

Oh, that's a kick in the pants.

There are times when you think you make a difference. There are times when you realize that you can make a difference. There are also time you think that you will never make a difference. And there are also time when you _KNOW_ that you did make a difference.

Those times when you actually _KNOW_ you made a difference can really affect the way you think and live your life. Now in this, I am assuming that the difference made is a good one, but that is not always the case. Even with that said, those times you _KNOW_ will affect your life.

I feel that, even with different religious/moral beliefs, it is one of our jobs to help those we meet on the life journey. When you actually see the difference you make, it can be a kick in the pants.

Yes, I recently felt that type of situation. It made me feel good and insignificant at the same time. It was also just a little frightening. There is always the possibility that my own little efforts will not help, or worse they will injure. But, those times that have occurred, when I _KNEW_ I helped, are enough to keep me in the game.

Those little kicks in the backside keep me on the right path.

2-0 Bears? Proof I Have Died.

With a strong relationship with God through Jesus Christ,

perfect family, beautiful and loving wife, and the best possible friends... My life is so close to pure bliss I had to wonder at times if I wasn't experiencing the **after life**.

However, the Bears always were able to keep me grounded (pun, pun)...

I mean, a stinky-poo-poo Bears team is no fun at all. Sure, it doesn't even put a small dent in the other great stuff... But, it certainly makes the air smell a little foul.

Now the Bears are 2-0 for the first time since 2006, you know the year they went to the Super Bowl, and they just beat the famed Dallas Cowboys... WHAT?!? This Bears team? The Bears team that went 0-4 during the preseason and looked like they would be better off playing in a poker tournament? The Bears team that BEARly squeaked by a Lions team that has one 2 games in their last 34?

Yep. Those Bears.

So, there are now only one of three conclusions I can come to:

1. The Bears are Much Better than Expected
2. The Bears are Getting Lucky and are About to Start a Downward Spiral
3. I Have Died and am in Heaven which is Perfect, but Nothing Like Described in Scripture

For now, I will go with #2 but another win (next week against GB on Monday night!!!) and I may have to start considering #1... Another few wins and I better start checking my Bible!

GO BEARS!

CAST

Thinking of a good title is difficult. While some of the suggestions were good, I wasn't in love with any of them and I'm not sure yet how much I love this one. CAST is an acronym- Christ, Acting, Singing, and Teaching. I don't do much of teaching anymore, but I still do once a month or so and am at least a leader for other weekends. It is conveniently placed last in the acronym while Christ is first. Not that He really has been first in my life seemingly, but it is a goal. Christ needs to be before everything, including family (fortunately He places a high value on family, especially children so He usually won't demand anyone actually give up their family, just put Him first in your family). So what do you think of this title? It also has a ring to it as far as the performing words of the acronym. As in I am currently cast as a singer and actor in Jekyll & Hyde.

The unofficial takeover of the 11:15 service has become official with the couple I mentioned before having been asked to share the role of the "point person," or head "anchor". I am having somewhat of a problem with one of them unfortunately. I haven't yet decided if she is just taking the role far more seriously than others in previous years or she is overstepping her authority. Looking in the guide their role is that of the room leader, but she has taken to threatening to not allow someone to lead a small group for such things as being late or doing something during the teaching time other than sitting with the kids and listening to the message with them. Productive things I should say, not "I just don't want to listen" things as kids often do in school. I believe she is crossing a line here but I have to think on it, maybe ask Lisa- the staff member in charge of 4th/5th grade. In any event, there is friction here and something needs to happen to remove it.

The show is almost there. We just had our first rehearsal with the orchestra yesterday, at the actual performance venue. Okay, the set for the currently running show, Into the Woods, is up meaning we will have to work around it, but aside from one more rehearsal at the retirement home we've been at, we are now rehearsing on the actual stage. It was strange to work with the orchestra two weeks in advance- I am used to the orchestra not being there until a day or two before opening night. Indeed, we may not see them again until then, but even if so, the one chance was better than none at all. Less than two weeks until opening- yikes. But we will be ready. ☐

Boxing Day

No...I am not celebrating the British holiday a few months early. Today, the family gathered at the home of my oldest brother to celebrate the birthday of two of our youngsters. I guess once you go beyond 18 years, my family does not age. We also got to meet big brother's new friend who was introduced in typical fashion: "This is (____). This is everyone." So our uncle got up and did a more traditional introduction.

