

THE EYES OF TOSCANINI

Some people are quick to cite reasons – make that *excuses* – as roadblocks to their personal success.

Arturo Toscanini is an outstanding example of someone who made the most of his “shortcomings.”

At age 19, he earned a chair, playing cello, in a small European orchestra. Because he was nearsighted, he wasn’t able to see the music on the stand in front of him – so he memorized it.

One day, the maestro became ill and young Toscanini was the only musician who knew the entire score. That evening, he conducted the entire program



without referring to the music. His performance was flawless. The audience took note of this and applauded enthusiastically.

Other chances to conduct soon followed. Toscanini became one of the most critically acclaimed classical and operatic conductors of the 20th century. He was known not only for his attention to detail and excellence in interpretation, but also for his photographic memory. Which might lead one to wonder: Would his memory have been so keen had

his eyes not been so weak?

God has a purpose for every life, and He may use adversity or challenge to refine our gifts for the desired outcome, as He did with Toscanini. To make that happen, however, requires that we are willing and determined.

– Beecher Hunter