

Counselor's Corner

"My Friend Ben"

Recently, I discovered a place called "The Ben Franklin Museum". I am a fan of the man, and I was delighted to discover so many more things about him. He is not perfect, but a quote in the museum states that he was a man "who did well by doing good". Ben's financial success was achieved through his ability to find solutions for needs he and others had. For example, he could not see well in glasses that addressed only one type of vision problem. So, he invented bifocals, and people like me continue to be thankful today. Ben liked to read and wanted to make books accessible to more people. So, he invented the lending library system. He improved street lights, created swim fins (for the hands), and helped people avoid fires after major storms by inventing the lightning rod. He organized medical workers and fire safety volunteers to better serve the community. His improved system of street lighting saved many from taking a tumble. Ben Franklin was also famous for his printing press, and his dedication to politics and making the common man aware of current events through the newspapers. So many inventions, so little space to list!

Ben Franklin inspires. He had a passion for inventing, but none of his creations would have been possible if he did not possess an awareness of what humanity needs. It would be wonderful if we could model ourselves after this notable man by being sensitive to what others long for. We may not be great inventors, but we can be humanitarians. We can look within our homes and our spheres of influence and become more sensitive to what others need. On a community level, can we push ourselves to donate a little more? Can we volunteer time to take meals to others? Can we organize projects that will make a difference? Can we respond with enthusiasm to donations for little projects within our schools and churches? On a closer level, are we sensitive to the needs of our family members? Can we seek opportunities to serve the people in our homes? Can children and parents be sensitive to the moods of others? Can family members avoid sarcasm? Can we be kinder and more loving to each other? Can we lighten the loads of others by doing a little extra chore? Are we saying "I love you" enough? What are the needs of those around us? They are real. Discover them, and you will be on your way to creating great solutions.

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