



Communication by Cleo Lamping

Our world revolves on communication. This far reaching dominance of communication has also made our world smaller so the only way to keep from spinning off is to learn the power of communication. This is not a world in which we can stand still...perhaps it never was.

Sounds like we need a high tech laboratory to survive, doesn't it?

Not necessarily so. Our own personal success comes not from the amount of knowledge we have stored in our head but from how well we can convey our knowledge to our family, our students our employees, any human contact.

People from all walks of life are attracted to Toastmasters because it's a club where one can learn to "do," which is so much more fun than sitting on the sidelines thinking, "I wish I could speak like that" or "I wish I had spoken at the funeral, I had so much I wanted to say."

Anyone can learn to make a presentation to or for their employer, anyone can lead a discussion group on the best way to approach a problem.

It only needs a few basic rules to go by and lots of practice, which you can get at Toastmasters.

Toastmasters provides you with an audience on which to try out your presentation, speech, and this same audience will gently suggest ways in which you could be more effective.

"By simply telling our family we love them, we gain enormous physical strength to face the day. To have them assume we love them is not good enough. Yet to articulate this love is perhaps one of the hardest things for us to do.

How can a student know that in spite of failing grades he/she is doing extremely well under the circumstances if the teacher doesn't tell them?

And what circumstances? How can a teacher know if not told?

Employees are in the same position. How are they to know they are doing well or really should be in another line of work to achieve their potential if the employer cannot give them instructive verbal guidance?

If we do not communicate on the personal level we wander about in a chaos of "I wonder why" to all our questions. This is when we lose the power that good communication gives.

Being an effective communicator today plays a great part in the upward spiral of your career. Toastmasters tries to give us this ability to convey our thoughts so we can make clear to the world where we're going. It's not always easy but with practice we can learn the powerful art of communication.

The saying goes, "Success is 99 per cent sweat and one per cent talent." Talent and hard work expresses itself in many different ways. I notice this particularly in the beautiful handmade quilts I sometimes see for sale.

Each quilt, when examined, starts out with one perfect stitch, then another and another until the finished article is a thing of beauty.

No one was born with the ability to make perfect stitches. It had to be acquired though hard work but it is a skill well worth learning.

Communication and leadership in all its forms, which is what Toastmasters is all about, is a series of fine stitches, which have to be learned, ripped out, and/or rearranged in order to make that perfect pattern, which in our case is style and delivery.

For many quilt makers and Toastmasters it takes years to develop their style so that their finished product will be a thing of beauty.

For anyone interested in learning how to communicate in all its forms--stitch by stitch, step by step-- Toastmasters is waiting to help you make your own unique pattern.

Please be our guest at Pembroke or Renfrew & Area Toastmasters.

For further information, please call Fran 613-649-2950.