

# THE GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

## THINK ON THESE THINGS...

PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

### Mr. Canary

Fox News, in a segment titled Hometown Heros, recently presented a report on an American company that sparked my interest. Located in Marion, Indiana, Mr. Canary makes bird feeders to attract the American Goldfinch. Founded by sisters, Jan Long and Christina Mowery, their bird feeder is based on a design developed by their father. Raised to believe they could do anything they set their minds to do and with no bird feeder experience or specific business expertise, these middle-aged sisters began the Mr. Canary company in a muffin shop in 1995.

When the sisters success landed a large contract with K Mart, they had to come up with a plan to meet the huge demand for their bird feeders. That's where Carey Services came into the picture. Carey Services offered job training for the developmentally challenged and physically disabled in their community. Serving those who love feeding birds with their product and a desire to work among the disabled population, the Mr. Canary Company met two needs. Made in the USA, Mr. Canary bird feeders gave purpose, productivity, and financial profit to nearly 100 developmentally delayed or physically disabled citizens who generally experience astronomical unemployment rates in our society. The Mr. Canary company focuses on abilities not disabilities. Without the Carey Services

workforce, owners say Mr. Canary couldn't make it. Their employees handle everything from taking orders and managing inventory to building and shipping the bird feeders all over the country.

Good news for those in Indiana, but what about us? What can we glean from this story? First, just like the campfire song says, 'it only takes a spark to get a fire going.' All of us have ideas we can ignite. It wasn't a corporate giant that started Mr. Canary. It was two sisters with an idea. Think about it; their first headquarters was in a muffin shop. They had no experience. What is it that you'd like to do? Is there an idea that has been swimming around in your head waiting to be taken out and used? We don't have to have things just right or perfect to pull out our ideas and plans. We just have to be willing to start and to work hard. Our ideas have the ability to make a difference for good in our world. In fact, they could change the world or at the very least our own world.



When Mr. Canary achieved some success, the sisters saw the problem of getting a big order out as an opportunity, figuratively speaking, 'to kill two birds with one stone.' They married their need for additional workers with a need for jobs among the unemployed with disabilities in their community. They focused on what they and their employees could do, not on what they couldn't. Sometimes we focus too much on the barriers and not enough on the opportunities we are dealt. A problem is simply an opportunity to find a solution. Problems are good things! It's all in how we look at it. What's our attitude toward problems and difficulties? Is our glass half empty or half full? In James 1:2-4 it says, "Count it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." According to this scripture, trials are to be joyful opportunities to develop perseverance which will help us be mature and fulfilled. Spiritually, trials help our faith grow. When our faith grows and matures, we will be more effective and productive as the people of God.

The Mr. Canary company is on track to make \$1 million this year and has employed some of their Carey Services workers for almost 20 years. Mr. Canary offers a product made in America, developed by an American inventor and marketed by American entrepreneurial, can do attitudes, using skilled American labor in a population often unappreciated, unemployed, unserved and unnoticed in our world today. Colossians 3:23-24 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you

are serving." This is good. This is good news.

So what about us and our ideas? I am not saying it will be easy. I am saying, let's take out our dreams and ideas. Let's give them the light of day and a test flight. Let's plan a destination for where we want to go with them. Let's write it down, and make it real. Let us wait no longer. I'm talking to myself now. Tomorrow never comes. We only have today and this moment. Quoting from Star Wars, Yoda said, "Do. Or do not. There is no try." We can change the world, or at least our little world, just like the sisters of Mr. Canary changed theirs and that of almost 100 "abled" workers. Galatians 6:9 says, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." I challenge you to think on these things, and use the ideas and talents God gave you now - wherever you are and with whatever you have. You know we can change the world for good and for God. Let's 'just do it.'

Let us think on these things.....

by: Robin Robbins House



Bird feeder photo from/by the Mr. Canary Company

## What Does the Bible Say?

What did the Pharisees accuse Jesus of doing unlawfully on the Sabbath?

How did Jesus answer the Pharisees accusation?

Who was Jesus referring to when he said “one greater than the temple is here”?

What does it mean when Jesus says, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice?”

Who is Lord of the Sabbath?

What did the Pharisees ask Jesus in the synagogue?

What did Jesus ask the man with the shriveled hand?

What did the Pharisees plot?

What did Jesus warn those he healed not to do?

What prophet is quoted in Matthew 12?

Who did the people think Jesus was the son of?

Who is Beelzebub?

What did Jesus mean when he said, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined?”

What did Jesus say about “He who is not with me?”

What blasphemy will not be forgiven?

By what did Jesus say trees are recognized?

For what will men have to give an account on the day of judgement?



Who did Jesus say asks for a miraculous sign?

What did Jesus say it would be with the wicked generation?

Who did Jesus say were his mother and brothers?

**Answers to these questions can be found in Matthew chapter twelve.**

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# EASY APPLE CAKE

5-7 Apples sliced thin  
 1 box yellow cake mix  
 2 Tbs sugar  
 1Tbs cinnamon  
 1 stick of butter melted

Heat oven to 350 and fill a 9 X 13 pan with apple slices. Sprinkle cake mix over apples then sprinkle sugar and cinnamon over cake mix. Drizzle melted butter over the cake mixture and bake for 30 minutes or until golden brown. Serve hot with or without ice cream.



## Memory Verse

“But he (the Lord) said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I (Paul) will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so the Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

II Corinthians 12:9-10



May you fully  
 bloom in God’s  
 garden!