Apparently, the two groups of parents failed to get the cake situation correct. Both groups swore the other was to order it and pick it up. As it happened, grandma ran into Big Brother and his friend at Wal Mart yesterday. In the end, Grandma and Grandpa went to Dairy Queen in hopes of finding an ice cream cake. No one better complain about the design.

As the party progressed, some of us ventured over to the Wii. Bowling, boxing, and Guitar Hero seemed to rule the day. The boxing is definitely one of the most entertaining games to watch others play as evidenced but the following video. You

may have to click the link... not sure if it will be embedded directly on the post.

And it's always a good day when the Cowboys get beat! I'm sure there is another tangenteer who is absolutely ecstatic!

Next On Dancing With The Stars...

One of those rare amusing email forwards caught my eye, so I'll share. Besides, my last post was kind of a downer; here's something funny to counteract it:

Next Season on Dancing With The Stars:



The Bears and a Full-Time

Acting Gig

Well, another Bears season is upon us... And this one looks much like last one; minus the high hopes from Bears fans.

Even though we opened the season with a divisional win (the opposite of last year) it was against the 2-33 Lions. Yes, 2 wins in the last 35 games for the poor cats in Detroit.

Also, it was a game we could have easily lost. And, in fact, we probably would have if it weren't for a very questionable/controversial new rule. In the final minute of the game Lion's backup QB (Hill) threw what looked like a perfect TD pass/catch to the WR (Johnson). However, as Johnson fell to the ground with the ball in one hand – it popped loose as it hit the turf.

To fans, this looked like a TD. He was clearly in the end zone with possession of the ball. HOWEVER, the rule says he has to complete the "process" of the catch. In other words, he needs to hang on to that ball until motion stops.

The refs at the game got the call RIGHT. Under the rule it is NOT a catch. However, as a fan I say they should change that rule – it really should be a catch.

BUT, I will happily take the WIN and a 1-0 start to the season. After all, the football season is only 16 games. So, for you baseball fans, that is equivalent to a 10-0 record. ☐

This week the Bears play the hailed Dallas Cowboys – a team expected to have a serious Super Bowl shot this year. It's gonna be tough for these Bears to squeak out a win there. However, if we do 2-0 will be very sweet indeed and the Bears may have new life in a division expected to be dominated by the Rodgers-lead Packers followed by the Farve-lead Vikings.

Now this next part of my post is completely unrelated. But I

am not about to make TWO posts and set a dangerous precedent.

Our Church has about the BEST (NON-PAID) ACTING GIG ever. You actor folks, read this... Here are the bullet points:

- **New Starring Role Each Week**
- **“Full-Time” Only Takes a TOTAL of 1 Hour and 30 Minutes from your WEEK!**
- **No Auditions, No Blocking (it is up to the ACTOR)**
- **Zero Rehearsal (The actor is in charge of his/her performance!)**
- **Great Character Roles**
- **Super Engaged and Energetic Audience Every Time**
- **Sold Out House Every Performance**
- **Costumes, Set, Props All Setup and Ready for You Every Week**
- **Complete Line Memorization is Not Required**
- **Professional Stage with Top-of-the-Line Sound & Lighting Equipment**
- **Professional Award-Winning Scripts**
- **Improvisation and Audience Participation**
- **Working with Kids 1st – 5th Grade who Adore the Characters**
- **Never an Audition – Cast from Within. *Do this Gig and You will be Offered Opportunities to Perform for Full-House (Adult) Audiences on Other Occasions in a Huge “Auditorium”***
- **Rewarding in Praise, Adoration (from Kids), and Sharing God’s Word**
- **Get to Work with Two Cool People Named Chris & Lisa**

Yes, this is the **DREAM** acting gig. It is also challenging as it is completely up to the actor to develop and prepare his character (which changes each week). Not only all this above, but you are also teaching kids about the Truth which can only be found from the Source. But for you, there is no preaching/teaching involved.

