

5/1/07

“Communication Means Hearing”

by
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Well, this year of 2007 is now officially 1/3 gone and I still haven't gotten started on some of the things I had promised myself I would begin on January 1st. Something about retirement that keeps a guy going in every direction except the right one... but that's really not a bad thing. Procrastination can be a good thing if you don't rush it.

Judy's been telling me more and more that I need to get my hearing checked because I don't always respond as quickly as I should to what she asks of me... of course my normal response is that she should speak up a little and stop mumbling. Do you other ladies ever hear anything like that from your husbands? Frustrating, isn't it, but don't get mad at us guys, there's probably a lot of truth in what we think you say. (Huh?)

The other morning Judy said something to me which made no sense at all to me. She said, "We could have a fun time if we got a gerbil." Knowing from experience that a wrong response is worse than no response at all, I ran her words over and over in my head, looking for the logic in her statement... or was it a question?

At this time allow me to digress momentarily. When we of the male persuasion converse with anyone it's usually to ask a question and after determining the answer we remain quiet or go on to another specific question. Once a conversation is begun we usually stay on the same subject matter until the end, without deviating to another topic. It's a very logical and disciplined way to do things. In talking with you, our wives, however, we realize you are not governed by those rules and you want to, nay... are allowed to, change the subject matter of a conversation with every sentence, if so inclined. Of course, you still expect us guys to keep up with your train of thought. You must understand, we are not mentally equipped to keep up with you when you do that. Knowing this, and also knowing that the number one contributing factor to marital difficulties, at least from the female perspective, is the lack of communication between spouses, can you not see the quandary in which we men find ourselves more often than not?

And now let's go back to my beginning scenario... there I stand, thinking back on previous conversations we've had, trying to recall if we've ever talked about getting a gerbil or saw any movies about gerbils. Coming up blank I continue to rack my brain wondering how the addition of a gerbil could add greater happiness to our already fun-filled marriage. As I gazed out our window at the palm trees bending over in the brisk wind I realized that if she was expecting a response to her statement I had probably already exceeded the allotted time allowed.

Then it hit me square in the gut as to what she had said and I began laughing, so much so that it brought tears to my eyes. She looked at me like I was crazy and asked me what was so funny... I said, "You may be right about me needing a hearing aid," and told her what I thought she had said which prompted her to laugh as well. My mind had finally juxtaposed her words into their proper places and I realized that her statement, "We could have a fun time if we got a gerbil," had actually been, "Look at the sunshine, but that wind is terrible." I *will* be getting a hearing test soon.

I want to say hello to some new acquaintances from the far away land of Nova Scotia who are spending two months here in The Villages. I met them while waiting in line at the first tee of Saddle Brook golf course. Bob and Sonja Crowell, Don and Pat Brown, Mary and Roy Fancy and Curtis Cameron are renting two homes here and enjoying all the amenities we offer and playing golf every day. They will be here until next month and invited all of us to Nova Scotia for dinner. Have a great summer you guys.

Two of my three sons and their families were our guests in April. My oldest son Lane, wife Amy and children Jessica, Joshua and Jackson of Lewisburg, WV; and middle son Brian, wife Katy and children Bryce, Colton and Shea of Roanoke, VA, enjoyed themselves. Even if the weather was cooler than normal it was much warmer than the snow and temperatures in the teens that they had left at home. We hope to see them again in May when we go north for a few weeks.

Some of our very best friends, John and Jean, will be leaving next week to head back to Ohio for the summer and we will truly miss them. They are great neighbors and will loan you a cup of sugar or their golf cart whichever is needed. Lord willing and the creeks don't rise we might be able to visit them in the summer months sometime. You guys have a safe trip home and we hope we'll see you sooner than later.

And all you other seasonal residents whom we haven't met as yet on your way home, we really were glad you were here and wish you a safe trip home as well. Hurry back next year.

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