

Kenston J. Griffin



Dream Builders Communication, Inc.

"If Better Is Possible Good Is No Longer An Option"

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NEWSLETTER

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Back to School Book Special

"Your Turning Point Starts Now"

"The Mountain Climber"

"New Days, New Ideas"

"Stages of Womanhood"
and

"If Better is Possible, Good is No Longer an Option" (CD)

5 books for

ONLY \$55.00

A \$20.00 savings!



"10 Keys to Improving You"

Greetings & Good Day,

Are you feeling HOT! HOT! HOT! If not after this months editorial to the Dream Builders Communication Newsletter I think you will. Especially after these *10 Keys to Improving the Most Important Person in the World.... YOU.*

1. Know who you are, where you are, and where you are going
2. Re-boot your hard drive (your brain)
3. Get some new memory (read more books, like "Your Turning Point Starts Now")
4. Do not set personal traps
5. Check your inventory/surroundings
6. Join the Dream Team of Smiles
7. Remember your problems want you, you do not want your problems
8. Know that where you are is not where you have to end up
9. Finish what you started
10. Make a "victory" list

So, if you were not feeling HOT! HOT! HOT! you should be now. In closing, stay *"powerful, persistent, consistent, and insistent to get out of life what I truly deserve. Because I am willing...I am waiting...I am worthy... and I understand the only defeat is from within. I now know that beyond any shadow of the cloud of doubt, there is no shadow... there is no cloud, and there is no doubt"* to these *10 Keys to Improving The Most Important Person In the World YOU!*

Kenston J Griffin, CEO

Encourage Thinking!

By: Roderick Land

“Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think if only you try.” You may not know which book the quote is from, but I imagine you could guess it is from a Dr. Seuss book, and you would be right! With over 40 books written in more than 15 languages, we all know **some** Dr. Seuss quotes.

We all come in contact with others, children as well as adults, who possess something in them that would certainly separate them from the masses if only they would THINK. Whether academics or athletics, medicine or media, these people need to think “out of the conventional box” and think thoughts that only they can think. But sometimes discouragement can come and slow them down, maybe even stop them. We have to look around and see, perk our ears up to hear, open our mouths to speak encouragement.



Theodor Geisel was born in 1904 in Springfield, Massachusetts. A son of German immigrants, his family, as brew masters, enjoyed financial success for years. With the onset of the World War and the beginning of The Prohibition, things had to change to maintain the status they had gained. But, with hard work and encouraging words they continued success, enough even for Theodor to go to Oxford University in England. After a brief stint there however, he realized it was not for him and returned to the states. He gained employment as an advertiser for a large steel company, working there for 15 years.

In the meanwhile, he wrote a book *And To Think I Saw It On Mulberry Street*, and submitted it to the publisher Vanguard Press. It was rejected 27 times before being accepted! I am sure there was at least one other person besides Theodor himself, that offered words of encouragement during those times. From there, the rest as they say is history.



Theodor **Seuss** Geisel, Dr. Seuss, as we know him was not an instant success and neither are we. So to leave you with another quote taken from *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut* written in 1978,

*The more that you read,
The more things you will know.
The more that you will learn,
The more places you will go.*

*Young cat! If you keep
You eyes open enough,
Oh, the stuff you will learn!
The most wonderful stuff!*

Be aware! You may have a Dr. Seuss around you, or you may be one yourself. Remember, “You can not succeed if you do not try!”

"Reading is a means of thinking with another person's mind; it forces you to stretch your own."

--Charles Scribner Jr., Publisher

What Makes a Good Team Player? Willingness

By: Christopher Land



This month's issue about being a good team player will be on Willingness. I've come to understand just how important willingness is, as I'm in the second year of mar-

riage. In my opinion there's no greater team, than a team of husband and wife, but that's a whole different issue.

During my years of coaching, one of the best team player attributes that I've seen is willingness. The ability to see the big picture and willingness to do what's best for the team, even when it may not look to be in your best personal interest (is what's sometimes needed to be a good team player). I once coached a young man named Phillip, who was clearly the best player on the team, and initially wanted to be the "front" man. Because of his strength and willingness as a good team player, we needed him to be the (center) support person, and not the focus or primary person. Some players with such talent would have moaned and groaned, and possibly sought a different team or position, job, or unit. But Phillip's will-

ingness to be a good team player, allowed him and the rest of the team to succeed at a high level. Had Phillip not been willing to go with the coaches/supervisor's decision, the entire team would have suffered. The willingness to adjust, cover, exchange, supports, and/or replace will arise whenever there's team play. The willingness to do so, can often time determine the success of a department, organization, or team. Best player on a team or not, the willingness to do what the team needs you to do is key.

