

COME DREAM A DREAM
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Dreams have always been a source of much discussion, interpretation, and speculation. The Bible refers to those who dreamed and even states that God occasionally spoke to people through dreams. Of course, such a reference inspires folks to believe that every weird dream they have has significant meaning, "P'haps from the Man upstairs His own se'f," so it is incumbent upon us to study and know what our dreams mean.

Some dreams are self explanatory, caused by unusual repetition, like starting a new production job and going home and doing it all night in your sleep. However, most dreams are just strange. They defy logic and taunt us from the ethereal world of the half remembered bizarre. Unfortunately, these are the very dreams we tend to attach significance to, and, yes, some people will even make life decisions based on the interpretation of said dreams.

Face it folks. Most dreams are just the whimsical product of our imagination and by nature defy intelligent interpretation or practical use. They can be entertaining, however. I rolled out of bed this morning about 4 and clumped off down the hallway. My sweet wife called out, "Where are you going?" "I'm bringing you that bucket of water." "Why do I need a bucket of water?" "You said you got overheated while burning the piano." "Well, I feel better now. Why don't you just lie back down?" "OK." As I'm drifting back into my world of blazing musical instruments, I mumbled, "Sorry about the four wheeler." Another time, she found me sitting up making huge, cranking circular motions with my hands. "What are you doing?" "I've got to get this lawnmower started back up." "Why?" "If I don't, we'll never get this thing back in the air and make to Pittsburg by noon." "Oh. Ok."

I get my share of entertainment as well. There was the time, years ago, when I opened one sleepy eye to see my four-year-old stumbling into my bathroom, having passed by two others on his nocturnal journey. I thought, "How cute. He wants to do it where Daddy does it." Warm fuzzies evaporated when I heard a drawer slide open. I rushed in just in time to see him filling our guest towel drawer with, well, you know. "What are you doing, buddy?" I forced my self to be calm. "These flowers are dying," he said matter-of-factly. In his defense, the towels had little roses on them. Of course, at breakfast, he remembered nothing.

One night in the wee hours, my precious grabbed me and shook me awake screaming, "You're not a log! You're not a log!" The little 12-year-old from our church came to me and asked why she dreamed I had driven her home from church last night in a go-kart. She was absolutely convinced this vividly remembered dream had some deep spiritual meaning. Sorry, Kimmy, it was just a dream.

Then there is the woman who awoke on her birthday and told her husband, "I dreamed last night that you gave me a beautiful diamond necklace for my birthday. What do you suppose that means?" Her husband replied with a smile, "We'll know tonight." She came home that night to find a small package with a beautiful bow lying on their bed. Unable to resist, she tore the package open to find ... (drum roll) ... a small, 99 cent, grocery store checkout book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams."

He hasn't been seen for a while now....

But, because we simply MUST have an explanation for everything, we buy every little book, call in to every talk show, hang on every word of the TV guest, and watch every movie that comes out, especially the one that is out NOW. The sad realization is that none of these will give you true understanding of your dreams.

However, there is a dream that will change your life.

This dream is the one you consciously fabricate, carefully craft, meticulously maintain, and faithfully follow. It is the dream you have for your future, for your kids, your family, your life. For some, it is the dream of a better job, nicer home, or a peaceful family reunion. It can even be

the dream of a thriving community with strong businesses, low crime rate, and excellent recreational opportunities. All of us should have the dream of knowing ourselves better, and being closer to God.

This is the dream that will change your life. It is not the strange creation of a subconscious stupor, but the careful melding of deep desire and common sense. This dream is the connection between the improbable and the possible, the things that cannot be and the things that cannot be stopped. It is the dream that sends kids to college, gets new businesses up and running, sets records at the drag strip, gets flowers planted around those trees in the square, gives young couples the courage to birth children, and older ones the courage to birth a nation.

Like those other dreams, this dream doesn't always make sense to anyone but the dreamer. Unlike those other dreams, this one gets locked in to the memory, affecting decisions, influencing relationships, and providing constant inspiration and hope for the impossible. It has been said that we only live as long as we dream. Sometimes, when we dream, that dream comes true. However there is one dream that always comes true. That is when you refuse to dream, you accomplish nothing.

Come, dream a dream with me.....