

## *She's an Optimist!*

Motivational speaker Zig Ziglar describes himself as an optimist, and he tells a story about a lady in a retirement center who practices that characteristic in admirable fashion. Since independent living is one of our business lines, his account is of interest to us.

One day, a distinguished-looking gentleman also became a resident of the center. As luck would have it, the first day they sat across the table from each other at lunch. After a few minutes, he grew uncomfortable because she was staring intently at him.

He finally expressed his discomfort and queried her as to why she was staring. She responded that she was staring because he reminded her so much of her third husband – same demeanor, same smile, same height, weight, everything.

The gentleman replied in some shock, “Third husband! How many times have you been married?” The lady smilingly said, “Twice.”

Now, that is optimism.

It is important, however, to be a pragmatic optimist. Case in point:

A gentleman was being given a tour of the Mann Center for the Performing Arts in Tel Aviv. The tour guide was pointing out the features of the incredible structure. The stonework was unbelievably beautiful. The wall tapestries, paintings and gold inlays were absolutely gorgeous.

Finally, the tourist said, “I assume you named the facility for Horace Mann, the famous author.” The tour guide answered with a smile, “No, we named it after Frederick Mann from Philadelphia.”

The tourist remarked, “What did he write?” The tour guide said, “A check.”

Now, that is being pragmatic. All of us, then, should become optimists, but pragmatic ones at that.

--Beecher Hunter