

## TAKING THE BAIT!

As so often these articles start out--I remember, years ago, when my wife and I purchased our first house. I don't recall the exact square footage but I know it wasn't much over 1,000 square feet. At the time it was just my wife and I--with our son on the way so we didn't need a mansion!

To be able to afford a house we had to buy what is called--a "fixer-upper"! The whole house had to be repainted--inside and out. The hardwood floors all needed to be refinished and most of the woodwork, trim, baseboards, etc. needed to be replaced. In an effort to save money we made the decision to do most all the interior painting ourselves--walls and ceilings.

Of course, we moved in with much of the painting left to do thinking, "If we work a couple of hours every day, we'll be done in a month of so"! WRONG! Our renovations went on and on--for probably 6 to 9 months. Oh, the joys of home ownership! But--we were thankful to have a house of our own.

It wasn't long after we moved in that we noticed some "little droppings" under our kitchen sink. For those of you who have had similar situations, you know what I mean! So, it was off to the hardware store to buy 3 or 4 mouse traps. It wasn't something either one of us wanted to do but we also knew we couldn't live with mice in the house!

I remember that night setting the traps. Putting cheese and peanut butter on the triggers and positioning them under the kitchen sink and several other places around the kitchen. All that was left to do was to go to bed and hope we were successful in our endeavor!

Sometime in the middle of the night, we both sat straight up in bed being awakened by the, what seemed to be, "thundering crack" of one of the traps. Since we were already awake, and our adrenalin flowing from the startled awakening, we headed to the kitchen to inspect the traps. Indeed, the trap under the kitchen sink had done it's job with the poor mouse DOA. I don't recall if we caught any other mice in the next few nights but I do remember we eliminated the rodent threat!

So, why all this long winded story about ridding my first house of mice?  
Well--

Like the mouse we are all tempted at times to "take the bait" of what seems to be beliefs common to most people. Subtle little phrases like, "There's a lot of that going around--everybody is getting sick". Or, "Times are tough for everybody!" When we hear those phrases, sometimes over and over, we have a tendency to start "buying into them". We, like the mouse, "take the bait"!

If we continue to replay those thoughts in our minds we begin to believe them. We begin to think, "I'm really not feeling all that well today"--or "Now is not a good time for me to make that investment to attend the seminar"--that could possibly lead to new and better employment. When we take the bait, or fall for the collective consciousness thinking, we begin to have fears about our lives. We begin to believe we "will" get sick or we "will" suffer from lack. As we all know--fear is a powerful emotion and, unfortunately, very creative.

If the mouse had known that it was "taking the bait" that would be it's demise, it would have found something else to eat! And we, instead of taking the bait or buying into the thoughts of the day, should remember that we have the power to create our existence here by our thoughts and actions! Easy to say--not so easy to do at times!

Take the bait--that YOU are a child of the Creative Power of the Universe and not swayed by the collective consciousness of the day! Keep believing ALL IS WELL--and, the chances are, it will be!

All my best--

Chip