

Listen to Life

Wisdom in Life's Stories

October 29, 2006

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).
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Check out my new blog at www.blog.myspace.com/dionmcinnis for poetry, rambles and musings

OWNERSHIP

Chevrolet's current ad themed "This is our country" uses great images and video clips. Too bad it'll likely only sell trucks.

The sense of ownership that the phrase suggests is one that should be sung at home, school, work and in the community. We must take ownership of our actions, words, deeds and responsibilities to say that anything truly is OURS. Our projects at work are not fully OURS until we take responsibility and ownership for the quality of what we deliver. Our relationships cannot fully be ours if we do not take ownership of the joys and sorrows, hurts and healings that come with it, and for our roles in the relationship. We must own the words we say to others, and own our thoughts as we take stands for what is important. Which leads me to the Chevrolet ad.

Can we really say that this is our country? To take ownership in it is to work in the community, support positions that are good for the country, speak up, be law abiding citizens...and to vote. Voting alone doesn't make up for lack of involvement, silence instead of speaking up, or for participating in the national trend of the blame game. Ownership involves a multitude of actions, beyond just casting a vote or just paying taxes.

To take ownership means to take the responsibility and the consequences thereof, when necessary. It seems much easier to blame the other party, be it red or blue, to blame the victimizers (which means someone is accepting the role of victim), to blame our partner for not understanding, and so on. For a country that has come so far with constitutional right of ownership, we sure seem to go out of our way now to NOT own anything but mere possessions. And we don't own them well or responsibly either, it seems.

Take ownership at home with relationships, at work with projects, at school with learning, and with our country. Ours, the citizens'. Work to fulfill ownership, and express it with your vote.

Take ownership of your life.

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.

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