

*Keepers
at the Well of Wisdom*

ABHE Conference, Orlando

Mark L. Maxwell



PRAIRIE COLLEGE



Blessed is the one ... whose delight is in the Law of the LORD,
Who meditates on His Law day and night... Ps 1:2



...He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. Ps 1:3



Our Common and High Calling

*“I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for
your steadfast love and faithfulness,*

*For you have exalted above all things
Your Name and Your Word.”*

Ps. 138: 1-2



Our Shared High Calling

To exalt above all things:

His Name and *His Word*.



A. Seek Wisdom...

- Let us turn to the whole Word of God.
- Let Prayer pervade everything
- Let's embrace Harmony – our best witness
- Above all, let us seek His PRESENCE



B. Executive Enablers – we are at our best...

- Set aside our personal agendas
- Walk (talk) Humbly – our highway
- Give Praise, say Thanks – a pure motivator
- Communicate (explain, explain, explain) – it builds our capital



B. Executive Enablers – we are at our best...

- Empower the team: Control is a spirit-quencher
- Protect Margin: It enhances productivity and effectiveness
- Think Grey (not dogmatic)
- Think Free (contemplate the outrageous)



B. Executive Enablers –

*“We are at our best...
when we are giving life.”*



C. Executive Disablers – potholes on the way

I. Personal

II. Corporate/Group



Potholes to Leadership Success: Personal

The Pothole: The Cover

- Pride: Praise & Gratitude, Vulnerability
- Selfishness: Generosity
- Idolatry: Understanding & Worship



Potholes to Leadership Success: Group

The Pothole: The Cover

- Betrayal of Trust: Transparency
- Insensitivity: Listening
- Caste: Self-denial

*Our mission matters too much:
no cheating, no affairs!*

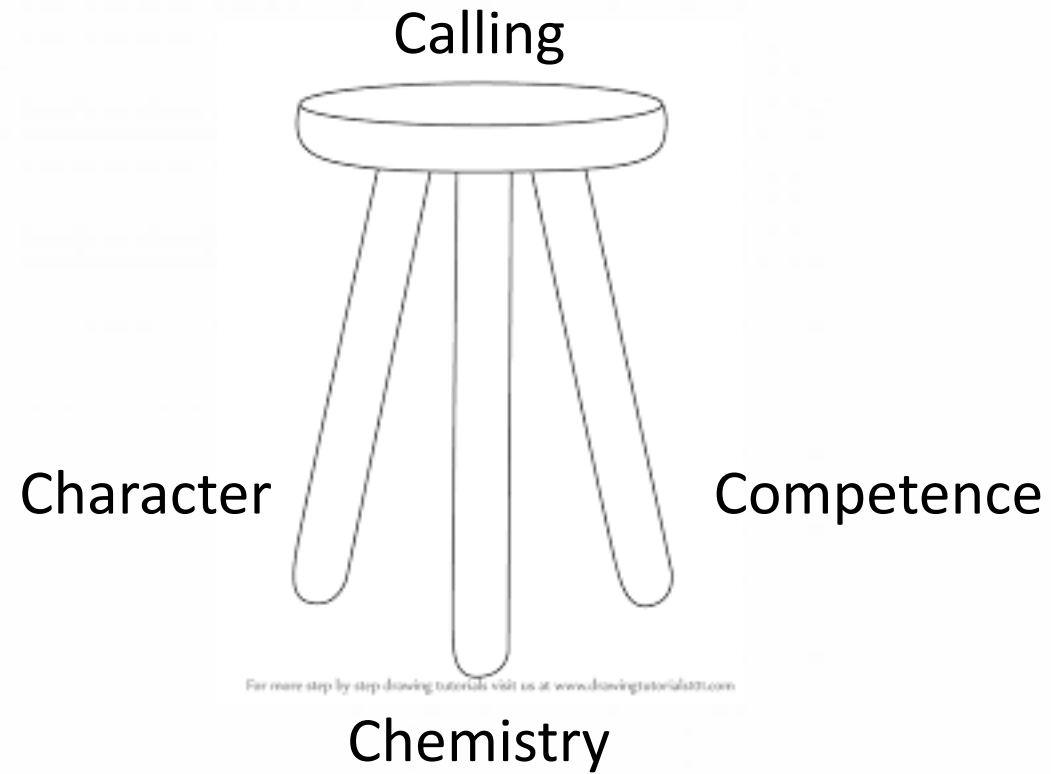


D. Build your Dream Team

- Character
- Competence
- Chemistry
- Calling



Building the Dream Team...



Build your Dream Team...

A. Character

- Good work ethic
- Constructive attitude
 - ❖ Contentment
 - ❖ Loyalty

There is no accounting for attitude

- Habitual honesty
- Transparency

Healthy debate among friends

*“The shortest route to excellence is through
the criticism of our friends”*



Build your Dream Team...

B. Competence

- Capable
 - ❖ Skill
 - ❖ Knowledge / Training
- Effective
- Creative
- Growing in their craft
- Comfortable in their ability

... every person in the right seats.



Build your Dream Team...

C. Chemistry

- Gracious > nice to be around
- Grateful > generous with praise
- Gentle > flexible and forgiving
- Goal-oriented
- Giants > Seeking to influence, not to control

“Weed out the mean people”



Build your Dream Team...

D. Called

- Loving our work
- Loving our team mates
- Loving our students
- Embracing change: change is good!

“Seek people who are loyal”



D. Some thoughts on...

- Hiring

- Firing



Hiring

- Never hire in isolation
 - Keep the team informed
 - Interview in teams
- Slow down the process
 - Interview (twice when in doubt)
 - Check references
 - Sleep on it / Pray about it
 - Trust your gut

Hire slowly, Fire quickly.



Firing

- Slow down to make the decision
 - “Fly” in close formation
 - Seek advice and listen carefully
 - Sleep on it / Pray about it

“some decisions are easy”
- Act (humanly)
 - Gather information
 - Discuss plans to terminate
 - Use discretion on security
 - Complete documentation after meeting
 - Let them handle the news to colleagues



Closing thoughts...

- Let us contend for the faith:

*I feel compelled to urge you to **contend for the faith** that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.*

Jude 3

- In all we do, Let us seek to put a smile on the face of the Almighty...

**His words, His way,
His will, every day.**



When He smiles, we have His favor:

- **His power in our work,**
 - **His “wind” in our sails,**
 - **His joy in our hearts, and**
 - **His Presence in our midst...**



Above all ...



give Thanks!



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