

What Have We Done Today?

This day stretches before us. What will it bring? If it were to be a page in our journal of life – and it is – what would be written on it?

Nixon Waterman, a newspaper writer, poet and lecturer, asks some piercing questions about the day in a poem by that title. Here it is:

*We shall do much in the years to come,
But what have we done today?
We shall give out gold in a princely sum,
But what did we give today?
We shall lift the heart and dry the tear,
We shall plant a hope in the place of fear,
We shall speak the words of love and cheer,
But what did we speak today?*

*We shall be so kind in the after while,
But what have we done today?
We shall bring to each lonely life a smile,
But what have we brought today?
We shall give to truth a grander birth,
And to steadfast faith a deeper worth,
We shall feed the hungering souls of earth,
But whom have we fed today?*

*We shall reap such joys in the by and by,
But what have we sown today?
We shall build us mansions in the sky,
But what have we built today?
'Tis sweet in the idle dreams to bask;
But here and now, do we our task?
Yet, this is the thing our souls must ask,
What have we done today?*

It is important, of course, to plan for the future, but it is easy to put things off with “someday, I will do this or that”, or “when I get around to it.”

It is as if the poem were written for us. Not coincidentally, we have in Life Care and Century Park the opportunity every day to do what Waterman suggests in the poem – and reap the joys and rewards for our residents and for ourselves.

– Beecher Hunter 