So, if you know anyone who has the following attributes:

1. Christian
2. Creative
3. Good With / Enjoys Kids
4. Great Character Actor
5. Able to Accept the Challenge of Developing a (scripted) Role
6. Energetic and Charismatic
7. Can Handle a New Starring Role Each Week
8. Experience with Audience Participation
9. Experience with Character Improvisation
10. Can Command a Stage (Roles often include being only on on stage – “Host”)
11. Able to Memorize / Familiarize Themselves with Lines Quickly

So if you know anyone who has these characteristics and is ready to be the **starring** actor at a **very professional**, always **full-house**, theatre that shares the **Word of God**... Let me know.

The performances are every Sunday from 9:30AM – 10:00AM in Bryan. 11AM – 11:30AM performances may also be available! There is no doubt here... **This is the best acting gig ever**. So perhaps, if you have been wondering what all your acting efforts have been leading to – if there is a higher purpose for which you were GIVEN your talents – maybe this is it. ☐

“...From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” – Luke 12:48 NIV

More Beautiful Than Ever

My husband was in bed last night waiting for me to come up because I was putting some finishing touches on my daughter's school fundraiser and picture forms when we both heard a bunch of sirens. We live pretty close to the fire station, so we didn't think much of it, even if it was odd that they were allowing them to wail so loudly just before midnight. This morning a friend emailed me with the bad news, and I went to the local newspaper's website to see the details: our beloved community park, Imagination Station, burnt last night.

We still don't know how it happened, but it's obvious that this was not a natural cause – it was not lightning, and there is no electricity capable of sparking such a blaze at the park. Unfortunately, this seems to be the work of people, and whether it was intentional or an accident remains to be seen. At least no one was hurt physically in the blaze. But many in the community are emotionally distraught, for Imagination Station was a wonderful park where citizens from throughout the area would spend warm summer nights, cool autumn evenings, and many a Saturday afternoon with their families and friends. Funded by private donations and built by the hands of thousands of volunteers in 1994, it was a source of community pride. Everyone came together to create Imagination Station; kids volunteered their cool playground ideas, while adults physically built the play equipment and still others provided thousands of meals for the builders. The community worked together day and night, rain and shine for 6 days until it was finished. The final product was amazing, impressing locals and out of town visitors alike. And now much of it is gone.



Many people came out tonight to walk past the charred ruins. In a way, it was like paying one's respects, and many people stared at the blackened splinters in stunned silence. There were whispers, "Who would do such a thing?" and "How did this happen?", and one woman walked by slowly, saying quietly, "We will build it again. And it will be more beautiful than ever." I believe her to be right. People came together in 1994 and built an amazing park, and people will come together again to replace the one we lost yesterday.

"The Greeks built an Acropolis – And Noah built an Ark
The Russians built a Sputnik But Bryan built a Park"
(Bryan Times, 1957)



****UPDATE****

There was an update in today's (9/17/10) newspaper saying that tons of people have stepped forward and created a volunteer organization to rebuild. It was insured, and [Spangler Candy Company](#) has stepped forward to cover any costs not paid for by insurance. There is a [Facebook page dedicated to the rebuilding of Imagination Station](#) where people can share their memories of the park or volunteer for the rebuilding. Unfortunately the fire investigation and the insurance company's investigation will both take awhile, and nothing can be done until they are finished. They hope to have the playground replaced by Spring, but that is still a long time, especially for those of us with kids. Sure there are other parks in town, but Imagination Station was the favorite. □ The little town made the big Toledo news though, they had a nice story:

Not In The Clinic Anymore

Last night after waiting a week following my call back invitation, I got the details. Not at all what I was expecting. The call backs were to be last week and casting decided by Monday. After Monday, I was becoming a bit concerned. At this point, I was more curious about the filming then having a part or not. We had attempted to film *The Clinic* a year or so ago, but that fell through. So I emailed the writer of the play to see if he knew anything in his consulting role.

