

Make the Impossible Possible Newsletter

Winter 2014

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Letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

I hope you each have a wonderful and blessed holiday season. I thank God for each blessing I've received this year and plan to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with family and friends. Christmas is my favorite time of the year and I love the carols, decorations, and gift giving. I love hearing the Christmas story each year and look forward to another wonderful year ahead. I wish you all a wonderful and happy season filled with love and peace.

The two articles in this month's newsletter are reflections of past incidents in my life. I hope you find them meaningful.

This year, my travels have included: Las Vegas, NV; Washington, DC; Sacramento, CA (twice); Palm Desert, CA; Fayetteville, NC; Las Vegas, NV; Sioux Falls, SD; St. Cloud, MN; Minneapolis, MN; Seattle, WA; Kansas City, KS; Paris, France; Brussels, Belgium; and Oklahoma City, OK. I'll be in Sioux Falls, SD again in December. In early next year, I'll be in Las Vegas, NV and Washington, D.C.

For discounted speaking fees, I try to coordinate events and trainings. Please let me know about events in these and other areas, since I'm always adding cities to my itinerary.

Have a memorable holiday season filled with cherished moments with family and friends!

Ardis Bazyn

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His Mysterious Ways

By: Ardis Bazyn

One Friday, I was busily preparing my apartment for guests that would arrive the following evening. My vacuum cleaner was not working properly so I took it apart. I found that the rubber ring in the power sweeper was broken. After taking the attachment apart, I took the old one out and inserted a new one.

After reattaching the nozzle, I noticed the rubber ring was still loose and did not fit correctly. I called my mom who has the same brand of vacuum cleaner to ask the directions to make sure I had followed the right ones. I've been blind for years but usually have an excellent memory for doing most home repair jobs. She read the directions to me and I tried again even though it sounded like I had done it correctly the prior times.

After a couple of hours, trying and retrying to put the rubber ring in correctly; I finally gave up for the evening. On Saturday morning, I finished getting ready for my guests. I finally had everything else finished except for the vacuuming. I again took out the vacuum cleaner and proceeded to work on the sweeper attachment. After taking it apart again and reinserting it again, the rubber ring was still loose inside instead of tightening itself, as it should have.

Exasperated, I said a little prayer. "Lord, you know I really want to vacuum before this evening. Please help me get this working." I had another cup of coffee and then bent down to work on the vacuum cleaner again. Then, someone knocked on my door. The visitor said he was a Kirby salesman and asked if I would be interested in seeing the latest model.

The visitor probably was surprised when I greeted him joyfully at the door. After he made his pitch, I said, "You are a Godsend today!" I told him I had a Kirby vacuum cleaner and asked if he could possibly get the rubber ring in correctly. He said he could and he did. I did opt to buy more vacuum cleaner bags from him and of course, thanked him profusely.

Now, some may say the timing was all a coincidence; but I say it was one of God's planned miracles.



Thanks to Caring People

By Ardis Bazyn

I know how it feels to experience a helpless feeling now and again. As a blind woman, I have had many situations which required me to ask for help from a friend or sometimes even a stranger. How good it feels to have someone come up and "read" in a flash what you are feeling. How uncomfortable it makes you feel when you do not know what to do or who to ask. I have a great deal of respect for anyone who has the ability to know just the right thing to do in any given situation. Do you think that some people are just born with the ability to empathize with those that need assistance?

Many incidents come to mind that remind me of caring people I've known through the years. When I lived in Cedar Rapids, my previous husband had lost so much vision he had much difficulty reading labels of food when grocery shopping. When confiding to a friend, Lois, she offered to take me grocery shopping, even helping me to make a list after checking ads. Another friend, Dorothy, filled his needles with insulin after he could not accurately fill them any more. After several health problems created periods of time when he was in the hospital or at home in varying degrees of illness, several families came to the rescue. They offered meals for our family, rides to the hospital if necessary, or other help. Our friend Dee would drive us to Iowa City, twenty-five miles away, when he had doctor appointments. My mom often helped me catch up with paperwork and mail when they came to visit.

Why did they offer to assist? You might say it was because they were friends and most went to our church.