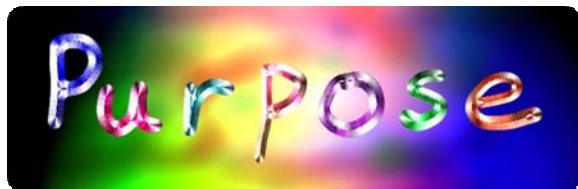
Willingness can sometimes determine how good a team becomes – A good player, on a bad team or a great player on a good team ... what are you willing to be? One of my favorite exerts is from Dr. Charles Swindoll's poem "Attitude", where it speaks about the attitude that



you will embrace for the day. How important is your attitude or willingness when it comes to being a good team player? Super important! When on a team, it's not always about you. Be willing to do what works best for the team that you're on.

Is There Purpose in Your Personality?

By: Tiffany Jacobs



Each day as a person grows, more and more things are obtained everyday. It is in the form of challenges that are turned into lessons; failures turned into successes; or even options turned into opportunities. There are many times when a person obtains certain things or titles, he or she never realizes that certain habits may change or attitudes or even accountability. Until someone else gives that person constructive criticism and helps that person to realize that titles and materialistic things do not give you purpose.

Where is your purpose? Do you walk around everyday as if you deserve everything at your feet? In everything you do, one should remember do it in the spirit of excellence. Don't allow others or naysayers to transform your way of thinking into what they believe you should be doing. Allow your light to shine through your personality. When it is beaming from within, someone is destined to see the purpose in who you are. Your purpose will be revealed through your actions, your passion for the things you do, not in your title, or how much money you make, or how many people you can tell what to do. Figure out what makes you yourself, and know that your purpose will drive you to the success for which you are destined!

Financial Corner

By: Yolanda Polk



WANT TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT MONEY?

Try paying them (Allowances) and see how it works!!! How many of you all give your child or children allowances at the end of the week or month? What do they have to do to earn it? Do the children see value in making money? Are they on time with their duties and responsibilities? We have a responsibility to give our children all the tools necessary to succeed.

Insert some, if not all, of the tips below and see what difference it may make in your child or children lives. (CNNMONEY.COM) Like I always say, "Success Is A Journey Not A Sprint"

There's a strong argument that an allowance is the best way to teach a child to handle financial responsibility. There's an equally convincing case that nothing could be further from the truth.

In either event, before they get an allowance, a child should be old enough to count money. The key to a successful allowance is structuring it right from the outset.

Make it clear to your children what kinds of expenditures the money is for, and that they are expected to save some of it. Younger children - ages 7 to 10 - should not be held accountable for items like school lunch money as part of their allowances, but it is not a bad idea for older kids and has the added benefit of fewer payments changing hands.

Some experts think parents should not link the allowance money to household chores. Children should be expected to help out around the house and in the yard because they are members of the family, not because they are paid. That's your call, obviously, not ours.

Yet with children over 8 or 9 years old, giving an allowance doesn't prevent paying them for specific chores, especially the occasional type that you might otherwise pay outsiders to perform, such as shoveling the sidewalk or washing the car. Why not keep the money in the family?

Some parents complain that giving their children allowances puts the parents in a position where their kids are often begging for raises or advances. Jayne A. Pearl, author of *Kids and Money: Giving Them the Savvy to Succeed Financially* (1999, Bloomberg Press), would say these parents are missing the point.

"Remember, allowance is supposed to be a teaching tool," she says. "Negotiation skills are an important part of that, which they're going to need for dealing effectively with friends, teachers and, eventually, their bosses."

So instead of grimacing when your children hit you up for a raise, decide when the time is right and then engage them in fruitful negotiations. How long since the last raise? Will new expenditures be covered? What amount of the raise will be saved long-term for expenditures requiring your approval?

The most vexing decision on allowances is how much - a decision affected by personal values, family income and common sense. Don't let your children influence the amount by saying what their friends are getting: Any normal child will bring in high figures.

