



# Pity Me!

**P**ity me! The hot water heater in my house bit the dust last week.

Pity me! I'm reduced to heating water in a pan on the stove for dishwashing and shaving.

Pity me! The plumber had to special order the unit that will fit, and with his busy schedule I've had to go more than a week without hot water!

I need your pity because I probably won't get much from the 1.1 billion people in the world who lack safe, clean, plentiful drinking water, according to the United Nations. Or from the families of the 3 million people who die each year from preventable water-related illnesses, according to the World Bank. Or pity from the millions who have to get water from an outside source and carry it home. Or from the millions who have running water but can only dream of hot water.

My hot water dilemma reminds me how many blessings we take for granted as citizens of a safe, wealthy, industrialized nation. We are so used to peace, freedom, plentiful food and safe water that we forget what blessings they really are.

Personal stewardship begins with an attitude of gratitude for the gifts that God has given us, and gratitude becomes difficult when we take our everyday blessings for granted.

My week-long experience without hot water has reminded me to appreciate anew the abundance that God is giving me: Good health, a great family, wonderful friends, a job, a house, running water, central heat, electricity, a car, and life in a free and peaceful country.

It's everything I need. More than most of the world's people have. So I can share more, right? How about you?

*Ron Blezard, Stewardship of Life Institute*

Call your Synod office for more on stewardship.



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