

S M I L E

WHAT IS THERE TO LOOK FORWARD TO?

INTRODUCTION Everybody knows that it is infinitely easier to do a difficult thing or to go through an unpleasant experience if there's something pleasant to look forward to. For instance, when I was a child I dreaded the annual visit to the dentist. But somehow I always managed to do a little bit better when I knew that after it was all over my parents would be treating me to a double dip delicious pine-apple chunk ice cream cone. You and I know that it's infinitely easier to go through a long illness if we can look forward to complete recovery and good health. You and I know too that it's easier to manage the trials and tribulations of a day's work if we know that when night time comes we have a home to return to where love and warmth and affection will be waiting to greet us. It's infinitely easier to do a difficult thing or to go through an unpleasant experience if there's something pleasant to look forward to.

But what about these people who have very little to look forward to, people whose lives are barren and bleak, people, who, for instance, at the end of the day return to a lonely little one room apartment here in the city and who rejoice if the silence of that room is broken by the ringing of the telephone. And let me say this before going any further that not all of them are older people, some are young people. And not all of them are poor people, some of them are rather well to do. Sometimes you can tell by the tone of their voice that there really isn't a great deal in their lives to which they can look forward, and you wonder, if you yourself were in their shoes, how you would do. A typical weather forecast over the BBC in the British Isles is, more often than not, apt to run something like this: "There will be rain today, followed by fog and mist. In general, it will be a rather dark, dismal and dreary day with only an occasional bright interval" There are people whose lives are like that - dark, dreary, dismal, with only an occasional bright interval. And when you talk to them about it (they may not say it in so many words, but this is what the look on their faces tell you), they say that there is hardly enough happiness in life to make the struggle worth the effort, and the drag is far more powerful than the lift of life.

Some of you may be sitting quietly here this morning in something of this very mood. You may be getting on in years; you may not see very much in the future for you, not much left but old age and all the things that go with it, things not altogether comfortable to contemplate. Or, on the other hand, you may be a young person on the threshold of life and as you look ahead you see nothing in your life but the things that are now filling it, and the thought of spending the rest of your days doing the things you're doing does not particularly lift your spirits. As you look ahead, you may see the grave possibility of another total global war. And so many of you, those in the twilight years of life as well as those on the threshold of life, ask essentially the same question: what is there for me to look forward to? What spot of brightness can I see in the future that will help me through the darkness of this day?

THERE IS ANOTHER DAY

For one thing, there is always another day.

I remember how my mother use to say that when I was a child whenever a dark cloud appeared on the horizon. Remember that there's always another day coming. And I can remember too when I was a freshman in college how I use to smile rather indulgently at what

Tom Dooley, Doctor of Medicine

Tom Dooley is dead at thirty-four, but he leaves behind him a rich legacy of good works and well deserved good will.

His life, even after he knew it must soon be forfeit, was dedicated to providing the means by which the people of Southeast Asia might at last have badly needed medical care. He drove himself relentlessly, building hospitals, writing books, raising money, training staffs, caring for the sick and bringing hope to the helpless. He became a living symbol of that concern for human, personal welfare which the United States tries, with mixed success, to project.

In a birthday telegram Tuesday, President Eisenhower told him: "It must be a source of heartened gratification to realize that in so few years you have accomplished so much for the good of distant peoples and have inspired so many others to work for all humanity." The world needs more Tom Dooleys.