



"Angels Among Us"

November 2015

They are all around us. They come in all sizes, colors and shapes. They wear blue shirts, white shirts and 'T' shirts. Sometimes they go completely unnoticed.

I am talking about those hidden angels among us. They are the first to help out, a brother or sister officer, in time of need. They never hesitate to buy a cup of hot coffee to a homeless person on a cold night. They never want acknowledgement and even look uncomfortable when thanked. They are the angels among us. Some times they are hard to notice because they want to stay anonymous. They are the ones, who send the Chaplains, donations for the needy without a return address or leave anonymous messages of thanks and encouragement on our phones. Or the biker at our last memorial run, as I passed around the "candy bag", he took a candy, then stuffed a handful of bills into the bag and said "give it to someone who is in need" and took off before I could say thanks. (Thanks!!!) Or inviting a lonely officer to a family holiday dinner. And the list of deeds goes on and on. They are the angles among us, you know who you are, and you never cease to amaze those of us who know what you do. As November is the month of "Thanksgiving" we thank all the angles among us, for all your kindness, generosity. As your Chaplains we are most appreciative for all that you do, you are OUR inspiration, and for that we say THANK YOU! THANK YOU!.....It reminds me of the parable of the **"Clay Balls"**

A man was exploring caves by the Seashore. In one of the caves, he found a canvas bag with a bunch of hardened clay balls. It was like someone had rolled clay balls and left them out in the sun to bake.

They didn't look like much, but they intrigued the man, so he took the bag out of the cave with him. As he strolled along the beach, he would throw the clay balls one at a time out into the ocean as far as he could.

He thought little about it, until he dropped one of the clay balls and it cracked open on a rock. Inside was a beautiful, precious stone!

Excited, the man started breaking open the remaining clay balls. Each contained a similar treasure. He found thousands of dollars worth of jewels in the 20 or so clay balls he had left.

Then it struck him. He had been on the beach a long time. He had thrown maybe 50 or 60 of the clay balls, with their hidden treasure, into the ocean waves. Instead of thousands of dollars in treasure, he could have taken home tens of thousands but he had just thrown it away!

It's like that with people. We look at someone, maybe even ourselves, and we see the external clay vessel. It doesn't look like much from the outside. It isn't always beautiful or sparkling, so we discount it.

We see that person as less important than someone more beautiful or stylish or well known or wealthy. But we have not taken the time to find the treasure hidden inside that person.

There is a treasure in each and every one of us. If we take the time to get to know that person, and if we ask G-d to show us that person the way He sees them, then the clay begins to peel away and the brilliant gem begins to shine forth.

May we not come to the end of our lives and find out that we have thrown away a fortune in friendships because the gems were hidden in bits of clay. May we see the people in our world as G-d sees them.

Reflections And Thanksgiving

As we celebrate the Holiday of Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect on this past year. There were good moments that made us smile and laugh, and moments that broke our heart and made us cry. We had good times, And times when we were shown more than we can understand. As the saying goes "one thing in life is for certain, that nothing is for certain". The trick is to take a few moments each day to stop ,and give thanks for what we have , every day of life is a gift, that's why it is called 'the present.

A Thanksgiving Prayer.....

Lord thank you for having given us life. G-d you have given us everything that we need and could ever want. Help us to see with your eyes all the beauty that exists around us. Often we look around but don't really see how lucky we are. Help us to not complain about small things day in and day out either. But rather let us thank you for the simple things in life like sunshine, family and loved ones.

G-d help us to be conscious of everything that we have going for us, even if we are afflicted by illness or challenges of everyday life. Thou art glorious and can grant us the strength to use the power we possess to change our lives. Lord we are happy for what we have and will have because it comes from you, whatever comes from you is filled with glory and we accept it.

Thank you for having created the ocean for it is beautiful, the sun for it is bright, the moon for it is romantic, and the day and the night. Thank you for giving us food every day to eat and water to drink. You know our needs and fulfill them. Many worry saying what shall we eat or how are we going to cope with all that is shown to us.

But we should be like the birds and have faith. They worry not as to what they will eat today or tomorrow, yet you provide for them Lord. Help us to have a greater faith in you Lord, and help us to not worry so much.

We thank you Lord for all the beautiful things you bring into our lives each day. Lord help the thanksgiving nature which is within us to become more present in our lives so that when we begin to think negatively or complain about small things, we can begin to realize how small our problems are and be thankful for everything we already have. Help us to remember this prayer Lord. Amen

On behalf of ALL your Chaplains, May G-d bless you and keep you safe. Amen

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

Rabbi Moshe Wolf-----773-463-4780 or e-mail: moshewolf@hotmail.com