

The Productivity of Mankind By Marvin Milich

My online dictionary defines “awe” as: “a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder”. That is exactly how I feel about the whole human race and especially about the Jewish people. We are put on this earth for such a short period of time, yet while one could certainly think that most people would be unproductive and just enjoy themselves to the fullest during their limited mortality, the opposite is actually true. I am in awe of the productivity of people whose accomplishments will in most cases benefit generations to come and not themselves during their short lifetimes. This is especially true with Jewish men and women. We are a very small percentage of the world population yet our accomplishments in science, the arts, technology, government, etc. are legendary.



They tell the story of a man who is diagnosed with a terminal disease and has only six months to live. He is asked if wants to spend his remaining six months on a deserted island or would he rather continue working as long as possible. For whatever reason, most people choose the second alternative. They want to be productive for as long as they are physically and mentally able to do so. I am convinced that Hashem has instilled in his chosen people this drive for us to do positive things during our lifetime, no matter how short our lives may be, that will mostly benefit those who will come after us. I could not be prouder to be a member of this tribe.

G-d only knows if we will be rewarded for our good deeds in the Olam Ha Ba, but in any event we continue to do “good” for “goodness sake”, and that’s good enough for me.

Marvin Milich has been a member of TBT for 28 years. He is former Chair of Budget and Finance, and a former member of the Board of Trustees. He met his current wife, Judi, in Rabbi Gellman’s Torah class. They were both widowed in their early 50s during the course of those classes, and eventually united to make a new life together. This December they will be celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary. Marvin’s email is: milichfam@aol.com