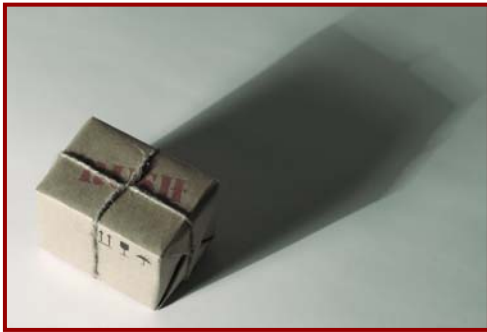


The Unopened Box

A few years ago, an express package from England came to a South African town.

The man to whom the box was consigned refused to pay the delivery charges, and for about 14 years the box was used as a footstool in the express office.

The consignee died, and later the box was put up at auction with other unclaimed articles. Out of curiosity, a man bid it in at a low price. When he opened it, he was greatly surprised to find several thousand pounds of sterling in English bank notes.



Because the consignee had refused to pay comparatively trifling delivery charges, he had missed a considerable fortune.

Before we are quick to condemn the consignee and the mistake he made, consider what we don't accept, appreciate as we should, or take advantage of, including ...

- The love of a spouse, and the richness he or she brings to the relationship.
- The strength available from family and friends, who care about us, support us and encourage us.
- The beauty of nature around us; our failure to "smell the roses" along the journey.
- The career opportunities in health care to bring hope and healing and improve the lives of others, along with the inner joy and satisfaction to be derived.
- The peace afforded by a faith in a loving God.
- The state of our health – whatever it may be – because every breath we take is a gift from the Father.
- The laughter that becomes the spice of life – "a merry heart doeth good, like a medicine" (Proverbs 17:22).

Those packages are before us – to open or to explore further. Their fortunes will bless us. Let's not neglect them.

– Beecher Hunter