

financial challenge; I had a wife and two children to support. My congregation was not wealthy, but the membership helped me with tuition. Still, in my third year I was in arrears of two trimesters' tuition, and I asked the administration to be patient with me.

One Sunday I called home at lunchtime and my wife said, "What would you do if you had \$4,000?"

I said, "We'd take a trip around the world, but I don't have time for fantasy now."

"Well, you've got \$4,000 from Danny Thomas," she said.

"Who is Danny Thomas?" I asked.

"You know, the television comedian," she said. I did not know. The medical school curriculum did not provide time for watching TV.

"Listen to this item in today's paper: At a meeting with officials of Marquette University, Danny Thomas was told about a young rabbi who is struggling to get through medical school. 'How much does your rabbi need to finish?' Danny Thomas asked. 'About \$4,000,' the officials said. 'Tell your rabbi he's got it.'"

Danny Thomas made good on his offer. Moreover, a few days later he sent me a letter apologizing for the item appearing in the paper. "There was a reporter at our meeting, but it didn't occur to me that he would publish this. I'm sorry if it caused you embarrassment."

A year later I met Danny Thomas in the TV studio. I told him there was no reason for an apology. "The papers always print the bad things that happen. Why shouldn't they print the good things, too?"

Danny shook his head. "We in the entertainment industry make our living by publicity and there are many things we do for publicity. This was something I wanted to do because it felt right and I did not want it to be a publicity stunt."

Danny Thomas also dedicated himself to developing the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis for research and treatment of children's malignancies.

Danny Thomas was a spiritual person.



Now for the other side.

Brian consulted me because he was contemplating suicide. "My father is

crazy. He is 84 and has built up a billion-dollar empire. If he lived for 1,000 years, he could not consume a fraction of his wealth. Yet he goes to the office every day to make more money. What for?"

"My share of the business is beyond what I will ever need. I have one condo on the West Coast and another one on the Riviera. I have a stable full of horses. I don't want to make more money. What's the point?"

"When I get into a plane, it's not to go anywhere, but to get away from where I am. I see no point in continu-

ing with my life."

"But with all your extra money," I said, "just think of how much good you can do! Think of how many hungry people you could feed, and how much valuable medical research you could sponsor. You would even have good reason to generate more money for worthy causes."

Brian looked at me with a bewildered expression. "Give away my money? Why would I want to do that?"

Brian was not a spiritual person, and he was bitterly discontented.

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