



My View

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This year, our Thanksgiving celebration has been quite different than most years. Different is not necessarily bad, just different. Typically, our various family branches would gather, enjoy each other's company, eat too much, and for the most part, give lip service to the real underlying significance of this day.

This year, for a number of reasons, that didn't take place. Or should I say we chose to neither partake in, or to host the dinner. For us, life is not too much fun right now; too many things going on, not enough time or energy to address them all, and of course, if that is not enough, we have the stock markets threatening to turn the well-known marketing jingle of Freedom 55 to Freedom 85. To those of you who have sent me words of encouragement, you have lifted my spirits and provided me clarity. Thank you.

Let's get the markets out of the way first. What we are witnessing is something that just six months ago, would have been labelled as a really bad dream...unfortunately, it's today's reality. But just like a forest fire, which destroys life, it also creates new life and opportunity. Eventually, the event tires itself out and the cycle of rebirth begins all over again. We are in the clutches of institutions being forced to unwind financial positions, which has created the momentum which feeds the flames of human fear. We have seen this many times before. That does not make it any more pleasant, but what it does do, is create opportunity for those who can keep their emotions at bay and not succumb to irrational, short-term event-driven decisions.

I do not think repeating a bunch of stats which the media seems to relentlessly be pounding into our brains will serve much purpose. As my last 'My View' article of October 1, 2008, entitled, "Be Afraid of Fear" which spoke about creating a self-fulfilling prophecy, it seems that since this is what we are focusing on, has become our reality.

Now, let us talk about important stuff; to be thankful...our problems are those of rich people. We worry about when we can retire, can we still afford to go on the cruise or buy the new car, boat or snowmobile, all because our stock options or portfolios are now worth half?

Over ninety-five percent of the world's inhabitants worry about what they will find to eat for tomorrow, where they will sleep, will they be safe, will they be forced into slavery, have to sell their bodies and souls in order to survive. The poorest person in Canada lives a higher quality of life, than more than four billion people throughout the world do. We have much to be thankful for. Let us not focus on these temporary market convulsions, but instead, be grateful for what we have, count all of our blessings, and start each thought, each day, with a positive mindset.

On Thanksgiving evening, we gave thanks for our health, our families, our minds, love, spirituality and freedom of choice. Being self empowered in order to create our own choices, is truly a rare blessing which so few people have. Life will happen, stuff will happen, which we have no control over. All of the other stuff will come to pass. How we react to things is what we have total control over. That's my view.

Victor

