



### How Big is Your Refrigerator?

Our refrigerator gave up a day or two after we came home from holidays this August. We called our regular appliance repair contact hoping it would be a quick fix but, no such luck... it was the compressor, and it was over a week until a new one could be installed. Luckily, our RV was still in our driveway and we could transfer some necessities to its small fridge and put the rest of the food in picnic coolers while we waited for repairs.

The funny thing is, even though I knew this was a very fortunate and handy interim solution, I still found myself “bemoaning” the fact that my regular fridge wasn't working. I mentioned it to anyone who would listen. I refused to buy groceries because I said we had no place to put them. My kids were complaining about being hungry and I said (very self-righteously) “Well we'll just have to wait to shop until we have some place to put the food.” After a few days of wallowing in this victim mentality, I was en-route to the corner store to get some supper essentials when I suddenly realized how absurd I was being and almost laughed out loud at my hypocrisy.

You see, while we were camping for the two weeks prior to our home fridge's demise, we were luxuriating in the amazing privilege of having this same RV refrigerator. We celebrated the fact that we could keep popsicles cold, have somewhere to store left-overs, and not be preoccupied with ice packs and soggy lettuce and melted butter. Our small fridge was the cat's meow, and we proudly served meals and provided for our family from the spacious cool spaces it could provide. When I was

aware that the family members and friends camping with us were fighting to keep their food cool in the midst of the Osooyos desert heat, I was more than happy with our kitchen arrangements.

When I was comparing this same fridge to my spacious home model, however, it was a different story. The fridge hadn't shrunk in the meantime but my focus had changed and, because of that shift, I had become discontent.

This “aha” moment reminded me of a comment from Andy Stanley's sermon series entitled **Balance**: “Discontentment is fueled by awareness.” Most of us are happy with what we have, he states, until we become AWARE that there is a newer, bigger, better option available. **Our level of discontent is directly related to the amount of time we spend making ourselves aware of what we don't have. In order to move towards contentment, Andy suggests we consciously decide to spend our time becoming aware of other things...**

*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

*But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:6-12.*

Blessings to you today,

Kristal Toews