

The Baggage Handler

January 10, 2007

What's In Your Bag?

IT'S WASN'T ABOUT ME..... Share Your Life

In the last newsletter I wrote about my pending trip to Dwight Correctional Center in Illinois. (scheduled for Dec. 18, 2006)

The purpose of this trip was to spread some Christmas cheer and motivate these women behind prison walls. Well, I went and it was one of the most satisfying endeavors I've ever undertaken.

As I stood in front of an almost filled room of women and looked at each face, I could tell that they wanted more than a typical 'you can make it' message. A wave of intimidation came over me, then I took a deep breath and repeated to myself, "this is not about me".

Drawing from my inner strength I poised myself confidently and looked admiringly from one face to the next. All races, shapes, and sizes had taken a chance on coming out to hear a total stranger speak to them about their ability to expand their minds and vision for their lives.

After two minutes or so into my talk, I saw heads nodding and smiles appearing, it was then that I knew unequivocally that my time with them had been divinely appointed and that it truly, WAS NOT ABOUT ME.

LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE YOUR LIFE Articles in 'The Baggage Handler' can not be reprinted or duplicated without written permission from Queen Publications.

Disclaimer: Although I have studied psychology and sociology, I am not a doctor, therapist or clinician of any type, so please use the advice associated with this newsletter at your discretion.

POCKET CHANGE! Feature Article: Friendships! **Love Is Where You Find It**

Written By: Alethea M. Pascascio, author of *Bag Lady* Visit her at: www.alethea.queenpublications.com

Friendships are Essential to most every human being. The need for closeness and to feel apart of a group is one of our most basic desires. But as the saying goes 'to get a friend we must first show ourselves friendly'. Take an assessment of the so-called friends around you and see how they measure up. Compare them as well as yourself against this list:

- . A friend makes you comfortable
- . A friend recognizes your imperfections, frailties and weaknesses and chooses to go on loving you anyway
- . Friends respect each others' right to their opinion

Ask Alethea

REPEAT

QUESTION:
Dear Alethea,

Whenever my best friend brings her new boyfriend, he finds away to solicit me to bed without her knowing. This has happened three times and each time I told him in very harsh terms what a dog he is and that I am not interested. The last time he did this, I told him that I was going to tell my bestfriend about his advances toward me. But, she really likes him and I don't want to hurt her. What should I do? In Atlanta

ANSWER:
Simply ask your bestfriend not to bring her boyfriend around and arrange to see her at times when you do not have to be in his presence. More than likely, she's going to ask why you are making such a request. Be prepared to tell her the truth. But know that your honesty may also come with a price. Some women have been known to walk away from their bestfriend instead of the loser boyfriend. Hopefully, your friend is much smarter than this.

- . A true friend is one who helps you through the trials and tests of life
- . A friend can be trusted
- . A friend gives encouragement
- . A friend will make sacrifices

HOW DO YOU AND YOUR FRIENDSHIPS MEASURE UP?



However, if she does decide to keep both of you in her life, that's her call. Just know that, you do not have to subject yourself to his low down behavior.

Only Blessings