

What To Do When You Are Very Busy

By Sophy Churches

The alarm clock rings and 6.30 a.m. I reach and shut it off. At 9-ish I wake up. I let the dog out for a minute or two. Then I make the dog's and cat's breakfast. I realize the sink is full with yesterday evening's dishes. After putting them in the dishwasher¹ I go back to bed and re-read a story. After I shower and dress, I make breakfast, eat and tidy up.

The clean wash has been in the basket since Friday. I start pulling it out. The telephone rings. Long conversation with girlfriend, discussing the Coronavirus. We try to solve the world's problem and make suggestions to each other. Then I take out my dog for a walk. He stops at every kind person who is willing to stroke him. I know all the dogs by now who are walked by the canal. I observe the weather and try deep breathing, to take in the fresh air.

On the way back, we stop at Norman's garage and visit with him as he knocks flat the thousands of cola cans that people put out for him to take to the recycler. He massages my dog, who always wants to stay longer.

Back home the telephone rings. A few important and unimportant calls. I make coffee. I watch the news on CNN or MSNBC, and even watch our president talking to the press. He has calmed down lately, but he looks paler than before, probably from the lack of Florida sunshine. He still he refuses to have the Coronavirus test. After coffee I sit down at my computer and look at the 2,456,892 messages that I have daily. The correspondence is in a pile up to the ceiling that I have to respond to. Some of them are months old, and some of them needs paying. Those I hate and I put them back. 'There will be trouble Sophy,' I say to myself – I know, there is always trouble when the bills are not paid. I write one or two letters, then go watch the 12:00 o'clock news. Suddenly I remember I have not watered my plants for many a days, so I rush to water them. I make puddles, and search for the wiping cloth. My kitchen cupboards are untidy, so I pull out the strainer, the pressure cooker and the heavy equipment. I suddenly remember that when I washed my clothes, I lost a blue sock, so I run upstairs for it, but it isn't there. (Note to myself: to get a net-sack to put the socks in it.) I come down, and start my shopping list, but the telephone rings with more appointments. I say OK, but I don't look in my calendar until later. I have to phone back the hospital and change them.

At 3 o'clock I watch *It's a Deal*, and check the evening programs. At 4:00 I start cooking, I love cooking and I read all my 200 cook-books to decide what dinner will be. I make a mess and have to clean up afterwards. By 6 o'clock I'm done. I feed the dog and cat and take the dog for a walk. I come back and eat, and watch TV until 10:30, and go to bed.

I didn't fold the washing again! I'll do it tomorrow!

¹ We call the laundry machine a washing machine. The one that does the dishes is called a dishwasher.