

## Let the Ice Melt

There's an old Chinese proverb, that says, "Life is often like ice: when exposed to heat it simply melts away and is no more." Okay, so it's not an "old Chinese proverb!" But it should be 😊.

Stewardship: "the conducting, supervising, or managing of something, (Webster's)."

Let me tell you a story about misplaced stewardship, or as Brother Roger Bruner put it, "zeal without knowledge." It was a nice, sunny, but cool day in Oklahoma: September it was. I was conducting the managing of retrieving water from a local water dispensary. The change machine said, "takes \$1- or \$5-dollar bills. So, I insert a \$5 dollar bill, push the change button, and it returns \$2 and .50. The other \$2.50 went to the ice purchase option. What to do? As I reflected upon managing the stewardship over my finances, I said to myself, "self, get the ice, take it home and place it in the freezer": sheer brilliance!

Here's the kicker. I was ten miles from the house, and my duties for the morning mandated that I be back to the area within an hour. So, I head to the house, put the ice in the freezer, and in my zeal, saved the \$2.50. Brilliance! Did I mention that?

Did I mention I went to school in Jones, OK? Well, math was not a top priority, a proficiency I did not achieve, apparently, nor quick thinking. As I putter along in my automobile, I begin to do some ciphering. (Now, I am already committed to the endeavor, so there is no turning back.) So, here is the result of my cipher: Twenty miles round trip in a vehicle that gets approximately fifteen miles to the gallon, and fuel is going for \$3.09 a gallon. Thus, the trip consumed 1.333 gallons of fuel @ \$3.09 a gallon, i.e., the trip cost \$4.12. Now, add to that \$4.12 the price of the ice, i.e., \$2.50, and I have a prized bag of ice, in the freezer, that cost \$6.52, 20 miles of wear and tear on the car, and forty-five minutes of life that simply melted away, and is no more. As Brother Roscoe Bruner was wont to say, "You are a slow learner."

So, if you ever need help, "conducting, supervising, or managing" something, just let me know. I'd be pleased to help.