

Lindon

# CHARACTER

Connection



Dedication & Determination

September 2012

**“The concentration and dedication - the intangibles are the deciding factors between who won and who lost.” - Tom Seaver, Major League Baseball Pitcher**

## Determination and Dedication

I would like to share a few things that to me illustrate the attributes of determination and dedication. An Italian phrase comes to mind, “Sempre Avanti! Mai indietro e con un sorriso.” Translated it means, “Always moving forward! Never moving backward and doing it with a smile.” Don’t look back on yesterday regretting things you should have or could have done differently. Yes, learn from the past, but don’t dwell in the past. You can’t change yesterday! The only thing you have in your power to do something about is today.

You can determine your direction and what you will accomplish with the day you have been given. I believe all too often we dwell on things we have no control over or ability to change. We need to determine what is in our power and then set our course to achieve it. If you can conceive it and believe it, you can achieve it.

Our decisions and actions will eventually determine our success in life. I hope you noticed the connection between the word decisions and actions.

We can dream and plan all day long to achieve a certain outcome, but if we don’t work toward that which we desire, we will never achieve or accomplish the task or goal. It has been said by many great and successful people that all too often we think and ponder and never really get up and get going, implementing our desires through our physical actions. Nothing ever really gets done until we transfer our desires and thoughts into action.

Most of us are familiar with the story of the Mormon pioneers who traveled to Utah through many trials and tribulations. They were confronted with many obstacles and challenges as they pursued their goal. I cannot imagine all that they went through as they dealt with everything they had to bear in order to achieve their goal of arriving at their destination.

A saying was shared with me when I had the opportunity to participate in a reenactment of their journey pulling handcarts across the plains of Wyoming. It greatly moved me when one of the volunteers shared this phrase, “Get up in the morning, load your handcart, and head to Zion.”

What a statement of determination. It doesn’t say get up if you feel well or if you had enough sleep or if the sun is shining. It means get up and move forward no matter what your circumstances might be! What an expression of dedication and determination.

How do we develop that kind of focus and desire to achieve? I believe it starts from knowing who we are. We, through our thoughts and actions, have great potential to become a wonderful influence for good on everyone with whom we associate. When we know who we are, we can be a greater influence for good.

Determine what you want to be known for and then be dedicated in becoming that kind of person and developing the attributes that will enhance other people’s lives.

We need to be moving forward, never moving backwards and do it with a smile. We can achieve anything we put our minds to. We have yet to discover what our real potential is.

Our journey in this life is all about becoming. We determine what we become through our decisions and actions. May we move in a direction that will enhance not only who we become, but also so our influence will be for the betterment of all.

*Jeff Acerson*

Lindon City Council

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# Book List



“Drawing Lessons from a Bear”  
by David McPhail

“Mush!” by Patricia Feibert

“Amazing Grace” by May Hoffman

“Honk” by Pamela Duncan Edwards

“Snowflake Bentley” by Jacqueline Briggs  
Martin



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## Family Activities

–Make a cake together. About 10 minutes after the cake is in the oven, discuss the result of taking the cake out before it is done.

–Try following a straight line while looking through the wrong end of binoculars. Talk about the importance of focus in accomplishing a project.

–The French Statesman, Marquis de Lafayette, was born on September 6, 1757. He was devoted to freedom. Not only did he fight in the American Revolutionary War, but Lafayette was also a leader in the early part of the French Revolution. He fought for the cause of independence and reform in Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Poland, and the South American republics. His dedication to liberty cost him his fortune and social position. However, his actions won him the respect of freedom loving people.

## Definition:

**DEDICATION:** “is the state of being committed to a particular course of thought or action. It is focusing your energy and efforts on a task and sticking with it until it is done. A dedicated person uses his willpower to do something even when it isn’t easy.” – Anonymous

“A jug fills drop by drop.” – Buddha

“I am a slow walker, but I never walk backwards.” — Abraham Lincoln

“Character consists of what you do on the third and fourth tries.” —James Michener

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### *Lindon Character Connection Board:*

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*Lindon Character Connection is a not-for-profit organization encouraging the enhancement of character development in our community. We are accepting volunteer or financial support.*

*If you can help please send contributions to:  
Lindon Character Connection c/o Lindon City  
100 North State St., Lindon, Utah 84042-1808 (You may also give your donation to any executive board member.)*

