jones
Minister of Outreach and Pastoral Care
Hepworth-Sauble Beach Pastoral Charge
226-568-3476 ipcress.jones@gmail.com



Check out "David's Blog" on the Sauble Beach United Church website.
<https://saubleunitedchurch.ca/category/davids-blog/>

And if you want the online experience of the church worship services, follow the link here below...

<https://youtu.be/s7yKun77fkY>

or

<https://youtu.be/28V1XzqebVY>

Commented [TJ1]:

**I'M AT THAT AGE WHERE
MY MIND STILL THINKS
I'M 29, MY HUMOR
SUGGESTS I'M 12 WHILE
MY BODY MOSTLY KEEPS
ASKING IF I'M SURE I'M
NOT DEAD YET.**