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November 2008 Newsletter



“Gratitude is our most direct line to God and the angels. If we take the time, no matter how crazy and troubled we feel, we can find something to be thankful for.”

Terry Lynn Taylor

How often do you say thank-you?

Due to the business of our daily activities most of us in family businesses are grossly negligent at thanking others, especially our family members. In front of friends and strangers we are more likely to say “thank you” for simple things like having been invited to an event or for buying us a lunch or coffee. How often do we make the conscious effort to thank a family member for even these small acts?

If you are like most people you will join me in realizing how I have failed in giving thanks for the daily acts of patience, acceptance, forgiveness, listening, mentoring, wisdom and unconditional love that my family members have given to me. Sure, there are days when I have to look a little harder but when I look back on those times I usually find it is my attitude and actions toward others that have prevented them from providing me with those daily acts of kindness. If you take an honest look maybe you have the same problem.

I read in a church bulletin that “family life is the turf of sanctity.” Family life is a place where all members are suppose to feel safe and protected. When I feel this way, many times I fail to be thankful for it.

Family life (whatever that definition is for you) is the “turf” where each family member is supported through encouragement, love and individual attention. When this support is given to me, again I fail to be thankful for it. So the support does not come as often as I would like it to. Then I realize I do not receive this support from family members because I have selfishly held back my support while I waited for them to act first! Maybe you have been guilty of the same thing.

This time of year is always a good time to reflect back and evaluate where we may have failed with others. It is the time to remember when we did not give a word of encouragement or a “thank-you” that could have made someone’s day.

There really are so many people for us to thank. We should thank our employees because as many times as we hate to admit it, we really cannot survive without them doing the jobs they do. We should thank our family members and really make the daily effort to do so.

I need to appreciate more and so do most of us. We need to appreciate more by taking a few minutes every day to identify one thing, one act by another, that made us just feel better even if it was for a second. We need to take the time on a daily basis to really understand how other family members have supported us and what we need to do to offer them more support.

As family business consultants and advisors, we have seen the best and the worst in families. The worst usually happens because there is rarely a “thank-you” that passes between family members who are working together. When there is a lack of appreciation there is conflict. Conflict can be reduced and relationships can grow by the more frequent use of “thank-you.” I know I like to hear them and I get a lot more of them when I have an attitude of thanks as well. Review your relationship with your “family.” Realize how thankful you should be and then become a thankful person. Your life will change for the better for it.

Lastly, which should really be first, we should thank our God for the lives we have been given as well as AGAIN another opportunity to become better people.

Thank you for reading our newsletter!

Jim & Ann Marie Kwaiser & Smitty Boros

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