When I bought a computer, a blind friend, very knowledgeable in computer use, talked me into the practicability of owning one. He taught me some rudimentary steps for the machine, and afterwards, I taught myself using tutorials. I many times found myself at a loss knowing what to do in some situations until my sister Laurine became knowledgeable. When I moved to Burbank, she hooked up my computers and software for me and later, when I married Kevin, she did the same when I moved in with him even though I now had much more computer equipment.

My sister, Char, is a nurse practitioner and I call upon her when I have a medical question. My sister, Barb, is a beautician and does my hair for me when I visit family in Iowa. She keeps me abreast of changes in hair styles.

I appreciate my mom, sisters, and daughters for taking me shopping whenever we get together. I have gone shopping by myself but often the sales people are not very helpful. I had an incident happen to me once which really made me lose trust in sales clerks unless I got to know them. I went into a clothing store to get a blouse to match a purple skirt. When I found one in the style I preferred, she assured me it would match. For some reason, I did not feel comfortable about the selection. I do not know

why. Perhaps, it was the speed in which she found this particular blouse. I felt that she was in too big a hurry to have me finish my purchase. When my sisters came to visit next, I showed what I had bought, they were horrified. The color was not even close.

Many have come to my aid at one opportune time or another, sometimes just giving me directions when I'm walking and not sure if I was near a building I needed. Many others give me a ride to church, networking meetings, and events I wanted to attend. Why do some people seem to have the gift of caring or just knowing when someone needs a helping hand? How can we be more caring individuals? Reflecting on those who have shown a kindness to us helps us understand how important a hug, "I love you", or a helping hand is to us all.

I realize that most people appreciate a kindness and will express their thanks. In those cases, the giver will feel an inner satisfaction because of the appreciation expressed. However, there are times when you may have helped someone and not received a thank you. Do you still feel good inside? As I look at the caring people around me, what do I see in common? One quality they seem to have is the ability to recognize a need. Another quality I notice in these people is willingness. They are willing to take the time to get involved in your life. Even in the case of a person who showed me to a particular building, a few minutes time was needed to help. Some instances may even take hours.

A third quality I see is a passion to assist others (volunteerism). Some of my most caring friends also volunteer for hospitals, church, or for elderly people who need help.

I have often asked myself whether I am a caring person. I know that I do try to send thank you notes or flowers to persons on occasion and often offer to pray for them. I do try to call a friend who is having a difficulty. But, I am very busy and I know I have been guilty of neglecting to do a caring act just because I have put it off and forgotten about it until it is way too late to respond.

I would like to be a good model of a caring person in order to pass on that attractive quality to my daughters. I get busy with my routine of work, church, and volunteer organizations and forget to do the caring acts that run through my mind at a slack moment.

How can we be aware of another person's needs? Can we be more observant? Perhaps, the best way to be a caring person is to just thank those who have helped us and listen to others around us and assist when we can.

Happy Thanksgiving! It's always time to give thanks.

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Products and Services

Bazyn Communications continues to offer inspirational and motivational speaking,

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business coaching, and writing. A free consultation by phone or in person is available upon request. For a list of speaking or coaching topics, visit www.bazyncommunications.com.

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If you wish to receive a text version of this newsletter or receive any past issues, please email: abazyn@bazyncommunications.com or call (818) 238-9321.

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Links

Check out the links of organizations in which I participate:

American Council of the Blind	www.acb.org
Burbank activities	www.burbank.com Burbank
Business Network International	www.bniburbank.com Burbank
Chamber of Commerce	www.burbankchamber.com
California Council of the Blind	www.ccbnet.org California Voter
Empowerment Circle	www.CALVEC.org Coaching and
Speaking Internationally	www.247coaching.com
Democracy Live Accessible Voting	www.democracylive.com
Independent Visually Impaired Entrepreneurs	www.ivie-acb.org
Randolph Sheppard Vendors of America	www.randolph-sheppard.org
Speaker Match	www.speakermatch.com
Success Simplified	www.successsimplified.com
Xlibris Publishing	www.xlibris.com

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Favorite Quotes

“I’m convinced that about half of what separates the successful entrepreneurs from the non-successful ones is pure perseverance” –Steve Jobs

“You can have everything you want by helping enough other people” “The right idea with no follow-through is dead on arrival”

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