

## *A Word From the Publisher*

---

It looks like winter has finally arrived. Have I told you lately how much I love living in Florida? I'm okay without having to shovel snow and fight with ice on the road. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last few weeks of temperatures in the 70s and 80s. It was so nice. You know we Floridians are big sissies. It gets a little cold and we're bundled up with boots, scarves and jackets and our noses begin to run. We aren't really built for a long amount of cold weather. And you know what, I like it that way!

Weather is a really cool thing and being a weatherman is the best. It seems like many times they are totally wrong with what the day was supposed to be and yet they still have a job. Even though I don't really feel confident, I still check the weather every morning before I head out to work. That's another reason that I always keep my raincoat and water boots in my trunk... just in case!

I want to share my frustration with the work force in our world today. We see it right here in our towns. I don't eat out every day however when I do I want to eat out. Has anyone else noticed how many times many of our restaurants are only doing drive-thru because they are not open inside. The shortage of people working amazes me. When I was in high school, my dad told me right off, when I graduated I needed to go to college (and they would help me) or I needed to get a job. I did ask about having the summer off. Of course,

that didn't go over well with my dad. I graduated on a Tuesday and I began my fulltime job on Wednesday, which was also my 18th birthday. I didn't scream and holler, I went to work for eight hours. I also worked Thursday and Friday and continued for 13 years.

I never gave it another thought. I worked five days a week and gave it my all. It really frustrates me to hear young people say, they are so tired. I quickly respond, "You should be in this body." Work has been a part of my whole life. At this point, I have currently worked a job for 33 years of my life. Now that doesn't include babysitting and definitely doesn't include being a wife, mother and grandmother. And I DO NOT regret any of it. I just don't understand why people don't want to work. There is nothing more fulfilling than giving a hard day's work and seeing the accomplishments from it.

I'm so thankful that my parents raised me to be a hard and dedicated worker, no matter what I was doing, even cleaning my own house! There is something to be said about giving an honest day's work and reaping the rewards from it. I pray that people will get the desire to get a job, give their all and make something of themselves. We are blessed to live in wonderful towns with many job offerings available!

Have a blessed week!

*Dawn S. West*