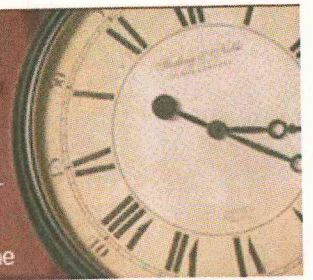




"Celebrating the Journey"

Embrace the gifts you were given. Your talents will provide the direction and your faith will guide you through the challenges. Patience and courage will be rewarded with the victory of accomplishment. These gifts are to be opened and shared with many.

- Missy Ohe



"Peek and You Shall Find"

The year was 1980 something and we were packed in the station wagon, sampling yet another endeavor. My family headed out on a day trip, sandwiches and all. Anyone else been there? Our destination you may ask? To see what wildlife the prairie hills would naturally provide us. The potential was great that we would see wildlife of some sort...

Amazingly, after leaving town I was able to let the coolness of childhood slip away and allow myself "the okay" to get excited and soak up the adventure we were about to embark on. We saw the usual birds, deer, and bison on occasion. My favorite was the chance to come upon the Prairie Dog Towns, as we called them, and then to actually spot the prairie dogs.

To view these little critters in action was almost comical with their carefree running about and playing. The most fascinating thing for me was their acute awareness to movement. They were down their holes seeking cover if they felt the slightest threat, only to peek their heads out moments later seeking a safe haven to come out and play.

I think it is safe to say that some people approach trying new things in the same manner; examining their surroundings and, if they feel safe to explore, they venture out a little further. That is until they are out of their comfort zone and the safety of trying isn't there. At this point they have a tendency to run back to what they know provides comfort. They may pop their head out and try again, to seek, unless they haven't been given the validation that trying is okay.

Kurt Wright, a mentor/coach of mine said, "Typically, if an individual does not have someone that validates their ideas, and violates the ideas instead, these individuals are not free to fully trust their inner feelings." A study was done with over 2000 teenagers and the number one thing they wanted was to "be accepted"... To be accepted, conformity is comforting, isn't it?

So, how do we go about doing things we have not perfected? Another mentor/coach of mine, Doug Carter, says to stay present. He says, "There may be fear of the past and fear of what the future may hold; there is no fear in the present, so stay present."

"It is better to ask some of the questions than to know all the answers." - James Thurber.

Dr. Robert E. Kelley of Carnegie Mellon University has asked people at a wide variety of companies the same question for 20 years: "What percentage of the knowledge you need to do your job is stored in your own mind?" In 1986, the answer was typically about 75% but by 1997, the portion had slid to 15%- 20%. In 2006 it was 8-10%.

Finding individuals to support your ventures and give you guidance is essential in becoming all you can be. Give yourself the okay and your potential will thank you.

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