

# Listen to Life

*Wisdom in Life's Stories*

October 1, 2007

---

---

A free newsletter about learning and getting more from life by paying attention to our own stories and the stories of others, based on the presentations, writings, photography and workshops by Dion McInnis ([www.dionmcinnis.com](http://www.dionmcinnis.com)). Copyright 2007 Dion McInnis. All rights reserved.

---

---

To subscribe, send an email to: [addnewsletter@dionmcinnis.com](mailto:addnewsletter@dionmcinnis.com).

Check out my new blog at [dionmcinnis.blogspot.com](http://dionmcinnis.blogspot.com) for poetry, rambles and musings

## INSPIRE....IT'S SOMETHING YOU DO

The homework assignment for my photography class was to have them create images that depicted, or were of, something or someone that appeared in the writing exercises that they had done earlier in the class. My purpose was to guide the students through processes that make them more aware of being inspired, and more open to converting inspiration into images. One of the students has attended other presentations that I've presented, and said "Let's chat so we can set a time for me to photograph you. You have inspired me." I smiled and said "Certainly you can find something better." I really goofed.

I have since apologized and offered to be available if she wants to create some images. I've done so because I realized that it isn't about me, but about her vision and impression of who she sees. I hate it when a woman says to me what I said to the student when I ask for the opportunity to create because of her inspiring ways. Each of inspires someone else or multiple someones.

I realize that I negated her judgment and diminished her courage by saying what I said. When others say to us in one way or another that we inspire, motivate or move them, we err mightily when we don't let them own those thoughts and their responses. I am sure there are a million reasons why those situations occur, but there is no need to get into amateur analysis here. The point is, accept the gift that is someone's compliment of you; and, understand that you are a treasure to others.

---

---

Listen to Life is an electronic newsletter that presents lessons for living by listening to life, based on the writing, poetry, photography, presentations and workshops of Dion McInnis. Stories such as these inspired the book, "Listen to Life: Wisdom in Life's Stories," published in 2005, available at Barnes and Noble, Amazon and Borders. Dion's next book will share his views of being father and son.

To subscribe, send an email to:

[addnewsletter@dionmcinnis.com](mailto:addnewsletter@dionmcinnis.com).

To be removed from the subscription list, send email to:

[unsubscribe@dionmcinnis.com](mailto:unsubscribe@dionmcinnis.com)

Web link: [www.dionmcinnis.com](http://www.dionmcinnis.com)

© 2007 Dion McInnis. All rights reserved.

We encourage sharing Listen to Life in whole or in part if copyright and attribution are always included.