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Don't Believe Everything You Read

By Steven L. Anderson, Ph.D., MBA

I was walking in Highbanks Metropark the other day and I saw a simple plaque on a rock that honored the man who had run that park for twenty one years. It was a touching tribute. After I went home I picked up the newspaper and read the headlines. Here were the top stories: An official in Columbus admitted that he had paid \$70,000 to his mistress with city funds; A senator was going to prison for twenty years for bilking the state government out of millions of funds. There was also, of course, a story about more people killed in Iraq.

It's real easy to look at the news and think the world is going down the tubes. But think about it, if you steal money from the government you get on the cover of the newspaper. If you do your job serving others for twenty one years you get a small plaque on a rock in the woods. My grandmother used to say, "When they start printing good news in the newspaper we are in trouble. Good things that people do should not be news. It should be expected." I think she is right.

So don't get too discouraged about the state of affairs in the world. Think about the people on your street. Most of them do a very nice job of growing and providing for their families, but they never get any credit for it. The danger with all the bad stories in the news is that it can make us feel like our efforts are futile. It can also make us wonder about ourselves.

Believe me it is worth it. And you are very special. You have gifts within you that can change the world. There is a story that before Michelangelo carved the David statue he was circling the piece of granite which he intended to carve and a small boy asked him what he was doing. Michelangelo replied, "There is an angel in there and I am trying to figure out a way to let it out."

There is an angel inside of each of us as well. I believe that our job here on earth is to find a way to let our angels out so that we can serve each other and make this world a better place to live. In my experience, if we are willing to work as hard on developing our potential as Michelangelo did on the David statue, we cannot fail.