



To give back. How about that for a new year's resolution? To give back, plain and simple. Let's face it, we have so much going on in our lives, that it's easy to get overwhelmed, out of sorts, and miss the big picture. Having an attitude of gratitude can help bring peace to the craziness and focus our vision on what's important. And when we are aware of all that's been given to us, it's hard not to want to pay it forward. In whatever ways we can: donations, service, time, etc.. So I say, let's count our blessings, like every day, and make those blessings count.

Today, as I think of all that's been given to me, I'm especially thankful for growing older; I just had a birthday yesterday, and every year that comes my way is more and more appreciated and cherished. By the way, thanks to those who have donated to my birthday fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on Facebook. So cool. If you haven't and want to, here are the links:

Thru Facebook: [Connie's Birthday Fundraiser to St. Jude](#)

Thru St. Jude: [Donate](#)

Family and friends, may we keep our minds uncluttered long enough to remember to keep this goal throughout the year (and every year): to be more grateful and to give back. No matter what.

Until next Thursday's post...si Dios quiere.

What are you thankful for today?

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another."

-Charles Dickens

"Sometimes life knocks you on your ass... get up, get up, get up!!! Happiness is not the absence of problems, it's the ability to deal with them."

-Steve Maraboli

“For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

**THE BEST WAY TO
FIND YOURSELF
IS TO LOSE
YOURSELF IN THE
SERVICE
OF OTHERS**

Mahatma Gandhi

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