



Weekly Review—August 14, 2020

L'Étranger. For most of my life Albert Camus' novel *The Stranger* was my go-to read. While I am blessed to have a personality that gets along with anyone, inside I felt like an outsider looking in, a sense of belonging yet not really belonging. This perspective caused a lot of feelings of inadequacy: I wasn't good enough or something was wrong with me. The plot is not the most exciting, but I related to Meursault and how he attempted to partake in the "normal" activities of life yet seemed to be unaffected, or at least affected differently than others. Camus wrote a lot about the absurdity of life and is often labeled as an existentialist. Long-time readers know that my parents are a philosopher and a scientist, so one could easily see why I might be drawn to Camus. During this pandemic Camus' *The Plague* has become a popular read again but perhaps absurdity is not the best path for our attitudes as it may lead to apathy or at least negativity.

Awareness. Much later in life, in fact only a couple years ago, I read *Awareness* which altered my perspective and got me out of my comfort-zone of absurdity. Anthony De Mello was a trained psychologist and a Jesuit priest. His writings often deal with the themes of love, detachment, and awareness. All are related and interwoven concepts; when realized one sees the world and one's place in it differently – for me more accurately. Awareness allows me to be free of the things I cling to, especially the ones I have absolutely no control over, and shows me the core truth: love. Love is outside of my control and the acceptance that I have limited control over the things/events in my life. Once I accept what I can and cannot control I am free to focus on what I can control and use it for the greater good. That is a key focus in how I approach my work, my relationships with customers, colleagues, my family, and strangers. If I do nothing else in life, I want to make others' lives better in a small way – but I know I have limited control over that.

Some of you know, I worked as a bookseller for over a decade. Reading is very important to me as it leads to learning. It feeds the curiosity and desire I have to experience life as much as I can while I'm alive. While no longer on my resume, being a bookseller provided me with many of the skills I use today. My path in life and my career have been at times like a Jackson Pollock painting, but I am grateful for every person and experience I've had along the way. I write about these things not to come across as some pseudo-intellectual, but to highlight that our lives are more than the work we do, to highlight the humanity in all of us. We spend a lot of our lives trying to separate work from other parts of our lives. The truth is it is all the same life, all a part of our experience as humans. Thank you for your contribution to your communities, your families, and each other – leading others (especially me) from absurdity to awareness.

Have a great weekend!

Other book recommendations:

The Eight by Katherine Neville *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
The Island by Aldous Huxley *King of the World* by David Remnick
Ghost Wars by Steve Coll *Fool's Gold* by Gillian Tett

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NEW ISSUE MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

Date	Amount (\$)	Description	Maturity
8/17/2020	\$48,860,000	COLUMBIA MO SPCL OB 2020B UT GO AA-	2021-2033
8/17/2020	\$2,680,000	MAIZE KS 2020A UT GO BQ NR	2021-2035
8/17/2020	\$6,000,000	ST JOSEPH MO 2020 UT GO AA-	2021-2040
8/18/2020	\$20,000,000	COLUMBIA MO SCHOOL DIST. 2020B UT GO Aa1 AA	2022-2040

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

Monday 8/17	Tuesday 8/18	Wednesday 8/19	Thursday 8/20	Friday 8/21
Empire Manufacturing	Housing Starts Building Permits	MBA Mortgage Applications FOMC Minutes	Initial Jobless Claims Leading Index Continuing Claims	Markit US Manufacturing PMI Existing Home Sales

KEY INDICES				MUNI AA-BQ	
	Current	Last Month	One Year Ago		
Prime Rate	3.25	3.25	5.25	3 Mo.	0.03
Discount Rate	0.25	0.25	2.75	6 Mo.	0.12
Fed Funds Rate	0.10	0.09	2.12	1-Year	0.15
IOER	0.10	0.10	2.10	2-Year	0.17
1-Month Libor	0.16	0.18	2.20	3-Year	0.19
11th Dist COFI	0.68	0.76	1.14	5-Year	0.30
1-Yr. CMT	0.14	0.16	1.86	7-Year	0.53
Dow	27,931.50	26,642.59	25,479.42	10-Year	0.78
NASDAQ	11,019.30	10,488.58	7,773.94	30-Year	1.54
S&P 500	3,372.89	3,197.52	2,840.60		
Bond Buyer	2.05	2.19	3.10		

Treasuries & New Issue Agencies (<i>Spread to Treasuries</i>)						CMO Spreads to Treasuries		
	Treasuries	Bullets	NC-6 Mo.	NC-1 Year	NC- 2 Year		PAC	Vanilla
3 Mo. Bill	0.09					1-Year	N/A	+55
6 Mo. Bill	0.11					2-Year	55	65
1-Year Bill	0.13					3-Year	65	70
2-Year Note	0.14	6	10	9		5-Year	70	80
3-Year Note	0.17	8	22	21	16			
5-Year Note	0.29	15	40	39	32			
7-Year Note	0.49	24	50	47	38			
10-Year Note	0.69	35	68	64	54			
20-Year Bond	1.17							
30-Year Bond	1.41							

MBS Current Coupon Yields	
GNMA 30 Yr.	1.43%
FNMA 30 Yr.	1.37%
GNMA 15 Yr.	0.28%
FNMA 15 Yr.	0.92%

About the Author, Matthew Maggi



Prior to joining CMG in 2016, Matthew was the Corporate Treasurer at a \$1.2 billion publicly-traded community bank headquartered in Missouri. During his tenure, he developed and implemented balance sheet strategies to maximize margin while managing acceptable levels of interest rate risk, liquidity, and capital. Matthew not only managed the investment portfolio, but also conducted extensive loan portfolio performance analyses.

Previously, he was a Treasury Analyst for one of the largest privately held banks in the U.S. He monitored cash flow and liquidity and developed funding strategies. Matthew leverages his extensive balance sheet management experience to provide tactical and strategic solutions to maximize performance while mitigating risks for the community banks.

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