

Quality of Work

Rosemarie M. Rowley

It's All About The "Dash"...Leaving a Legacy

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For solitude, I used to walk through an old cemetery that rests on a hill above the town of Huntington, with a great view of the harbor. While I was enjoying the peace and quiet, I was taken by all the grave stones and began to think about all the unfulfilled dreams that may have been buried there. It was during that walk that I first started to ponder the "dash" between the dates and came to this revelation. We can't predict or control the dates on our grave stone, but we certainly can control what happens during the *dash*, that is, the days of our lives. This newsletter is based on that *dash*, or the legacy you will leave behind.

If you know me or have read any of my newsletters, you will know that I strongly believe that each one of us has a God-given destiny, which when we find it, our lives will soar with fulfillment and success. When I refer to success, it's not the kind that is measured by the amount of money a person earns or possesses, but in the gifts he or she uses and the character they possess. If you are doing what you have been created to do, and demonstrate character in the process, then consider yourself successful.

How many times have we heard great men and women give credit to ordinary people - their moms, dads, and/or teachers, who have helped them become the people they are today. Michael Phelps, the greatest Olympiad who ever lived, credits his mom for much of his success.

I am sure Debbie Phelps, a single mother, didn't feel successful when she had to drag herself out of bed each morning and go to work to support her family. Like many single mothers, she was concerned about her young son growing up without a father. So she steered him towards sports, encouraged his efforts, and the rest is history. Mrs. Phelps is just one example of the many moms and dads who live in the shadow of their children's success.

Most successful people can trace their success back to someone's sacrifice, love and encouragement. By the way, you don't have to be a mom or a dad to affect people's lives. This is just an example of one of the many ways in which everyday people can leave behind a legacy. If you are a business person, a doctor, lawyer, teacher, coach, or in any white collar or blue collar position, you have a legacy that can be left. Remember, it is about what you leave behind that matters most!

You may now be wondering, "How do I find my success story?" You do this by looking inside yourself and asking...*What are my gifts? My talents? In what do I find satisfaction?* Dave Thomas, the founder of Wendy's International, was adopted and lived the life of a poor young man. But this young man had a multibillion dollar dream hibernating inside of him, as he washed dishes and bused tables to earn a living.



Think About This:

It is never too late to leave a legacy. Why not start today?

Rosemarie M. Rowley

As a Business Advisor and Coach, Rosemarie helps companies and individuals become more successful and profitable by uncovering their hidden talents and sharpening their strengths.

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(Continued)

Mr. Thomas not only became rich, but was a man of character and a great humanitarian who donated millions of dollars to good causes, including the promotion of adoption services. *Success plus character equals fulfillment.* What is hibernating inside of you today? Do you think it's impossible for you? Do you think you are too young, too old, too poor, too uneducated? Time and time again we have seen that the seemingly impossible is possible.

Today, we are watching history unfold during this election period. We have the first African-American presidential candidate; the first POW presidential candidate; and the first female vice presidential candidate on the GOP ticket. What a line-up of "can do" people. All of these candidates grew up in the middle class, starting life just like most of us. Today, these individuals are using their gifts and talents to pursue their destinies. I applaud their ability to use their talents and live their lives fearlessly.

Not all of us may be presidential material; I know I am not. But what I do know is that I want to be the best Rosemarie Rowley I can be. I desire to leave a legacy that will continue, even if I never become famous. How about you? Some may make it to the history books; but most of us will not. As noted earlier, real success isn't about money and prominence. Most people are inspired by what our society calls "the little people" - people with no title and no grandeur. But if you have used your gifts to influence even one life, you can consider yourself successful. If you feel you have not yet achieved this, it is never too late to start!

Let me encourage you to take the time to discover your gifts and talents, and put them to work for you. You really can "work" at something you love.

Statistics show that 80% of the people working today are not fulfilled. What does the other 20% know that perhaps you don't know? They found the secret...tap your talents and make them work for you and for the greater good. Like a great meal, life was meant to be enjoyed. There is no better feeling than to rest your head on your pillow at night knowing that you lived a satisfying day. Sure, there are days and seasons when hardships seem to envelop our lives, but I think you will agree that if we work hard to find our talents and incorporate them into our lives, we will have lived many sweet days. So go ahead, find your talents and discover your "sweet spot" and live the life you were meant to live!

A close friend of mine recently gave me a decorative plate with a saying from Erma Bombeck (a modern day philosopher), and I would like to leave you with her words to ponder. It says, "*When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would have not a single bit of talent left and could say, 'I used everything You gave me.'*" And I say to you, "just go ahead and do it; hey, you never know."

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