



The Building
Community Institute

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E-Newsletter

"The
Foundation"™

NOW AVAILABLE

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www.cliffontaulbert.com

<http://thepowerofcommunity.blogspot.com>

COMING SOON

Clifton L. Taulbert's
Monthly VOD-Cast*:

Unleashing the Power of Community

* Video Series is a year-long subscription based service, sent directly to your email.

The Roundtable of Mutuality: Where Good People are not Strangers

(Re-Discovering the Eight Habits of our Heart)

The concept of the round table does not imply the lack of leadership. It implies that we all matter. In preparing for a speech for the American Water Works Association-Southwest Section, I latched on to the concept, the roundtable of mutuality as I delved into the importance of water to sustain all of us, here and around the world. In 1881, the need for clean and accessible water became the common denominator that caused twenty-two professionals from different states and backgrounds to gather at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri to create this incredible 'roundtable of mutuality.' Today, America and the world still benefit from the unselfish and visionary action of the pioneering twenty-two. They were not strangers. They were vision driven and kept the needs of others top-of-mind.

This concept of living beyond borders and thinking of others has great value for this century and these times. It's all about unselfishness and thinking beyond our own gain and fame. While facing the many crisis situations within our country and around the world, we are clearly reminded of our interdependence as well as our individual limitations. Recognizing our human limitations and our need for others seem to be a consistent outcome experienced during times of crisis. When stripped of the façades of success and watching what we thought would last forever melt away, we are forced to 'pinch' ourselves and in doing so, we discover once again our shared humanity. The Lone Ranger was never a truly valid concept. He always had the ready assistance of his Native American sidekick, Tonto. And, as Alexander the Great had to finally accept milleniums ago, we humans are not the sons and daughters of Zeus either. We must always be looking through the viewfinders of others and through consistent self-evaluation, accepting our strengths while reminding ourselves of our human limitations. We are merely humans who function best when we intentionally care about others-understanding the value of shared water for all.

As most of our readers know by now, I have chosen to focus my work on the 'Power of Community' which I believe to be the dynamic undertaking that gives life to the 'roundtable of mutuality.' Such a focus is not to keep one from achieving greatness, but to remind her or him that on your way to greatness... 'Others Matter.' This powerful notion of community gives us reason to understand what it means to value and share our lives with others. Community when embraced and understood opens the eyes of our heart. And when planning from this place occurs, our personal and professional strategic efforts will reflect the concept of mutuality. That's what the water works professionals did in 1881. They thought nationally and subsequently, global. And we all are the better for such inclusive and unselfish thinking. As long as Alexander the Great embraced his roundtable of mutuality, his successes continued to make the headlines. It was when he looked beyond his interdependence with his team and sought to define himself as a 'god' incapable of making mistakes and bad judgments that his headlines changed and his meltdown began.

During these times in America, as challenging as they are, we are also provided rare opportunities to refocus on what really matters and how we can best maximize our 'face time' on this planet. As individuals, we can embrace the idea that a life shared with family and friends has incredible rewards. As organizations, we have the opportunity to embrace the concept of the roundtable of mutuality; starting with the idea that our people matter and so do the clients we serve. It's not just about 'me.' As leaders, the idea is not just to be out front with the plan and the authority, but also to honestly seek to bring others along. This type of thinking will in no way curb your personal or professional growth, but it may reduce strategic planning driven by greed, self-promotion and ego enhancement. It might cause us to "Slow Down" and realize that we are not marathon runners and that our life shared is not a marathon race. This is about **Community**... that wonderful idea that keeps showing up during times of crises wherever they occur-at home, at work, within our country or around the world.

I challenge you to join me and others on our infant blog; (www.thepowerofcommunity.blogspot.com) - a conversation of our commitment to explore the possibilities of the Eight Habits of our Heart: Nurturing Attitude, Responsibility, Dependability, Friendship, Brotherhood/Sisterhood, High Expectations, Courage and Hope, thus creating a 'roundtable of mutuality' conversation. Which, together, with our actions can become the community we dream for ourselves and others...Building and Sustaining Community within our lives through our Intentional Acts of Unselfishness. According the Buck Franklin, a noted 20th century territorial lawyer and father of historian, John Hope Franklin, "Good People ought not be strangers."

- Clifton L. Taulbert