



Leadership: A Risky Business

By Jan Wendorf

In his book, *Timeless Truths – In Twelve Words or Less*, Les Stroh quotes Woody Allen, “If you’re not failing once in a while, you’re not taking enough risks.” The author explains that people often equate success with lack of failure. Truth is, successful people, really successful people, have a lot of failures.

Real success is so much more than avoiding failure. It is being on the cutting edge, challenging the limits, and finding innovative, creative ways to do things. It is getting beyond the old paradigms and discovering the future. You can’t do that without risk, and when you risk, you’re risking failure.

People who fear failure, people who fear what others will think — they are people who won’t risk. But risks are essential to real success.

As I think back to the months before I was elected your president, I was fearful of the risk of being elected. How could I be the one to serve this organization? With God’s help and His making peace in my soul, I accepted this position and am learning to be a risk taker.

I remember taking a risk to ride my bicycle for the first time without someone holding onto the seat. I remember mustering the courage to jump off the high dive at the local swimming pool. When you think about it, our entire lives are filled with risk-taking moments that have taught us life’s lessons in making choices, remaking choices, and moving ahead.

What are you willing to risk within your local society, zone, or district? What needs to happen to move those entities ahead in God’s mission ministry? Before you do anything, begin with prayer and time in His Word. Ask for His plan to become evident as you look to move ahead for the building up of His Kingdom.

It is said that good leadership comes from faithful disciples who are producing good fruit. To make this happen you and I need to be open to risk. We truly can’t lose! If an idea fails, then we learn to go a new way. If an idea is successful, then we learn to build on it and go forward.

May our gracious and loving God guide and direct you as you take a few risks!