

CHATROOM

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it was some of the people who were closest to me who thought I'd flipped my wig and thought I'd lost my edge. Not because they didn't care, but because I'd gotten them used to a certain mode of behavior from me and they didn't want to see me get disappointed from being too ambitious.

I understood that and pressed on anyway in my drive to be better and as time went by my loved ones accepted my adjustments in attitude and belief.

Not long ago I got involved in a network marketing firm and dared to dream big (if you can't dream big, why dream?). What I would do is organize a meeting in the local area, since my company had never had a significant sized gathering in the local area. However, I didn't know where to start. My mind kept searching for ideas and finally I had a brainstorm.

I would call Michael D'Avolio, who was the marketing figure-

head of the company, and ask him to come to Michigan (from where he lived in Utah) for an interview on my local access show The Write Stuff. Then he could talk about the company, I'd put it on TV and people would get interested in the business opportunity. So I called Michael up and he sounded interested and thought that it was a splendid idea.

Now if you know anything about network marketing, you know the way that you make money is by signing up people to use the products you sign up other people to use the products. Usually the farther away someone is from you in their downline, the less that person makes from you. Well, I was far away from and Gall in terms of downline and I don't even think I'm in Michael D'Avolio's downline. The thing is, these people came together in a spirit of love and friendship. I can't even begin to tell you how much I learned about the network marketing business just by spending some quality time with them, in addition to any immediate gratification I may have received.

Why? All because of one simple reason. I asked! First, I asked God to send people who would help my cause. Then I recognized the opportunities God was sending my way, and finally I took him up on it.

I once heard it said that life will pay any price you ask of it as long as you're willing to do the work it takes to fulfill your ambition. It's one of life's simplest, yet most profound formulas. If you seek you shall find. Be it friendship, an opportunity, or just wanting to improve, if you want it bad enough you will find it. Or through a higher power it will find you. All you have to do is look for it and accept. The decisions we make today are the results of our tomorrow. We get what we accept. If we accept mediocrity, life will give it to us in abundance. If we seek greatness, and accept nothing less, then we will manifest that. When you enlist the help of others, it may surprise you the Guardian Angels the Lord sends your way. Randy Hall is a certified graphologist and motivational speaker. Check out Randy's website at www.thriveor-survive.com



Everybuddy needs some Buddy's

Buddy's will begin a new charity campaign on Monday Aug. 26. Sometimes You Just Need Some Buddy's, a children's charity campaign. Muscular Dystrophy and Taste of the NFL, a hunger relief fund, were both chosen to benefit from the campaign. Buddy's will donate a portion of the proceeds from their steak fajita, chicken fajita and barbecue chicken pizzas. Owner Robert Jacobs will guarantee at least \$5,000 to the chosen charities.

Beware of illegal cigarette purchases

State Treasurer Douglas B. Roberts is warning Michigan residents to beware of illegal cigarette sales.

In an Aug. 19 statement, Roberts said that on at least two occasions recently, advertisements have appeared in local newspapers promoting the sale of "tax-free cigarettes," either through the Internet or by calling a toll-free phone number.

"It's important to know these advertisements violate both Michigan and federal law," Roberts said. "In addition, any individual who buys these 'tax-free cigarettes' is also violating

state law, and would personally be responsible for the full amount of the tax plus penalties of up to 100 percent of the tax."

According to Michigan law, any cigarettes sold directly to consumers in Michigan, must include the state cigarette tax and display a Michigan cigarette stamp on each pack. Cigarettes that do not carry a stamp and therefore have not been properly taxed are illegal.

Not only are consumers liable for the above-mentioned tax and penalties for each illegal pack of cigarettes, possession of 15 or more cartons of

unstamped cigarettes constitutes a felony, punishable by up to five years in jail and a \$50,000 fine.

"It is unfortunate that some newspapers have chosen to run ads promoting tax evasion," Roberts said.

"But what may be even more unfortunate is the possibility that honest, forthright taxpayers might be duped into buying illegal cigarettes."

Roberts added that the Michigan Department of Treasury will pursue enforcement of those who choose to sell and/or purchase contraband cigarettes.



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