Many parents like to give their children the equivalent in today's dollars of the allowance they received at the same age. Assuming that these parents have more or less the same means as their parents did, this can be a comfortable solution.

You've Been TAGGED

By: Tonya R. Allen

Over the past several months, Dream Builders Communication, Inc. has worked extensively to provide students, parents, and the community with an academically enriched, socially sound, and creatively based program.

The Dream Builders Communication, Inc. 21st Century Community Learning Center T.A.G. (Together Achieving Greatness) Program began in April 2009 with over 200 plus students enrolled in the After-School Programs. We then concluded the After-School Program and began the T.A.G. Summer Enrichment Program, which is now servicing about 230 students. The students focus on Mathematics, Language/English, Science, and Social Studies; as well as social, character education, arts & crafts, dance, drama, and music, just to mention a few. Students have experienced field trips in and around their local areas, within the state of North Carolina, and to Washington DC. As the T.A.G. Summer Enrichment Program prepares to end, we just wanted to share with you a glimpse of what we have done over the past several months.

We will begin the application process for our 2009-2010 After-School Program during a combined T.A.G. Program Field Day at the Clarks Chapel Baptist Church site in Statesville, NC, on August 6, 2009. Students will also present their projects, and talents during a Final Program on August 7, 2009 at the Clarks Chapel Baptist Church, 806 Eufola Road Statesville, NC and St. Stephens AME Zion Church, 201 West Franklin Blvd in Gastonia, NC, on August 15, 2009. If you would like more information, please contact the Dream Builders Communication, Inc. office at 704-595-1884.

T.A.G. GOES TO D.C.



EVENTS in AUGUST



August 3

Dream Builders Communication will be presenting a Professional Staff Development session at Bishop Spaugh Community Academy, this is the first of a series of sessions. This session will include strategies on Differential Learning Styles, and Best Practices to Produce Effective Results.

August 5

DBC has become a part of the Community Circle. DBC in conjunction with The Lee Institute/Gates Foundation – are meeting with the community to address the concerns that the data, and the youth have identified.

August 6

Dream Builders has joining forces with Iredell Statesville Schools – SAGE program and other partnering agencies to provide sessions for the students throughout the summer. DBC is providing Leadership Development sessions for 6th-9th grade students.

August 7

The Titus Ivory (Memorial) 12th Annual Golf Tournament will be held at the Birkdale Golf Course and several of the DBC Team will be participating. The McCorey Family YMCA is hosting one of the biggest tournaments in the Charlotte area, honoring the Ivory family who works in conjunction with DBC in many community events.

August 13

Iredell Statesville Schools has locked in Mr. Kenston J. Griffin to present to all rising freshman in the county, for its Transitional Students Pep Rally. This county wide event is sure to start the school year off with a bang as Mr. Griffin speaks on Responsibility, Respect, and Keys to High School Success.

August 14



This is the final day for the T.A.G. (Together Achieving Greatness) Summer Program. This program has been a huge success, thanks to program director, Ms. Tonya Allen, and her incredible staff. This program will restart as an afterschool program in Gaston and Iredell counties. Contact the DBC TAG office for additional details (704) 595-1884.

EVENTS in AUGUST

August 15

Christopher Land will be working with C-Meck Advanced Football League in its Opening Day ceremony, as over 1200 youth will display their talents and skills that they worked on all summer, in preparation for a fun filled season of football and cheerleading. The first game will be on August 22 at West Mecklenburg High School.



August 17, 2009

Westerly Hills Elementary School will be having their first DBC Professional Staff Development session. This is the first of a series of Staff Developments where Best Practices will be shared with the staff to ensure a successful school year.

The Hartford Insurance Company's Emerging Leaders welcomes Mr. Kenston J Griffin as its keynote speaker to this block-buster networking event. The "Best" of the future of The Hartford will be in attendance, to be empowered by the best of DBC.



August 20, 2009

The Rams of Winston-Salem State University has invited Mr. Kenston J Griffin to be the keynote speaker for the fall Convocation. We're excited to be back in WSSU, to inspire and celebrate our leaders of today, and tomorrow.

August 29, 2009

The Ambassadors of University of North Carolina – Charlotte will be in for a special treat, as the DBC team will be providing a Leadership Development training. This training session will have the participants to Inspect What They Expect, Alumni Responsibilities as well as assisting in Developing Tools for Success (Life) after UNC-Charlotte.



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