After returning from work last night, I opened up an email titled "Call backs." However, this was not for the film I was expecting. The call backs are now on September 25 (the date we were to begin filming the short film). The new film sounds like an original feature length film. I was given a few scenes to memorize and familiarize myself with for the callback.

Not only that but underneath was instructions that all but a working title "Family Movie" was to remain mum. I do know this much, if I successfully progress beyond the callback, I can expect a lengthy shooting schedule... months in fact. Plus, a contracted, paid role! Trying not to think that far ahead.

I am a bit excited. I have read the scenes for which I will asked to read from and I think they look really good. The fact that I received this news on September 15 has not been lost on me. This is the third opportunity I have been presented (a job at Disney World, moving to a large city, and now...). I think it is more than coincidence and I am at least going in and do my best... but of course I will. I would expect nothing less of myself and neither would any of my fellow tangenteers or readers who comment sporadically. One step at a time.

Felonious Dishonesty?

What do you think about this: a guy goes to the drive-up window at his bank, and they accidentally give him \$3350 that was supposed to go to another customer. He drives off. He is now facing felony theft charges.

I wanted to blog about this because I really disagree with it. Morally, it wasn't right of the man to drive off with money he knew did not belong to him. Ethically, he should have notified the teller of his or her mistake, and the teller should have thanked him profusely. But I believe that to charge this guy with theft is wrong. Sure, he took someone else's money, but it was a bad decision made in the heat of the moment. He saw a lot of money, it had been given to him, and he made a mistake. It was a bad decision, and a greedy one at that, but deserving of a felony? I think not. If convicted, this man will have a felony record. He will have trouble finding employment, and he will lose basic freedoms that many people take for granted, such as owning a gun or being able to vote. I believe it to be a bit severe to slap him with a felony record when his crime shows no premeditation nor malice toward another. For all he knew, he was **given** the money and he might not have realized that his taking it would have hurt anyone. He did not hold up the bank, and order a teller to give it to him or use a gun to get the money. Again, clearly the wrong thing to do morally, but were his actions criminal?

What do you think? Check as many answers as you'd like, and feel free to add any thoughts or opinions you have in the comments section.

[poll id="20"]

If you would like to read the article before voting in my poll, below is a copy of the [original article](#) that was printed on dailyherald.com. Hmm, I see that his court date is only days away. I will post an update to this story if I come across one.

A man who reportedly drove off after a bank teller mistakenly gave him \$3,350 that was supposed to go to another customer now faces felony theft charges.

The teller at a drive-in window of Chase Bank, 2555 Golf Road, Hoffman Estates, accidentally sent the cash to the wrong customer and quickly told the recipient to come inside the bank, said Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Moe Ahmad.

But the driver, whose name and address was known to the bank because of his transaction, drove away, Ahmad said.

Hoffman Estates police arrested Luis Villarreal, a 26-year-old stay-at-home father, Thursday in his home in the 600 block of Alcoa Lane in Hoffman Estates. Ahmad said police found \$2,920 in a diaper bag.

Cook County Associate Judge John J. Scotillo set Villarreal's bond at \$25,000 and ordered him to appear at 9 a.m. Sept. 16 in room 108 of the Rolling Meadows Courthouse.

Woke up from a nightmare?

Well, I'm really not sure I would classify it as a nightmare, but what else? What would you call a dream that had most of the WCCT regulars, Rosanne, the Flintstones (animated), large bats, broken windows, broken down garages, downtown Bryan

Ohio, and seedy bars in it? I wasn't frightened but I woke up very confused.

Now I just had to write that down so I could get some sleep. Just contemplating the dream has kept me awake for the last 1/2 hour. Maybe this will help clear the brain for a few better dreams.

Have a good one, and I hope this slight description doesn't keep anyone else awake. I hope to forget the details of the dream by morning, so this is all you should hear about.