

OPTIMISM -- LIVING IT!! by Danny Moss

I Was walking down the street one day
when a stranger I chanced to meet.
His Head was low, his stride was slow,
and he was looking at his feet.

Now, I don't believe in bothering someone
when I know not who they are,
But, this man looked like he needed a friend
and he may have walked very far.

I said, "Good Morning! It's a beautiful day,
a wonderful morning for a walk."
He just looked at me with saddened eyes,
but, I could tell he needed to talk.

"So tell me friend, what's bothering you,
on this bright and beautiful day?
I'd like to help you if I could?"...
Then, he looked, and began to say:

"How can you talk of a beautiful day?
You don't know what's going on.
The sun may be shining, the birds may be singing,
but, it's not a happy song!"

"For you see, my car broke down, I got fired,
and my dog, he ran away.
My wife says she loves another man,
and I've got no place to stay."

"To top it all off, there are nuclear bombs
pointed in our direction.
Nobody knows when they may arrive
based on some MADMAN'S predilection."

"So tell me again how nice it is
walking down this street.
The beauty around us is only illusion,
and with these things it can't compete."

My first reaction -- HMMM -- this man's got a point.
What could I possibly say?
Then I remembered my "OPTIMIST" training
and I responded in this way:

"Dear sir, I know it seems pretty dim
the things that have happened to you.
But, rest assured you're not alone,
OPTIMISM will pull you through."

"There's a group of people that go through life
trying to make the world a better place.
They build communities, they work with kids,
and they do it with a smile on their face."

"Oh, they have their problems, they have bad luck,
their spouses leave them, too!
BUT, it's how they handle it in their minds
that makes them different from you."

"They know that when things happen
which seem beyond their control,
Something better will take it's place
and once again make them whole."

"How do they do this, you might ask,
and keep their spirits strong?
There is something called "THE OPTIMIST CREED"
that they say when things go wrong."

"The creed is not just so many words
To say when you're in a group,
The words are meant to enhance your life,
BUT, you have to "live" them, too."

I can teach you this CREED that you may say
when your life seems amiss,
But, when you say it, you must mean it
And it goes just like this:"

THE OPTIMIST CREED **

PROMISE YOURSELF;

*To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of
mind.
To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every
person you meet.
To make all your friends feel that there is something
in them.
To look at the sunny side of everything and make your
optimism come true.
To think only of the best, to work only for the best
and to expect only the best.
To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others
as you are about your own.
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the
greater achievements of the future.
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give
every living creature you meet a smile.
To give so much time to the improvement of yourself
that you have no time to criticize others.
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too
strong for fear, and too happy to permit the
presence of trouble.*

** (WRITTEN BY REV. CHRISTIAN D. LARSON (1874 - 1962) AND ADOPTED
AS THE OPTIMIST CREED IN 1922 AT THE 4TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF
OPTIMISTS.)