

September, 2013

I wish I had known 70 years ago what I know now.

Back at the age of twelve, I was blind to the real world—had no desire to impact upon it in any positive way, or even thought I could.

It was only when I decided to reach for a degree in education—and then stood before my first class of students—that I felt an inner satisfaction and love for what I was doing, and for my students. But after a few short years in the classroom I felt a growing urge to do more—to reach out further...

I morphed into writing a newspaper column and a financial newsletter. And, one day—in a stroke of bravado—I took out a full page ad to warn people that gold and silver were vastly over-valued. Just three days after the ad appeared, their values came crashing down.

My call was just blind luck. But it enabled me to build my readership a hundred-fold—and over the ensuing years to make more money week after week than I ever had in full years prior to my entering the financial world.

Along the way I began dabbling in philanthropy, with a special interest in helping to feed the hungry. Then, 20 years ago, I decided to devote myself fully to the philanthropic world and established a program to encourage youngsters to help those in need.

Today that program is in 147 local schools, known as Feinstein Leadership schools, and four more in other countries—45,000 'Feinstein Jr. Scholars' each year dedicated to the values I've shown them of helping others and reminding them that every time they do something good for someone, they are making the world a better place—and that makes them a very special person.

Some day, the only thing that will matter, for all eternity, is what we did while we were here to reach out to help others. That's all we can take with us into eternity...And eternity is forever.

And forever is a long, long time...

That's what I tell all the great youngsters I reach—just as I did at the Johnson & Wales University convocation last week for their 2500 incoming new students.

They cheered me during my talk.

I should be cheering them...