

# The Blizzard of 1978 and Incremental Thinking (17)



# The Anchor

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**I**ncremental thinking is a seed for compounded results. It is a force for and against compounded habits.

Marcia Yockey was a legendary meteorologist in Evansville. Even so, she didn't predict the unimaginable snowstorm smothering the Midwest on Wednesday, January 25, 1978.

Petersburg Road winds through the northside of Evansville. The hilly road was the first place I realized there was something different about this storm. My mom's car stalled midway up the hill and its tires simply spun. I began pushing her up the hill and other cars would try to pass her and eventually get stuck. The only way to the crest was to push them before I could finish pushing her. It was an incremental process. Step by step, car by car. I pushed cars for nearly an hour before I took over the helm of her car.

Once home I began shoveling our hilly driveway. There was no hope of getting the car in the garage unless the drive was shoveled. Again, scoop by scoop, foot by foot, I eventually got the car in the garage. About the time that was finished my sister let us know she was stuck a few blocks away, her Pinto rode low, and it required an incremental, gradual process retrieving it.

Many of life's lessons are taught through adversity. Incremental progress is an important lesson to remain hopeful through the difficulties of life. A driveway is shoveled by making the first scoop. A career is built navigating that first day on the job. A retirement plan blossoms because of the first few hundred dollars deposited. Grieving is survived one day at a time.

Life can seem overwhelming when considered as a whole. And yet even the most challenging situations

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## That First Christmas Was Something Special



*Keith Tyner*

**T**he radiance of the beautiful first-time mom illuminates the Christmas season. The joy of this expression is matched with unknown and unimagined expectations. How

can she know the love she's just beginning to express? How can she know the impact of the tenderness welling inside her? How amazing is the future she has in store?

How can a mom know what her

time momma, Amanda, has graced us this year with a glow of joy and excitement. The grace and happiness energized our entire team.

And now we can celebrate with her, her first Christmas as **MOM!** Congratulations to Michael and Amanda Hineman on the arrival of Elliott Joseph Hineman. Elliott joined us around Thanksgiving and reminds all of us how thankful we are for the blessing of children.

As the holidays approach, are there traditions that energize your soul with reflection? I can't help but reminisce over the songs of Christmas, the smell of freshly baked



*Amanda, Michael and Elliott Hineman*

days will be when she accepts that new role?

No doubt the emotions flowing that first Christmas and for Mary were unique. The decree from King Herod to kill all the infant boys in Bethlehem was an intense variable to the mothers across the land. Mary and Joseph had a lot to process that first Christmas.

This Christmas is an exciting one around Gimbal Financial. Our first

cookies and the anticipation of shiny new things under the Christmas tree.

Even though those bring energy to my thoughts, I find the greatest joy reflecting upon the people of the holidays. The adults of my childhood are mostly gone and made way for me to be the "old guy" in the lives of the new youngsters.

We pray this holiday season brings special memories to all your families.

## A New Generation of Currency

Currency is an interesting thing. The issuer has great control over those who possess it. But even more curious is their ability to devalue it. The issuer controls the on/off switch of the printing press and every time they spill more ink, the value of the existing currency drops.

Governments are the primary issuer of currencies. And some businesses, like Disney have issued their own currency in the past. Gift cards are a form of currency in their value is established by the business and only valid if the business is a going concern.

A currency needs to be stable, portable, divisible, recognizable and easily exchangeable in order to be widely accepted.

A significant variable in these attributes that creates or eliminates confidence is stability.

Zimbabwe issued bearer cheques in the early 2000s with expiration dates on them. Can you imagine the confidence that created for the public? These were not considered stable and the country was ravaged with

hyperinflation.

Insert a younger generation of Americans with completely different views than their parents and grandparents. Insert the creation of a mystery person, Satoshi Nakamoto, called Bitcoin in January 2009. Bitcoin is a theoretical idea. It involves a computer paradigm that has checks and balances in place and a limited number of currency units available.



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Bitcoin is limited to 21 million units, called Bitcoins. These Bitcoins are released intermittently until the final ones are distributed around 2140. Currently there are 19.7 million in circulation. A complex puzzle solving process, called

mining, releases future Bitcoins into the public. The mining process is an aspect of the system that secures the currency.

A component of the currency that offers some level of security is the chain link of historical transactions. This idea is referred to as blockchain. It offers no central government but does include shared and permanent records.

Imagine you were a citizen of Zimbabwe. Would you trust this sort of technology or your federal government that printed the expiration dates on their currency? Imagine you lived in another country and were concerned about the outcome of an election or other political issues. Would you trust the currency or want another alternative for your money.

I have no idea whether Bitcoin will be a trustworthy carrier of value for the future, but that is true for any other currency I might store value. Be careful with your money and seek advice before you jump into cryptocurrencies!

## The Blizzard of 1978 and Incremental Thinking

*Continued from front*  
begin with a simple decision, "what do I do next?" Great progress is made looking at life through an incremental lens. Incremental thinking conquers compounded forces like snowstorms and even death.

The Blizzard of 1978 taught me several perspectives of incremental thinking. Most of the lessons weren't scored like a school test. They were stored in my memory as difficulties I survived. Did I mention I pushed all those cars, shoveled that snow all after a 2-hour basketball practice? It was a grueling experience and yet I survived.

Difficulties are assured, but what

isn't your choice about how you think about them. How you think today will incrementally compound habits in your brain to allow you a victorious journey through the snowstorms of tomorrow!

What are some experiences of yours that required an incremental mindset? Did you learn a skill? Or evolve in your career through challenges? Consider those times in which you persevered, what lessons did they teach you?

I am curious of some of your incremental stories. If you don't mind, shoot me an email at [KTyner@GimbalFinancial.com](mailto:KTyner@GimbalFinancial.com) and let me know! Keep the faith!



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