

### LIVING IT UP

Recently returning from a business conference in Miami, I decided I'd caught a tiny glimpse of how the other side lives. Well, at least part of one side of how the rest of the world lives.

The San Francisco-based company for which I work spared no effort in making the annual conference for its employees and independent contractors both a valuable and an enjoyable few days. Although our primary focus was training, I also elected to absorb all the creature comforts that went with being housed in a 5-star hotel overlooking the white sands of Florida's coastline: beautiful accommodations, buffet meals that challenged anyone to stay on a diet and service beyond anything I'd ever experienced. Truly an experience beyond my wildest dreams, I won't soon forget the meaning of "luxury living". Now lest you think I'm some sort of a "country bumpkin", ask yourselves, "When's the last time someone folded my serviette if I got up from the table to retrieve some item or how often are smooth-as-silk chocolates placed on my pillow before I retire for the night?"

Amid the "pampering" that I enjoyed, there also was a sense of appreciation for my blessings and gratitude for an income that allows me to give generously to others. For me, living it up includes the privilege of blessing others so here goes....

I applaud our company for their work in nurturing a team spirit; working with such a great bunch of colleagues is a privilege not enjoyed by everyone. I've expressed my thanks to the staff of the hotel – and I know they were just doing their job, but they did it well and everyone deserves thanks for that. Above all, I thank God for providing employment in times of economic uncertainty.

"That their hearts may be encouraged...." Colossians 2:2

And yours, as well.