

THE BEST POSSIBLE

Some years ago my brother worked for the Crown Cork And Seal Corporation. He worked in their can making division. They made aluminum cans for soft drinks, etc. At the particular plant where he worked, on the assembly line, he was a mechanic working on the decorating machine. It was his job to see that the inks used in the production of the can sprayed smoothly, clearly and cleanly onto the can. He worked there for a number of years until the plant was closed. However during his time there he would tell me about some of the records his plant had for can production in one shift. He would often tell me about how that during his shift the men on his line would produce over one million cans. Can you imagine that? It has been a number of years since, but one million cans in a twelve hour shift on one line was a phenomenal feat. When I would ask him about what caused such success he would explain about how all the employees on the shift were tuned together in their particular area of production. Everyone seemed to take pride in doing the best he could possibly do. When things went wrong in one place on the line it had the potential of bringing the whole line to a complete halt. At those times there was a sense of need for everyone to work together to help put things back in order. Each worker desired to know the product, and know as much as possible about its production. As a result his factory location set a number of records for the company in the time he worked with them.

Are there lessons to be learned by seeing the success of production by one factory that can help in other factories, or other industries, or even other settings, like a home or a church? One of the greatest contributing factors to any factory, any industry, any business, any home, or any church, is the ability to communicate properly. Proper communication in any setting has the potential to put everyone on the same page, no matter the setting or the extent of difficulty.

Communication is of great necessity to the Christian life. A child of God must know that he is loved, that he is a sinner, and that salvation is provided for him if he obeys the gospel. He finds that information in the Bible. God has communicated how He wants to be obeyed, how He wants to be worshipped, and how He wants people to get along, and every other thing needed to make it in this life, 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:16,17. The Lord is the Master communicator.

To help others to be successful in relationship with Him, God's will must be communicated properly, 2 Timothy 2:2; Romans 10:13-15. Additionally, for the success of any church, good communications between members is of necessity. How many problems could be avoided if people were good at communicating with one another? Many relationships suffer in the church because of the lack of skills people have in communicating properly. Often tact is "thrown out the window," because of the excuse, "Well, that is just the way I am!" The Psalmist's words still ring true, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger," Proverbs 15:1.

A strong congregation exists when people know what God says because they hear it lovingly taught all the time. It exists when visitors leave the assembly feeling like they have just been with long lost friends. It exists when the flock knows its shepherds, and the shepherds hear the needs of the flock. It exists when everyone knows their work and everyone works together. All these depend on good listening skills, good speaking skills and the love of Christ in the heart of every member, John 13:34.

—Scott

A Note From The Elders

Because of the sincere belief that the best way to shepherd the Lord's flock, (Acts 20:28) is to know the flock personally, your elders have determined to begin a program where we plan to visit in the home of every Buford family member during the next sixteen months. This effort is to help you to know more personally your shepherds, and to allow us to communicate with you personally about your thoughts and needs. So, in the next few months expect a call from someone in the eldership to see about a personal visit. Our Master Shepherd said, "The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out," John 10:3. We seek to heed the Lord's example!